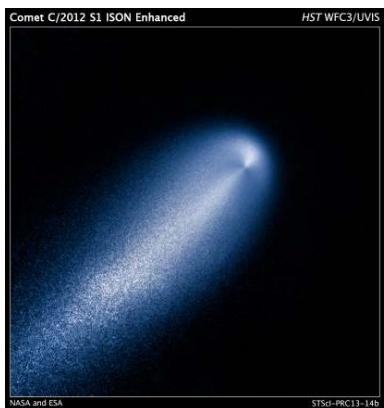




# CONSTELLATION

Winter 2013, No. 4

## RIP Comet ISON



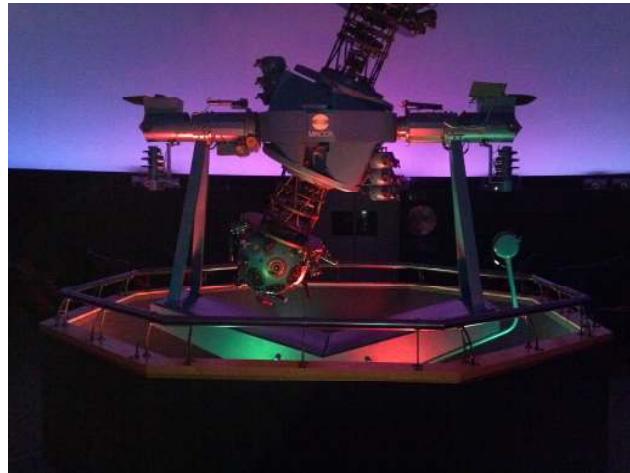
*...I owe it to the peerless stars  
Which flame in the remotest sky  
That I see only with spent eyes  
Remembered suns I knew before.*

*In vain I had at heart to find  
The center and the end of space.  
Beneath some burning, unknown gaze  
I feel my very wings unpinned*

*And, burned because I beauty loved,  
I shall not know the highest bliss,  
And give my name to the abyss  
Which waits to claim me as its own."*

Charles Baudelaire  
*Laments of an Icarus*

## Save the Date: MAPS Conference 2014



### Davis Planetarium at Maryland Science Center September 10 – 13, 2014

Join us in Baltimore, MD at the Maryland Science Center's Digital Davis Planetarium featuring a traditional Minolta star projector as well as a Sky-Skan Difiniti digital system under a new 50' Astro-Tech dome.

The conference hotel is the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court and can't be more convenient - this nearest hotel to MSC is located directly across the street from the MSC.

Davis Planetarium / MSC – [mdsci.org/planetarium](http://mdsci.org/planetarium)

Royal Sonesta – [sonesta.com/Baltimore](http://sonesta.com/Baltimore)

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### Conference highlights:

- Presentations, workshops and programs under the same roof as the Vendor Exhibit Hall (all at MSC)
- Evening star party featuring MSC's rooftop Observatory equipped with a computer-driven 8" Alvan Clark and Sons refractor
- NEW THIS YEAR - Extended Saturday conference activity
- Astronomy themed showcase using the "Science on a Sphere" projection system
- Bring your dancing shoes if so inclined - we're closing the MAPS banquet on Fri night with some fun, live music for all to enjoy (stay tuned for details on the band!)

(Continued on page 7)

## 2014 Board Elections

**As a member of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, you have the privilege to vote for colleagues who will serve as your representatives on the MAPS Board. This year we have six wonderful candidates to choose from that will take three seats that are available. Please take the time to review each candidate's brief bio. Ballot forms will be mailed out at the end of December. These forms will be due by January 31, 2014. Thank you for your vote!**

### Thomas Bruckner

Tom Bruckner is an Assistant Professor at Nassau Community College. He teaches students the subjects of Solar System Astronomy, Stellar and Galactic Astronomy, as well as Physical Geology. Tom is the founder of, and the faculty advisor to, the NCC Astronomy/Planetarium Club. Tom is also the coordinator of the college's Honors Program.

Tom received his BA in Environmental Science: Earth Science from Binghamton University and then received his MAT: Earth Sciences from Stony Brook University. He then returned to Stony Brook to complete graduate level courses in Astronomy. He is now back at Stony Brook enrolled in a Science Education PhD program, focusing on the history of Astronomy education.

