

SPACE ODYSSEY VOLUNTEER UPDATE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 JANUARY 19, 2017



KUDOS!

SO appoints newly minted **Guide Captains!**

Congrats to Grant Matheny (l) and **Tony Owens!** (r) for stepping into leadership roles in Space Odyssey.

Grant joins Jim Nelson as co-Captain every other Sunday on the PM shift.

Tony is now co-Captain alongside Dave Bauer on Tuesday AM shifts!

Both newbie captains are talented facilitators, dedicated volunteers and team players.

When you see them next, be sure to pass along a congrats!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New Guide Captains Onboard*
- *AOS of Mars Show Gets Revamp*
- *New required AOS Training*
- *Message from Steve Lee*
- *Space Odyssey Upgrade Update*
- *New Exhibit Tech in SO*
- *For inquiring minds: article links of interest*

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UPDATE ASTRONAUT ON SURFACE OF MARS SHOW

We're excited to announce updates to the Astronaut on the Surface of Mars show!

As you know, this show takes place twice daily in the Mars Diorama. Samantha and Naomi have collaborated with Steve Lee to create a [new mission](#)

[backstory](#) that is more in line with NASA's current Journey to Mars Plans.

Plus, it includes more up-to-date science. The previous backstory has been portrayed for 13 years! It was in desperate need of updating!

We also renewed the "vignettes" (experiments and chores the astronauts do on the surface) to reflect current science.

As such, our friend Talulah, the tomato plant, will be taking a vacation from the surface of Mars while we update

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STEVE LEE SAYS...



I expect most of you have seen Jacqueline's message last week about Kim Evans, Marta Lindsay, and me moving from the Research and Collections Division to the Museum Programs Division, with KaChun Yu remaining in RCD.

These changes should allow Kim, Marta, and me more time to focus our efforts on Space Odyssey.

I want to assure all of you that the support all of us have provided to Space Odyssey and the volunteer corps in the past will be maintained moving forward.

I'm very optimistic that the future holds many exciting possibilities for all of us.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work with all of you to bring our

magnificent exhibit and programs alive for all of our visitors!



GRAVITY WELL UPDATE

REFRESH!

Whether a newbie or a seasoned SO volunteer veteran, check out the [Orbits Table area of the Volunteer Portal](#) for valuable resources as a facilitating Refresh!

The updated gravity well computer was successfully installed at the end of last month! While a few things still need to be tweaked, the SO Core Team and Tech will continue to work with the external programmer to address those issues. **We'd love your help to test this as well. Please take**



out the gravity well and use it with the computer. If you find bugs or problems,

please leave a note on the white board in the 2003 Room. We'll continue to work with the programmer to make sure it functions as it should.

Need a tutorial? No problem. Visit the [Gravity Demo - Interactive](#) section of the Volunteer Portal!

WE DID IT! SPACE ODYSSEY DEEP CLEAN



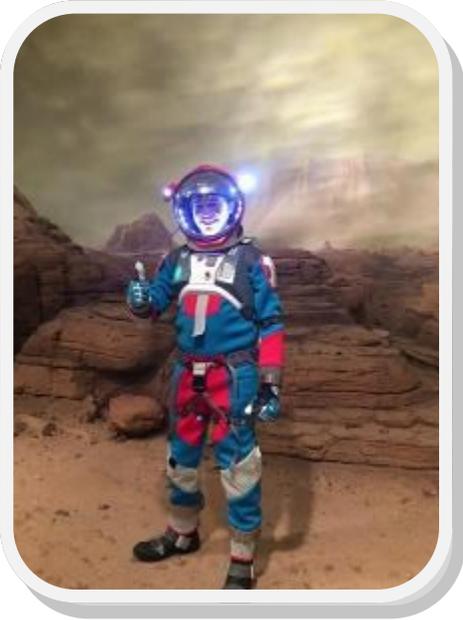
Mission accomplished!

