



space odyssey

08.28.15 volunteer update

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dave b's leave of absence

Dear Space Odyssey Team:

As most of you probably know, or may have heard, next Tuesday, September 1, I'll be leaving town for four months to travel with my girlfriend Ariana as part of [Semester at Sea's Fall 2015 voyage](#). She will be teaching Art History, while I'll be working as the Dependent Children Coordinator helping to coordinate study hall and enrichment activities for about a dozen kids ages 6 to 17. There are approximately 600 college students and a smaller number of lifelong learners aboard the ship, plus the crew. I'll be returning to work on January 4, 2016. I am very thankful for the incredible support I've received from Jacqueline and Ed as well as Karla, Samantha, Naomi and all of you, for supporting me in this endeavor.

I think you all are an incredible team to work with and I hope you have a wonderful Fall and Winter holiday season. I'll miss you all and want to thank you so much for all you do! I'm looking forward not only to this trip, but to seeing you all in the New Year.

If you're interested, I'll be publishing accounts of my trip at this blog address:
<http://dbfloatsabout.blogspot.com/>.

While I'm away, Karla Zelvis, Coordinator of Volunteers for Earth Sciences, will be the main contact for all Space Odyssey volunteers--thank you Karla! She rocks--no pun intended. Please read her introductory letter below.

If I don't see you before I go, all the best and see you in 2016!

Yours,

Dave Blumenstock

Hello, Space Odyssey Volunteers!

My name is Karla Zelvis and I am the Coordinator of Volunteers for Earth Sciences here at the Museum. You may also know me as the very tall lady whose desk is just in front of Dave Blumenstock's office.

I am writing to let you know I am delighted to be helping you out while Dave sails the Seven Seas. (I am envious of his maritime adventure!) I will be attending many briefings, sending you emails and be your liaison for the SO Core Team.

I have been at the Museum for just under 3 years as a volunteer coordinator; I also worked as a DMNS Visitor Services Coordinator for almost 7 years back in the late 90s and early 2000s. For many years I worked in Education at Four Mile Historic Park, for those of you who grew up here and know it. (Yes, I dressed like a pioneer and taught kids about Colorado pioneer life!) My degree from Metro State is in Behavioral Science and Anthropology.

As for me personally, I absolutely adore learning science, with a particular interest in Human Evolution, Physics, Biology, Paleopathology/Osteology, and Astrophysics. I also try to see as much art, live music and film as possible to keep my creative side fulfilled.

Please drop by my office any time! I am happy to help. Just so you are aware, Samantha & Naomi will still be present in the exhibit, and you can always ask them for help too.

I look forward to working with you and if we have not yet met, I am sure we will soon.

Here's to our stateside adventure!

Warmest regards,

Karla

karla.zelvis@dmns.org

303.370.6028

space odyssey news

NEW PLANET/STAR SIZE SLIDES ON ORBITS TABLE

Thanks to Kim Evans and Greg Mancari for updating these slides on the Uniview computer. We now have a more current image of Mercury and Pluto for these slides. And for some reason, these same slides were being deleted by some users. Please try to avoid this if at all possible. Thanks!

"NASA EYES" REMOVED FROM ORBITS TABLE

Mea culpa to those who asked for this program to be installed on the Orbits computer and for my saying that adding this program to the Orbits computer was acceptable. Turns out, I was wrong. There are serious concerns with how this app could interfere with the operation of Uniview on this computer. Ergo, we've had to remove it. However, the NASA Eyes app is still available for use on the SO laptops. Please use the laptops for this app. Thank you!

GPS LAMINATE CARDS

These are back on the cart and we are still looking to update them.

NEW PLUTO AND MERCURY IMAGES ON THE WAY

Stay tuned to the "planet wall" by the Space Screen as we will be installing these new images over the coming weeks.

MARS DIORAMA ROVER PROGRESS

Dimitri and the Tech Team have begun work to adapt the older user interface to the newly updated rover. This work will take place over the coming months.

SPACE ODYSSEY STOOLS ORDER

We have ordered five more stools for use in the exhibit. These stools are about the same height as the current gray ones. The new ones have a backrest and several of them will have armrests as well. Enjoy!

SOUND ISSUES AT SPACE SCREEN

Tech is working to resolve the lack of sound at the Space Screen. This mainly applies to NASA TV and the default show. Laptop and microphone audio still works there.