Tom spent the summer of 2013 renovating and modernizing the NCC Planetarium. He built a spherical mirror projection system using minimal funds and donations. The purpose of the renovation was so that the Astronomy/Planetarium club could have greater opportunities to develop and present Astronomy to the community. The Astronomy/Planetarium Club now provides public outreach, presenting planetarium shows during Astronomy Open Nights and Evening Activity Hours. The club has also created and presented Planetarium shows in Spanish, which have been immensely popular.



While Tom Bruckner is a relative newcomer to the world of Planetariums and the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, he is energized and enthusiastic. His status as a newcomer is his strength. He wants to contribute to MAPS through new ideas, a unique perspective, and his access to the next generation of young planetarians. As a Board member, Tom will make sure that MAPS stays financially and organizationally sound while keeping all the members, whether they be a manufacturer, supplier, or planetarium personnel, satisfied and excited. Tom is committed and dedicated to MAPS, the promotion of Astronomy education, and the perpetuation of Planetariums as amazing educational tools. He will be an advocate for our unique and special role in society and will do all that he can to help Planetariums grow into the future!



### Kristen Chon

I still remember that day when I saw the flyer, posted on the Astronomy department's bulletin board: a one-year planetarium internship in Florida. That's when I made my decision – I was going to run away from grad school and join the planetarium field! Ok, maybe it wasn't that dramatic, but it is true that once I got a taste of life as a planetarian, I knew I had found my passion. Sixteen years later, and I'm still loving life under the dome. I'm the director of the planetarium at Framingham State University in Massachusetts, where I'm also an assistant professor and chair of the Physics & Earth Sciences department. I'm also working toward a doctorate in science education, where I'm focusing my research on astronomy misconceptions.

I'm excited about this opportunity to run for a seat on the MAPS board. If elected, I will work hard to serve the MAPS membership and help maintain and even improve MAPS's offerings for its membership.

### Tim Collins

Ever since I was young and witnessing my first aurora display, watching *Cosmos* on PBS with my family, and visiting the Strasenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, NY, I became fascinated with the stars, planets, and space exploration. My oldest brother began working at the Ferguson Planetarium and the observatory at Buffalo State in 1980, just after it re-opened from a devastating fire. My father made it a point to know when aurora displays were near, comets available for viewing, and never lost an opportunity to teach us about astronomy when it presented itself. In 1987, I began my career in the planetarium field by watching other student operators, learning from Dr. James Orgren, Art Gielow, and Paul Krupinski, how to instruct young students in science by 1988 on a Spitz A3-P projector. I served as an officer to our student Astronomy Club, and continue today as Treasurer to our Alumni Astronomy Club. When I graduated in 1993, I had spent six



months as the student intern, writing and producing two of my own in-house shows, and joining MAPS as a young, impressionable college student and visiting places like Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Portland. I then left for the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and found a neighboring planetarium at Amherst College that also housed a Spitz A3-P where I could help with the local public programs. I returned to Buffalo in 1998 and have not looked back since. I even earned my M.B.A. degree in hopes that someday I could be smarter about the business aspects of running a planetarium and science center, or assisting with an organization such as MAPS.

Since 2005, I have been part of creating and producing over 12 in-house video productions, 15 live topical programs, and co-coordinating special events and open houses in Buffalo, and several outreach programs into the general community. I have had the chance to work closely with my colleagues on many of these projects, and have developed more relationships beyond the dome while bringing awareness to science and astronomy education at-large.

While our toll and technology have improved, and most of what we used to be called upon is now easily accessed from the internet, or from a show on one of the many science channels available on most cable and satellite providers, I believe we must still be certain that we remain focused on the awe of the stars and surroundings we can provide in our special classrooms, not solely the technology; for one thing has not changed despite the advances: the wonder of the universe around us. In casual conversation with any individual, the subject can arise, and it is a great feeling knowing that in an instant, you can change a person's outlook (young or old) on how they perceive the universe. I always try to conduct myself as an educator with a bit of inspirational flare, but never stop learning how to improve my delivery methods from lessons taught by my colleagues of MAPS. I am now serving my fourth year on the MAPS Web Committee, and third year as Chair, where I have strived to ensure that information is current and relevant to our organization, its members, and vendors. I was also a member of the Audit Committee where I was counted upon to work with election results.

If elected to the MAPS Board of Directors, I will work to ensure that we remain a resource to others in our field, keep our mission in focus, and continue making contributions as I have over the last four years. Since MAPS is a professional development organization, we should be utilized not just by planetarians, but also by the administration of these institutions to foster more efficient communication between academia and public awareness.