For the first time in 14 years, Space Odyssey was shut down for two days to be thoroughly cleaned and repainted. You may notice some big improvements; like the shiny glass at the Mars Diorama! Samantha and Naomi also cleaned and organized

the Experiment Bar as part of this endeavor. We made sure everything was in a logical place, threw away a few things that were worse for the wear, and labeled where items are located. We also removed the posters from the Experiment Bar cabinets.

We have a head-start on things being cleaned and organized. Thank you in advance for helping us keep items shiny and tidy.

Also, in all areas of SO, please only use official signs and labels. At the Experiment Bar, we ask
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Educator Performer Jose Zuniga

Astronaut on Surface of Mars Cont'

the science.

The bricks and the brick factory/construction story is also removed while we investigate the science.

In addition we're thrilled to announce that we are prototyping a new space suit that you might see out on the surface of Mars! Some

of our performers will be wearing this suit occasionally. Our goal is to obtain information about what works and what doesn't before we acquire a whole new set of space suits by the end of the year.

As part of these changes, we are offering **Astronaut Assistant Training** on

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INQUIRING MINDS

- ◆ [The Science Lounge: Caffeine](#)
- ◆ [Girls and Science](#)
- ◆ [NASA images show unprecedented ultraviolet view of Mars](#)
- ◆ [Astronomy Learning in Immersive Virtual Environments \(ALIVE\)](#)
- ◆ [Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity](#)
- ◆ [Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure](#)
- ◆ [A tale of two pulsars: Plumes offer geometry lessons to astronomers](#)
- ◆ [How Far South Could You See the Aurora with a Perfect Solar System?](#)
- ◆ [Rivers of stars flow between 'clouds' orbiting the Milky Way](#)
- ◆ [These science trips for girls are so cool, they're glacial](#)
- ◆ [Interactive sky chart \(now with PDF print option\)](#)
- ◆ [Green Auroras](#)
- ◆ [NASA is visiting 8 asteroids in 8 years.](#)

SO CORE TEAM WISHES YOU A HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS 2017!

May 2017 bring laughter, learning and exciting adventures to you and your family!

THIS & THAT

White Board Reminder

Please remember to check the White Board in the 2003 Room for operational updates before your shift! It's also *the* ideal place for jotting down any issues that need to be addressed by the operations team!

New Exhibit Tech Joins Us

Welcome **Mitchell Blystone!** Mitchell joins the SO Core Team as the new Exhibit Tech this year, and he's already knocking it out of the park with his tech problem solving skills! And huge thanks to **Sean Weinert**, who provided top-notch tech support in 2016 (he's now PJ's new Tech guy).



ASTRONAUT ON SURFACE OF MARS CONT'



Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This training is mandatory for anyone who would like to be the Astronaut Assistant moving forward.

So, if you're currently an Astronaut Assistant or would like to be one, please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet that

Ana will place in the Volunteer Lounge with these two training dates. (Alternatively, email Ana and she'll put your name down on the sign-up form.)

If you'd like to attend the January session, please sign-up by Wednesday, Jan. 25.

If your preference is to attend the February training, please sign-up

by Wednesday, February 1. We'll provide snacks and want an accurate headcount to ensure enough munchies are available for everybody!

At the trainings, we'll review the new backstory as well as some updates to this role. This role can't be cross-trained by other volunteers or staff.

ABSOLUTELY CAN'T MAKE AOS TRAINING?

Absolutely can't attend either of the scheduled January or February AOS training dates but still want to be an Astronaut Assistant?

Please let Ana know and she'll connect you with Samantha or Naomi to schedule an alternate date.

By the way, this role



can't be cross-trained by other volunteers or staff.

Please note that the new changes to the backstory and Astronaut Assistant role will go into effect Wednesday, Feb. 15!

SPACE ODYSSEY UPGRADE SCOOP



The Space Odyssey Upgrade project is continuing, with three major milestones met:

1. We've completed our environmental survey of research centers, museums, theme parks, science centers, simulators, apps, games, and augmented and virtual

reality experiences.

Why were we looking? We wanted to expand our own knowledge, become familiar with techniques we may not currently have at DMNS, and learn what is and isn't successful. **What did we find?** Lots of

great ideas! We also confirmed that Space Odyssey remains a pretty unique experience.

