



# space odyssey

## 02.12.16 volunteer update

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## space odyssey news

### **KUDOS TO ALL THE FREE DAY HELPERS!**

**Thanks a ton to everyone who came in to help out on the Free Day last week!**

### **A MESSAGE FROM FRANCES KRUGER**

Frances has been our Project Manager for Space Odyssey for many years. It's been my pleasure to work with her and I am very thankful for her support, guidance and enthusiasm for all things Space Odyssey. She is about to transition out from being the Project Manager for SO and this note is to you all about her transition:

"It has been my very great pleasure to have served on the original Space Odyssey exhibit development team from 1998 to 2003, on the cross-departmental operational core team since then, and as the team's Project Manager since 2007.

Now, in 2016, my responsibilities for helping to shape the exciting new Colorado Experience Initiative are ramping-up. This means I have to bid farewell to working directly with Space-O, one of my favorite exhibits in the Museum.

It is a bittersweet moment for me. I am so proud of Space Odyssey and of the fabulous job that Museum Galaxy Guide volunteers and staff do every single day to bring space to life for our guests!

Leadership of the core team will be taken on by Jamie Klein, a very capable project manager in Exhibits, starting in March. Please join me in welcoming her to the team! I know she will do an excellent job." --Frances Kruger, Senior Exhibit Developer

### **BARANY CHAIR TRAINING**

**Tuesday, February 16**

**3 PM to 4 PM**

**Meet at Space Screen in Space Odyssey**

**RSVP to Dave Blumenstock**

Join us for an informal training on the Barany Chair with Dale Jones, long-time SO volunteer and retired airline pilot. To read about the Barany Chair and check out the training materials, [click here](#).

### **NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

**Saturday, February 20**

**9 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Ricketson Auditorium**

**RSVP to Noelia Aponte-Silva, [Noelia.Aponte-Silva@dmns.org](mailto:Noelia.Aponte-Silva@dmns.org)**

This training is for all new DMNS volunteers. It covers important policies and procedures directly related to the volunteer experience at the Museum. If you haven't attended one of these or would like a refresher, please RSVP to Noelia as soon as possible.

### **INTRO TO SPACE ODYSSEY TRAINING**

**Tuesday, March 15**

**6:30 PM to 8 PM**

**Space Odyssey**

**RSVP to Dave Blumenstock by March 14**

This training is for all new Space Odyssey volunteers or any current SO volunteers who want a refresher on how we teach guests in the exhibit as well as all the stations, demonstrations and shows available for you to learn. We will also take a tour of the Mars Diorama and will train you on at least one station.

### **HELP NEEDED: MARCH 8 MEMBER NIGHT**

We need help with facilitating Space Odyssey this night--we are all set for telescopes. The event starts at 5 PM with a briefing in Upper Trex and is usually over by 9 PM. This event is for Museum members only and we'll have around 1000 attendees and most of the museum will be open. Please let me know if you'd like to help out and what you'd like to do in the exhibit. Thanks!

### **PLANET PHOTO WALL UPDATE**

We will soon be getting new pics of Jupiter and Saturn to replace the faded pics on the wall currently. We updated Pluto last year and will have more updates coming as we're able.

### **FUTURE PALEO DATASET**

Thanks to Matt Brownell in Tech, this dataset has been restored to the Plate Tectonics playlist. We are still trying to see if we can get it into the Library.

### **XBOX UPDATE**

The Mars Lander Game Xbox is back in action thanks to Dave Lewis. If you need help using it, let me or one of the Tech staff know.

### **TILT TABLE UPDATE**

Thanks to Tech for changing the contrast of the Tilt Table, the image looks much better and a bit sharper.

### **ORBITS TABLE UPDATE**

Internet works once again at the Orbits Table, thanks to Tech for the help.

### **LAPTOP EMAIL**

The SO laptops still cannot send email and Tech is still working on a solution, it has proven harder to fix than they thought. Stay tuned...