**Megan EN Dominguez**

I appreciate the opportunity to run for a seat on the board of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society. I have been involved in Science education since I started working at the Schenectady Museum in 2000, now known as miSci, the museum of innovation and science. Since that time, I have worked my way up from Educator, to Assistant Planetarium Manager, and now the Education & Planetarium Manager of the Suits-Bueche Planetarium, a position I have held since 2011.

Since my involvement, the planetarium has gone through two major renovations and now planning a third. I co-hosted the MAPS conference in 2008, and two PIPS meetings in 2005 and 2007.

During my tenure with the Planetarium, I have hosted Space Days and Engineering Days with Knowles Atomic Power Labs, developed curricula for on-site and outreach programs in Astronomy and other sciences, produced new planetarium shows, designed classes, workshops, and hands-on activities about Astronomy and Space Science, and developed programs for schools, public, scout groups and civic organizations at the Museum. I have done joint programming with other planetaria and Astronomy organizations, including the Dudley Observatory, the oldest private organization in the United States dedicated to the Support of Astronomical research; chartered in 1852. In addition, we are a designated NASA Space Place

I have been a MAPS member since 2005 and an IPS member since 2008, and have received the MAPS Exceptional Service Award and MAPS Fellows Award.

I am currently a member of the Constitution Review Committee and the Education Committee and I am part of the MAPS Educator Mentor Network.

If I am elected to the Board of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, I will work with the Board and the membership to help further the goals of Astronomy education in our field.

***For more statements from the candidates, see page 4!***

## 2014 Board Elections (Continued from page 3)

### Lee Ann A. Hennig

I have had the honor of being a MAPS member for many years. My service includes holding several offices: Secretary, President Elect, President, and Board Member, as well as serving on various committees. I have attended, presented, and participated in many of the MAPS conferences. I believe our organization can benefit from long term planning and goal setting specifically for improving services to the membership.

Through my work on the Board, I have attempted to improve the stature of MAPS as an organization and to extend and expand its benefits to the membership. My past experiences have underscored the importance of a Board that can work as a group, cooperatively, for the good of the organization and for the growth and in the best interests of its members and their concerns. Although the technology of our field is evolving we still need to be inclusive and supportive of our entire planetarium community. It is critical for MAPS to support strong leadership to face the challenges of our profession.



The opportunities and experiences I have gained from my position as Secretary of the International Planetarium Society, experience in national associations for the advancement of astronomy education, and from serving in other organizations have provided critical skills and tools which also reinforce my service as a Board member in MAPS.

The strength and soul of our organization is its membership and I will do my best to promote the goals and objectives of MAPS toward that philosophy. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be a candidate for office.

#### Professional:

1. Director of Astronomy and Astrophysics Research at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Fairfax County Virginia)
2. Director of the TJHSST Planetarium (Spitz A3P -30 ft Dome)
3. Coordinator of Research and Technology Labs at TJHSST

### Paul J. Krupinski

Greetings fellow friends and colleagues of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society! I am greatly humbled and offer a heartfelt thank you, once again, for the nomination to Board of Directors of MAPS. As an incumbent, I've had the opportunity to work with the Executive Committee for a couple of years now and I'm really excited, as well as proud the direction MAPS is headed. Yet, there's much more work to be done for YOU, the valued member of MAPS.



For those who are new to our planetarium community, I'm Paul J. Krupinski from Cheektowaga, New York. I've been a member of MAPS longer than I can remember, attended my first planetarium conference in Wheeling, WV in 1990. Over two decades, I've been so fortunate to meet new people, spend precious time with life-long friends, share some terrific ideas, as well as collaborate with the finest Planetarians this business has to offer.

I beginning my 21st year as Director/Owner of Mr. K.'s Mobile Dome Planetarium and nearly two decades as Show Presenter/Technician of the world renowned Strasenburgh Planetarium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center. I am so very fortunate to have the best of both planetarium worlds...the large and small dome experience! I offer 20 different current, topical interactive and participatory planetarium presentations targeting students Pre-K through high school under my portable planetarium dome. Yet, I'm truly blessed to work with the best crew under the big dome in Rochester; presenting star shows, giant screen films, and laser shows! Under either dome, my goal is to teach each visitor something new and capture the audience with the awesome beauty of the night sky, as it should be seen, under perfectly dark conditions – and as you know, that's what a planetarium does best.