2. We completed our first round of focus groups, including specifically non-users, users with young children, and underserved audiences.

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Space Odyssey Upgrade Scoop Cont'



These audiences gave us feedback on our current Space Odyssey exhibit, and more detailed information on some of the findings from the earlier Comprehensive Review. We look forward to sharing the results with you in the February update.

To give you a teaser: a lot of the information supported

anecdotal knowledge (guests overall like facilitation and mechanical interactives more than digital interactives!).

And now we have quantifiable information that can be sorted by demographic categories. This will help us determine priorities for changes, as well as give us a baseline to see how our changes improve the gallery.

WHAT ABOUT SO VOLUNTEER INPUT ON UPGRADE?

And lest you wonder... we deliberately did not include volunteers in this set of focus groups as we wanted feedback representing general audiences.

Never fear, we haven't forgotten! We'll get your feedback in Spring at our next round of audience input as we start to

narrow in on a theme.

3. We completed submission on a major grant proposal to help fund the Upgrade. (Please feel free to keep your fingers crossed until next fall when we find out if we were successful.)

What's next? In January, we'll be submitting

a request for proposals to various exhibition design subcontractors, with a goal to have the design subcontractor selected in late February. These folks will work side by side with us, augmenting our capacity so we can continue to develop a concept for our future Space Odyssey.

KUDOS TO JODI SCHOMER, DIRECTOR OF EXHIBITS & DIGITAL MEDIA...

...for providing this insightful update on the SO Upgrade!



SO Deep Clean Cont'

that you not hand-write any labels that get hung on the cabinets. This helps us in keeping those cabinets looking clean and professional.

Also, kindly refrain from hanging up posters on the cabinets. Of course, we realize that posters can be a helpful teaching tool.

So you're welcome to roll out the poster have it on the Experiment Bar itself while you're on shift; just please be sure to put it away at the end of your shift. If you're using a particular poster a great deal, let us know. We'd be happy to request that our Exhibits Department mount it (like the posters on the counter behind the Experiment Bar). Thank you for your help!

DMNS Position Statement:

DMNS's position statement on climate change can be found here:

- ◆ [Climate Change](#)

Message from [Ana's Cubie](#)

Greetings Space Odyssey and Prehistoric Journey facilitating champs!

The new year has started with a bang. In SO, we completed its first ever Deep Clean in early January and Prehistoric Journey will see its first Deep Clean late this month. A new exploration station was introduced in PJ at the end of the year (Human Evolution) that has become quite popular. In SO, the Astronaut on the Surface of Mars Show is getting a significant refresh. Trainings will be offered to volunteers from both exhibits starting this month, and Science Lounges have already tapped the expertise of SO and PJ facilitators to date.

None of these exciting developments and the numerous forthcoming ones would be possible without the dedication and commitment from every single one of you. Both teams logged in more than 34,830 hours of service in 2016 alone!

Not a day goes by that I'm not humbled and grateful to be part of this organization that provides the opportunity for staff to partner with high caliber volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty to welcome, educate and inspire our guests. If I can also be of assistance, stop by cubie or contact me at ana.arias@dmns.org or 303.370.6028.

In the mean time, I look forward to continuing to share time with you at briefings and exhibit halls on a rotating basis!

Respectfully yours,

Ana



DID YOU KNOW?



A super nifty 3D model of the Museum's Stegosaurus/ Allosaurus exhibit was created by Space Odyssey & Planetarium volunteer Dave Romero.

If you haven't seen this [3D model](#) rendition, by all means take a peek!

Thank you, Dave, for your great visualization work!



The next ["60 Minutes in Space" program](#) will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Gates Planetarium.

Don't miss out on this intriguing (and free!) series that brings 'behind the stories' in space science with awe-inspiring images, animation and, of course, solid scientific content.



[Extreme Weather 3D](#) opened this month at IMAX!

National Geographic's film transports you to the "frontlines of climate research where few have gone." You'll see stunning imagery of melting glaciers in Alaska, tornadoes in the Great Plains and fire flames in CA.