### **SOS UPDATE**

Many of you are asking about how you can find new datasets on the SOS. You can either click on "Date Added" at the top of the dataset list or in the righthand column there is a "Sort" drop down menu and one of the options is by "Date Added." In other SOS-related news, this past week, NOAA held a webinar about the new Visual Playlist Editor which is used for creating or modifying datasets. This tool is currently available from the main SOS computer in the back room and used only by staff approved to do so. If you want to watch this webinar or others, you can do so here: [http://sos.noaa.gov/Education/ed\\_forum.html](http://sos.noaa.gov/Education/ed_forum.html)

### **RECENTLY ADDED SCIENCE ON A SPHERE DATASETS**

Our system is updated by NOAA every Monday with the latest, greatest datasets on a continuous basis. You can also search the NOAA site directly by [clicking here](#).

### **NASA CLIMATE UPDATE**

<http://climate.nasa.gov/news/>

### **COOL STUFF ON THE WEB**

[Dave Blumenstock's Semester at Sea Blog](#)

[Total Solar Eclipses in the USA](#)

[Gravity Waves with Eddie G at the Gravity Well](#)

[Journey of a Gravity Wave from Caltech LIGO](#)

[Brian Shul from Butterflies to Blackbirds](#)

### **SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR**

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2016, 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 these Free Days throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. To see the dates for all the Free Days and to learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

## **space science lectures & events**

### **THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL GEOLOGY OF PLUTO AND ITS MOONS**

with John Spencer, PhD, Southwest Research Institute

Colorado Scientific Society Meeting

February 18

7 PM

Shepherd of the Hills Church

11500 W. 20th Ave.

Lakewood, CO

This meeting is open to any Pluto enthusiast, you do not need to be a member to attend.

**ABSTRACT:** In July 2015, the New Horizons mission gave us our first detailed view of the Pluto system after a 9.5 year journey from Earth. New Horizons revealed that Pluto's geology is complex and remarkably diverse. Ancient cratered and fractured terrain is interrupted by much younger features that may be active to the present day, including rugged ice mountains, a vast plain of volatile ice, and other features that defy explanation. Pluto's big moon Charon also has a geologically varied surface, and its four small moons have surprises of their own. The talk will describe the mission, what we've learned, and the spacecraft's continuing journey into the Kuiper Belt. [Click here to read more about the meeting and the Society.](#)

### **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 on Wednesday, March 30.

**Location:**

Gates Planetarium

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday, February 24, 7 p.m.

**Tickets:**

FREE

**COLORING THE UNIVERSE**

Everyone marvels over images from space, but have you ever wondered if the colors you see are true? For more than 20 years, Travis A. Rector, an astronomer at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, has created color astronomical images using some of the world's largest telescopes, including Kitt Peak, Gemini Observatory, and Hubble.

Rector will share a behind-the-scenes look at what professional astronomers do-and what they don't do-to make these stunning images. His work inspired his new book *Coloring the Universe: An Insider's Look at Making Spectacular Images of Space*. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

*Image credit: NASA*

**Location:**

Phipps IMAX Theater

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m.

**Tickets:**

\$12 member, \$15 nonmember

**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. Please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation. Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

To save time the night of the program, we recommend picking up your tickets anytime during regular Museum hours at the north ticket desk. You can also pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier on your way into the program on the night of the program. You will always need a ticket to attend programs.

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!

## did you know...

...that we have a handbook about volunteering at DMNS..? Sounds like a silly question. But if you have never read this or haven't read it in a long time, it's worth a look. It covers everything from a short history of the Museum to important policies and procedures to volunteer benefits(!). [Click here to peruse it.](#) Enjoy and thanks much for volunteering at DMNS!

## museum news and events

### **FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month: Each year in the United States, February is dedicated as Black History Month or National African American History Month, which is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. What began as the grassroots effort of African-American historian Carter G. Woodson has grown into a national time to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout history.

During this month, there are many organizations, including the [Denver Public Library](#) and the media [Denver 9News](#) who are recognizing the contributions of African Americans in the U.S. Or be sure to visit History Colorado for several events they will host commemorating Black History Month: [Special Events](#).