I served MAPS as your President Elect, President, and Past President from 2000-2006, which was truly an outstanding and rewarding experience. I've been apart of the ad hoc MAPS Strategic Planning Committee, where a select few sequester themselves in the beautiful historic region of Gettysburg, PA and after countless hours of brainstorming the results speak for themselves: the MAPS Executive Committee Calendar and Procedures, revised Conference Guidelines and Vendor Policy, as well as our Executive Handbook.

However, time doesn't always allow us to complete the task or tasks at hand, which inadvertently improve our organization. Many ideas brainstormed, are work-in-progress and need time to be brought to fruition...indeed, all for the benefit of membership! I'd like the opportunity, once again, to continue with the Executive Committee to re-visit and complete unfinished business, while cultivating new innovative ideas, which will allow the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society an even brighter future going forward. Thank you.

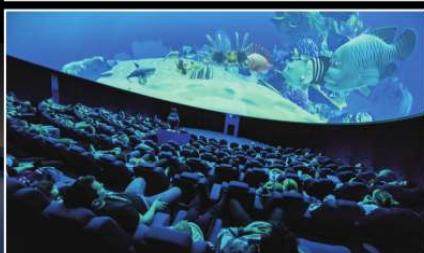
## The HYBRID Revolution in Brno



The city of Brno can be found in the Czech Republic – the heart of Europe – about halfway between Prague and Vienna. A small observatory, used by world famous Czech astronomers was established here in 1954. For example Lubos Kohoutek, the discoverer of the well-known comet, and Lubos Perek, the co-founder of space law concerning satellite traffic were early members. It is also the place where Vladimir Remek, the only Czechoslovak astronaut, started his career in 1962.



Built in 1991 by the City of Brno, the Brno Observatory and Planetarium underwent substantial reconstruction in 2010 and 2011, and in 2013 installed a new GOTO HYBRID Planetarium® as an international joint project of the Czech company Nowatron Elektronik, French RSA Cosmos and Japanese GOTO INC.



Today the Brno Observatory and Planetarium is the largest and most modern institution of this kind in the Czech Republic. It cooperates with local universities and scientific companies, and is a co-founder of the Czech Association of Science Centers. Every year the planetarium has had more than 100,000 visitors who are looked after by 20 employees and about the same number of volunteers.

It reopened on October 31, 2013, with a GOTO Chronos II opto-mechanical planetarium projector synchronized with fulldome video. The reason for choosing the GOTO HYBRID combination was easy: It presents high quality astronomical shows effectively and at the same time can also be used for other educational and cultural activities. Director Jiří Dušek says, "We do not consider the installation to be just a planetarium but a wonderful audiovisual instrument with almost unlimited possibilities."

The 17-meter dome's 188 seats have been filled with an incredible 12,000 visitors in the first month of operation. We wish The Brno Observatory and Planetarium even more success in the years to come.

**Photos credit:**  
Brno Observatory and Planetarium



To learn more, contact:

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**GOTO HYBRID PLANETARIUM  
CHRONOS II**

## PLANETARIUM NEWS

### Shippensburg University renames planetarium for long-serving director

Since 1971, John "Jack" M. Roddick has shared his love of the skies as director of Shippensburg University's Dibert Planetarium. That dedication was recognized November 15 when the planetarium was rededicated as the Dibert-Roddick Planetarium.

Roddick's association with the university spans nearly 70 years beginning when he came to Shippensburg as a student. After serving in World War II, he returned to Shippensburg to complete his degree in 1947. He joined the faculty in 1955 as an assistant professor of physics and head coach of football and track.



More than 40 years after he was named planetarium director, he continues to organize group trips and public programs for the planetarium, including the very popular Christmas show.

The planetarium originally was named in memory of Roy Dibert, former chair of the physics department.

*Reprinted courtesy of the Office of University Communications & Marketing, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA.*



### University of Maine Astronomy Center Under Construction and On Schedule Alan Davenport

It is more than a bit surreal to have so much energy going into a project just for the program of the humble planetarian. Replacing my quaint 20-foot plaster dome at the University of Maine, the new Emera Astronomy Center will house a 33-foot tilted dome, offices and classroom. I have had the pleasure of working with a seasoned team of professionals including WBRC Architects and Engineering, Kasian Architecture and UMaine's Facilities Management Dept. to design the new \$5.5M facility. It is at one of the darkest corners of the University of Maine campus, on the edge of a large, well-lit parking lot. Red lot lighting is being installed to aid naked eye observing activities at the new companion Maynard F. Jordan Observatory. The project is on schedule and under budget with completion expected in late spring 2014.