COOL STUFF ON THE WEB

[What is our universe made of?](#)

[Cool story about the Space Coast in Florida](#)

[New app detects cosmic rays](#)

[Large jet from top of tropical storm](#)

SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2015, made possible by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. As part of the Museum's agreement to receive funds from SCFD, which account for a significant portion of the Museum's operating budget, the Museum offers "community free days" throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. Below are the dates for the 2015 free days. To learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

- Sunday, September 27
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, November 9

trainings and meetings

SOS USER GROUP MEETING

Tuesday September 8

4:30 PM

Meet in SO Briefing Room

The purpose of the SOS User Group is for SOS enthusiasts to meet and learn from each other about how to better facilitate the SOS as well as to gain new knowledge about the SOS system and the related content.

space science lectures & events

DIGITAL EARTH: DARK SKIES

We live in an artificially-lit world that allows us to be productive 24/7, at the expense of the night sky. National parks, such as Chaco Culture, Canyonlands, Rocky Mountain, and

Dinosaur National Monument, are havens where we unplug and reconnect with our ancestral night skies, although human-generated lighting is encroaching. Using global satellite images, discover the beauty of the dark and see how to protect the quality of the night sky in national parks. With special guests from the International Dark Sky Association, National Parks Conservation Association, and Western Energy Project.

Location:

Gates Planetarium

Date/Time:

Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m.

Tickets:

\$8 member, \$10 nonmember

60 MINUTES IN SPACE

Go "behind the stories" in space science using the best images and animation available to help understand new developments. Seating is limited to first come, first served. Please use the Evening entrance on the west side of the Museum.

The next 60 Minutes in Space will be October 28.

Location:

Gates Planetarium

Date/Time:

Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m.

Tickets: FREE

RESERVATION INFO

Volunteers have the opportunity to attend most After Hours programs priced at the \$8 member/ \$10 nonmember rate for free on a space-available basis! Volunteers always receive the member rate for all other Adult Programs. As of May 12, please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation.

Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Admission to 60 Minutes in Space is free and is on a first come, first seated basis.

On the evening of the program, please enter through the same entrance as our guests and

pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Adult Programs!

museum news and events

NEW LANDSCAPING ON NORTH SIDE OF DMNS

Starting last Monday, August 24th, as part of the [Here Better Initiative](#), there will be increased activity on the north side of the Museum as we start landscaping improvements along this side. These improvements will not be as extensive as the south or west side projects though. We will be installing new benches and planters on the plaza (between the Main Entrance and Subpost) and improving landscaping between parking lot islands. Currently, the work is expected to last approximately one month.

During this project, we are working with the contractor to reduce the impact on our parking. We will have orange fencing up during the construction and while this fencing will be down past the curb to allow for construction access, we will still keep the majority of the spots open. There will be a few spots that will be blocked for construction access and equipment. Realizing that impacts to parking are not high on anyone's list, we will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as necessary.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UNDOCUMENTED

Thursday, September 3

7 PM

\$8 Member/\$10 Non-member

The U.S.-Mexico border is in the news and the subject of great, and at times heated, debate. What is largely lost in the headlines is a vital long-term, nuanced understanding of the modern immigrant experience. Jason De León is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and director of the Undocumented Migration Project. For the past five years, De León has used path-breaking forensic, archaeological, and ethnographic research to examine the trek north through harsh desert, putting a human face on the real life and death struggles of migrants. Hear tragic and exhilarating stories as narrated by De León's compelling research from one of the most significant, dangerous, and clandestine places in the world. This is the inaugural talk for the George McJunkin Lecture, recognizing the African American cowboy who discovered bison bones in Folsom, New Mexico, that eventually made archaeological history.

Image copyright Michael Wells. [Click here to register.](#)

MUSEUM LECTURE AND PROGRAMMING INFORMATION

[Click here for Evening Lectures](#)

[Click here for Gates Planetarium Daily Show Schedule](#)

[Click here for Museum IMAX information](#)

volunteer enrichment committee

Click here for more information about VEC events:

<http://volunteers.dmns.org/events/>

Or see the bulletin board in the Volunteer Lounge for more info.

Dave Blumenstock

Coordinator of Volunteers for Space Science

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

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Join the Museum's Online Community

www.dmns.org