To learn more about Black History Month visit: [Black History Month](#)

### **DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE NAMES NANCY WALSH TO VICE PRESIDENT OF MUSEUM PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS**

DENVER - Feb. 8 - The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is excited to announce that Nancy Walsh has been named vice president of museum partnerships and programs. Walsh brings more than 20 years of program development, implementation, evaluation and management experience, as well as an impressive résumé of leadership positions from many educational organizations.

"Nancy's enthusiasm and leadership both inside and outside of the Museum has been outstanding," said George Sparks, President and CEO. "Nancy will be an integral

leadership team member and champion for innovative and creative programming for our existing and for new audiences at the Museum."

In her new role at the Museum, Walsh will provide leadership for the vision, creative direction and oversight of a diverse array of innovative and engaging programs for Museum guests, adult and family audiences, and the Denver Metro community. She will also oversee strategic Museum initiatives and build upon local and national partnerships that advance the Museum's mission to be a catalyst and ignite our community's passion for nature and science.

"The Museum and I have been on an incredible journey together-opening new exhibitions, launching new programs and welcoming increasing numbers of diverse guests. I am honored and excited to serve in this new capacity," Walsh said. "The future presents incredible opportunities for fostering new and deeper relationships within our communities and expanding on the ways the Museum interacts with and engages people in their everyday lives."

In January 2006, she arrived at the Museum to serve as lead educator on the development team for the award-winning exhibition "Expedition Health." She was a driving force behind the successful opening and reprogramming of the Museum's most recent expansion, the Morgridge Family Exploration Center. Walsh is also a mayoral appointee on the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs where, as co-chair, she worked on the city's new cultural plan Imagine 2020. Most recently she served as director of museum partnerships and programs at the Museum. Prior to joining the Museum, Walsh served as director of education at the Virginia Aquarium. She has also served as associate director of the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minnesota. Walsh began her career at The Field Museum in Chicago.

Walsh earned a master's of science in biology from the University of Chicago, and also holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana.

## **COFFEE CART ON THE MOVE**

Coffee and chocolate - a classic pairing for a reason! For the next three months, the Museum's coffee cart will be relocated from the North Atrium to become part of our Chocolate Shop on Level 3 near the Anschutz Gallery. But never fear! It will still be available for all your favorite beverages, plus the opportunity to further indulge with our delectable chocolate treats.

- The Chocolate Shop and Coffee Cart will be open on Level 3 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for staff and volunteers, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for Museum guests.
- As part of our outstanding customer service, please let our guests have priority for our limited seating near the Chocolate Shop. Any time there are guests waiting,

volunteers and staff should take goodies to the Morgridge Family Exploration Center, the Leprino Family Atrium, the T-Rex Café, or the volunteer and staff lounge.

- Guess who else likes chocolate? Mice. Please cover both food and drink as you move through the Museum and consume only in the food-friendly areas listed above.
- Staff receive a 20% discount and volunteers receive a 10% discount on any purchases from the Coffee Cart and Chocolate Shop.
- Guests do not need to visit the *Chocolate* exhibition to go to the Chocolate Shop (although we hope they will!) The exhibition is free with general admission.

### **PARDON OUR DUST AS ALLOSAURUS GETS A "LEG UP"**

After 20 years on display, the *Allosaurus* mount in *Prehistoric Journey* was leaning a little too much, so it's getting a leg up-and a facelift! This project is also an opportunity to spruce up the platform that holds *Stegosaurus* and *Allosaurus*, and replace an outdated plaster skull cast with a more accurate, lighter-weight one. Because of the difficult nature of working on the fossil skeleton, the dinosaur gallery will be closed from Monday, April 11, through Friday, April 22. The rest of *Prehistoric Journey* will remain open during this time. Guests will still be able to see *Diplodocus* and many of the other dinosaurs from the overlook, located upstairs from the Cretaceous Creekbed diorama. We appreciate your patience!

### **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

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Join the Museum's Online Community

[www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)