Equipment for the new facility will include a PlaneWave 20" CDK reflector and CCD imager under a digitally controlled, 14-foot Ash dome. The new Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium theater will have a Sky-Skan Digital Sky 2 4k projection system, 33' Astro-Tec tilted dome, and ChromaCove LED lighting.

Most of the funding for this project came from an anonymous donor, and that was then capped off with a naming gift of \$1M from the Emera Inc., the parent corporation of Bangor Hydro Electric Co. Every party involved in the project endorses the value of public access to fun, science experiences and the importance of STEM education for a prosperous future.

*The gritty underbelly of a theater hints at the tiered seating coming to the 33-foot planetarium chamber. The pipe organ conduits rising from a gravel bed in the middle right of this image mark the future control desk location.*



## PLANETARIUM NEWS

I would like MAPS members to know that the York Learning Center planetarium has had a good year, we have had over 1,100 people see planetarium programs. We continue to have public programs on the second Friday of the month during the school year and are now expanding our days open to the public to two nights a month while continuing to offer private programs for school groups and scouts throughout the year.

We premiered three new fulldome programs this fall, "Cosmic Castaways" from the Ward Beecher Planetarium in September, "Comets & Discovery" from Bays Mountain Planetarium in October and "Back to the Moon for Good" from Google in November. All programs were well received by the public. In January, we will premier "A Part of the Sky Called Orion" from Bays Mountain Planetarium.

Todd Ullery  
Planetarium Director  
York Learning Center Planetarium  
York County Astronomical Society  
[www.ycas.org](http://www.ycas.org)



### For more Planetarium News see page 17!

Isn't it great reading about what your fellow planetarians are up to under their domes? The Publication Committee is looking for volunteers to help gather planetarium news from the MAPS region.

If interested, contact the Editor at [kdconod@yahoo.com](mailto:kdconod@yahoo.com)

## MAPS Conference

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Baltimore highlights:

- Inner Harbor shopping, dining and attractions
- Fort McHenry, Federal Hill and other historic sites
  - Nearby museums include American Visionary Art, National Aquarium, Walters Art Museum and more!
  - Star Spangled Spectacular Sept 6-15, 2014
  - Orioles playing at home against New York Yankees Sept 12-14, 2014

# CONTACT!

## MAPS Executive Committee

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215-870-3725

# President's Message

I suspect many of our colleagues will hanker for the camaraderie of a MAPS gathering before the next conference rolls around in September at Baltimore's Maryland Science Center. Please remember that state meetings are a great way to share ideas and build spirit between conferences. Any host of a state meeting can request financial support for the expenses of the event from the MAPS treasury up to \$200. It is best to plan ahead, announce your event in the Constellation if possible and contact all the MAPS members in your state through the e-mail list kept by our Treasurer, Keith Johnson. Contact me with questions or requests.

At conferences and with alerts on MAPS-L we have had some discussion already about the new Next Generation Science Standards. Our Education Committee has posted a survey asking of our interest in this new subject. We know that some of you are already dealing with it and others may be in states that do not plan to subscribe to it. Regardless of the politics, the methodology of science education continues to evolve.

For classes in formal education settings, the lab activity style of program is now de rigueur. For informal education programming, some of us have always used at least some of the classic media with recorded sound, narration and visuals whether slide-based or newer full dome. Even that is ready for change as modeled by Chicago's venerable Adler Planetarium where public programming has now changed to all 'live'. Indications are that the more we implement live interaction, and integrate audience participation, the more powerful our unique theaters will be educationally and socially.

If you are a leader already, having brought technology inside the spring line, and engaged the audience in active manipulation of the show and perhaps even equipment of some kind, this is the time to show off. Please share your tips and stylized, even if quirky, methods with the rest of the MAPS family. Articles here in the Constellation, demonstrations at state meetings and talks or workshops at the next conference are all places where your input is needed. Our profession is small and dispersed. There are no (or very few) degree programs in our field. So please use MAPS to help grow the skill and professionalism of our industry.

As we enjoy another holiday season and prepare for the New Year, I feel the need to urge all my MAPS friends to care for yourselves. Lately, I have been hearing too many stories of professionals who suffered for their dedication and some who have literally worked themselves to the brink. Many of us work with a sense of mission at our jobs. Those efforts bring a special kind of experience and inspiration to the students and visitors we encounter. But many among us are so committed to our goals, the extra hours working with minimal support and 20th century salaries become the accepted mode of operation. Not to put too fine an edge on it, but it is OK to look out for yourself by doing less for others. Please keep your own health and well-being as the #1 goal of your mission to serve others, and your program will benefit from your sustained strength.

Take the time, especially in this season, to relish the warmth and support of family and friends. Take the extra day or week you deserve in order to reconnect with the world. And I sincerely wish that world will be a happy and healthy haven for you and yours in this holiday season.

Cheers to all!

Alan Davenport, President

## REPORT FROM THE MAPS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### **ENGAGING THE PUBLIC TO LOOK UP!**

Francine Jackson

A surprising perk to living on the East Coast lately has been the opportunity to witness recent launches from Wallops Island, Virginia. Within the past several months, two such craft, LADEE, a lunar orbiter attempting to understand the possibility of an atmosphere surrounding our nearest neighbor, and Minotaur, crammed with over two dozen mini-satellites – Cubesats – were both observed by many of us willing to stay up late (LADEE went up at 11:27 P.M) or brave the cold (the night Minotaur was launched, temperatures were near freezing). This is a great opportunity to encourage the public to scan the skies for "moving objects" and maybe in the process learn a little about observing techniques.



Of course, the sky is full of many manmade objects. The International Space Station is a great sight for anyone just observing outside and it is fairly easy to spot, others are a little more challenging. The following websites offer information related to rocket launches, satellite passages, visibility, duration, etc.

Heavens Above  
Space Weather  
Spaceflight Now  
Wallops Island Launches

[www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com)  
[spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com)  
[spaceflightnow.com](http://spaceflightnow.com)  
[www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/home/#.UpJ\\_5uLiHIU](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/home/#.UpJ_5uLiHIU)

Some of our planetariums include information on their own Sky Charts and incorporate bright or unusual sightings (like Iridium flares- communication satellites that sometimes brighten to magnitudes that rival Venus or even brighter) into their presentations.



The planetarium is a great way to introduce these elusive bodies to the audience. It just takes a few minutes to determine the brighter satellites that are visible that night. By enabling your audience to witness "Your tax dollars at work," you are giving them another reason to go outside and enjoy the night sky. And, by showing them either a very clear path in the planetarium, or providing a simple chart, your audiences are now on their way to not only looking up – reinforcing what they learned in your facility – but also subliminally identifying the celestial objects that the satellites are both appearing near to and passing by on their paths across the sky. It's very seldom that at least one artificial satellite can't be seen (weather permitting) over the course of a few nights at a reasonable time in the evening. And, keep checking Wallops Island-there's always a chance there will be another launch waiting for us.

It's a very simple way to introduce the public to the sky. I have found it very useful while freezing outside during public nights, but I also mention them when nicely warm in the dome. Also, WRT my weekly sky notes, I ask the readers to let us know if they do see any of them, and often I get a response. It's a good way to keep in touch with our audiences, and have them look up into the real sky.

Thanks,  
Francine

### SURVEY

For an important announcement about the Education Committee's Membership Survey see page 14!

TWO MODULAR PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR LIVE INTERACTION

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## Charting Old MAPS, 25 Years Ago. . .

*In an attempt to bring our history from the MAPS Archives to you our members, this is the inauguration of a new regular column called "Charting Old MAPS, 25 Years Ago. . ."*

*Each issue we'll examine what was going on approximately 25 years ago, who was actively involved, what the issues of the day were, and, hopefully, pick up on the buzz of the times. Because the archives does not have a full compliment of Constellations to draw upon, some columns, like this one, will draw upon issues and documents as close to the time in question as possible. I hope you enjoy this regular glimpse of the past. Your comments are always welcome.*

**From "The Constellation, 1988 Autumnal Equinox Vol. XXII No. 4."**

President: Tom Stec, VP: Richard Peery, Secretary: Roxanne Peery, Treasurer, David Dundee, Editor: Roxanne Peery, News Editor: Steve Russo, Technical Editor: Fred Hessler, Board Members: Lee Ann Hennig, Eleanor Milliken, Steve Mitch.

The cover story was all about the upcoming fall conference hosted by planetarian Ellie Milliken at the Oyster River Planetarium in Durham, New Hampshire. It was reported that "last minute details are being worked out as Mother Nature works her magic so the fall foliage will be perfect for MAPS' arrival." A promising lineup of workshops and speakers included George Reed, Alan Davenport, Charlie Feldman, Bill Luzader, Eric Zimmermann, Steve Mitch, Jon Elvert, David Dundee, Joyce Towne, and William Hawley. Discussions included the plans for the new Christa MacAuliffe Planetarium, a "sure-to-be-lively" discussion led by Sam Storch on "Real Sky vs. Dome Sky," and some of Ellie's students demonstrating their work with interactive laser video discs. David Koch from the Smithsonian was the Friday luncheon speaker with a talk titled "Kiss ma GRITS" and the Margaret Noble Address speaker was Dr. Margaret Geller presenting "Bubble in the Universe." Additional activities included a star party at sea, hayrides, a Great Solar System Road Race, and a trip to the "other" Hayden in Boston.

Other news included a new planetarium show kit from the Bishop Planetarium of Bradenton, Florida, titled "The Power." The show about galaxies was designed for sixth graders and up. Selling for \$195, it included a 31-minute soundtrack (furnished to your specs) and 125 color and kodalith slides. The voice work was done by Jack Horheimer and 11-year-old Rachel Klein. Dr. Randy Mullin wrote the show, Joe Tucciarone did the artwork, and the soundtrack was produced by Mark Petersen of Loch Ness Productions in conjunction with the Bishop Planetarium.

The newsletter's final page presented an inquiry asking readers to try a technique to quicken the process of dark adaptation and then send in their experiences and thoughts. The directions for trying QDAT (Quick Dark Adapting Technique) were as follows: "Look down at your feet while standing, then blink as hard and as rapidly as you can for a count of 15 seconds. If there is no stray white light contamination, you will become mostly dark-adapted. Contact lens wearers should be careful." *Does anyone remember doing this?*

*In the time it took the light to travel from Fomalhaut to your eyes, these stories surfaced from the past to the present. 'Til next time when we time travel again. . . .*

John T. Meader, MAPS Archivist/Historian  
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15 Western Ave., Fairfield, Maine 04937  
207-453-7668  
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www.northern-stars.com



**Constellation, 1988  
Autumnal Equinox Ed.**

## IPS 2014 Conference

Beijing Planetarium is honored to invite all the members of the International Planetarium Society (IPS) to participate in the 22nd IPS Conference, to be held from Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27, 2014 in Beijing, China.

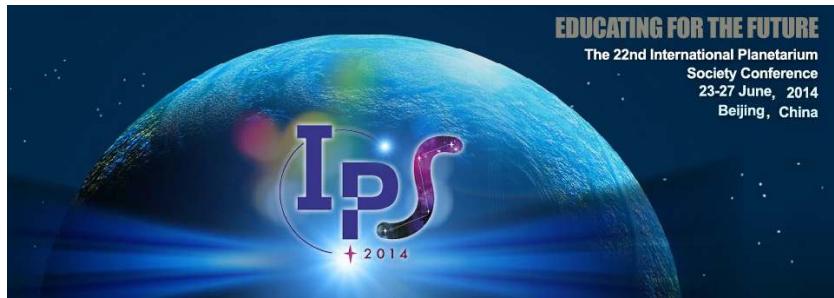
The IPS 2014 Conference under the theme of "Educating for the Future" will focus on the significant role of planetariums in future astronomy education. It will showcase the latest advancements in astronomy, planetarium theater management and technology, while providing an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas on astronomy education and visitor experience.

Hundreds of Planetarium professionals around the world will be brought together to exchange ideas on best practices and present new technology. Chinese educational officials and professionals will also be invited to this fantastic gathering devoted to planetarium development and astronomy education.

Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China, is the nation's political, economic, cultural, educational, international trade, and communication center. Located in northern China, the city also serves as the country's most important transportation hub and port of entry. Both a tribute to China's proud history and a gateway to China's future, it is an international metropolis, home to more than 20 million people from all walks of life. Having succeeded in hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing is ready and looks forward to welcoming and impressing you in the months ahead. For more information concerning the city and your possible travel plan, please check the official website of the Beijing government: [www.ebeijing.gov.cn](http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn).

We look forward to welcoming and working with you. More information about registration will be available on the conference website [www.ips2014.org](http://www.ips2014.org) for updates. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jin Zhu  
Director, Beijing Planetarium



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## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Dear MAPS Members,

As we proposed in the September Constellation, we have developed a short survey to gather some information that will help guide our committee in reevaluating our mission. Feel free to give us any input and suggestions via the survey. Additionally, there is a place for you to address any item that you feel is important and may not have been included in the survey. We welcome and value your ideas.

The Survey may be accessed here: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/YVHKX6J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YVHKX6J)

A Survey Invitation will also be sent out through MAPS-L. The deadline for submitting the survey is January 12, 2014.

We look forward to your participation!

Lee Ann A. Hennig, Committee Chair  
MAPS Education Committee  
[lahennig@verizon.net](mailto:lahennig@verizon.net)

## Position Available

Bowen Technovation. of Indianapolis is adding another full time job position with their well-known, internationally respected firm.

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## PLANETARIUM NEWS



During the Summer of 2013, the East Kentucky Science Center and Planetarium hosted a total of 123 students ranging in age from pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade for ten camps. Topics of the camps were in all areas of science, including color, physics, animals, geology, and astronomy.

The two Astronomy camps attracted 20 students who saw planetarium shows, learned about comets and meteors, made craters, and built and launched model rockets.

Summer also saw the return of the exhibit; ENERGEE. The only in-house built exhibit returned to the EKSC after a year of storage. Built at a cost of \$600,000, ENERGEE is a highly interactive exhibit consisting of 10 kiosks plus an introductory “what is energy” and “the future is now” wall.

Visitors are introduced to energy concepts including topics on coal, natural gas, potential and kinetic energy, light, thermodynamics, atmospheric gases, generating electricity and energy conservation.

During the Fall of 2013, The EKSC once again played host to the East Kentucky Regional Science Fair. Over 140 people attended the science fair which included student projects from 33 different schools in seven school districts, planetarium shows, laser shows, and electricity demonstrations.

It has been a pretty successful year at the EKSC with an increase in attendance of 12 percent for the second year in a row.

Steven LJ Russo  
Director, East Kentucky Science Center & Planetarium  
Big Sandy Community and Technical College  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
[srusso0002@kctcs.edu](mailto:srusso0002@kctcs.edu)



(Continued on Page 18)

# PLANETARIUM NEWS

**Starlab Outreach by Winkler Botanical Preserve and George Mason University**  
Harold Geller

In February of 2013, the School of Physics, Astronomy and Computational Sciences (SPACS) of George Mason University (GMU) came to an agreement which provided the loan of the SPACS Starlab Planetarium to the Winkler Botanical Preserve of Alexandria, Virginia. Jodie Smolik, the Preserve's Executive Director worked with Helmet Albrecht (Starlab), Susan Riffe (Baltimore Public Schools) and Robert Nicholson (T.C. Williams High School) to develop a program utilizing the Starlab portable planetarium. The program is titled "Constellations and Asterisms" and introduces children to these concepts as well as the significance of the North Pole Star, Polaris, and numerous stories from different cultures that were linked to the stars by various civilizations. The program concludes with a quiz to see if the children have learned something about the constellations and asterisms presented during the program. Between June and August, some 550 children were exposed to this program. Smolik is currently developing an educational program to meet with the Virginia Standards of Learning for grades 4 and 5, that will focus on the Moon and its phases and cycles.



## MAPS Education Research Grants

The Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society is offering Education Research Grants to financially support planetarians in conducting research on the use and impact of planetariums in education.

**Application deadline:** Rolling (Opens January 1<sup>st</sup> continues till funds exhausted or year-end)

**Award dates:** Notifications will be made privately to applicants within 6 weeks of submission and will be announced publically on the MAPS website.

**Grant time period:** 1 year from your notification; an additional 6 month extension can be requested in writing if needed.

**Budget:** Grant awards up to \$2,500.00 and must follow the grant guidelines.

The guidelines and application are available on the MAPS website:  
[www.mapsplanetarium.org/category/grant](http://www.mapsplanetarium.org/category/grant)

## DUES

Reminder that membership dues will soon need to be renewed. Renewal notices will be arriving in your mailbox at the beginning of the year. Please do not wait until the conference to renew, especially considering the late date of the next conference.



Please pay your dues promptly—this helps the Society with pre-conference costs!

For questions about memberships and renewals contact the Treasurer, Keith Johnson, at [johnsonk@rowan.edu](mailto:johnsonk@rowan.edu) or 856-256-4389.

## AWARDS

The following awards are available to MAPS members:

- MAPS Award of Recognition
- MAPS Exceptional Service Award
- MAPS Fellow Award
- MAPS Distinguished Service Award (the Society's highest award)



See the MAPS website for descriptions and criteria for these awards.

To nominate someone contact the Awards Committee Chair, Wendy Ackerman, at: [wack@marylandsciencecenter.org](mailto:wack@marylandsciencecenter.org)

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