

President's Message



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It is difficult for me to believe that the first year of my presidency is almost over! So much to do and so little time! The officers and I have accomplished a great deal and continue to prepare for further improvements in member services and adjustments in the Standing Rules that will assure that the business of the International Planetarium Society runs smoothly.

IPS Committees are serving us well and you will be able to read their updated reports in the March 2008 *Planetarian*. We'll also publish their photographs so that you can be sure to thank them for their hard work at the IPS 2008 Conference in Chicago. In this column, I am pleased to make several announcements involving three of those committees.

Outreach Committee

Jon Elvert, chair of the Outreach Committee, has been selected to serve as the IPS single point of contact for communication with the International Astronomical Union (IAU) on the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009. Jon wrote to tell me "I attended the American Astronomical Society (AAS)-IYA meeting last week at the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) meeting in Chicago. There are several committees within this group that are working on some pretty exciting initiatives and the IPS will be able to distribute much of what will be produced...

"The IYA-AAS committees will focus entirely on educational outcomes, and it appears planetariums, both large and small and portable, will benefit."

Jon is doing a fantastic job of keeping his committee's web page updated with all the latest results of this committee's efforts. Please go to the Outreach Committee Archives to see updates and information about topics that include the International Polar Year and International Heliophysical Year, planetariums in developing countries, NASA brokers/facilitators, and ESA and NASA multimedia galleries. The url is www.ips-planetarium.org/or/comms/outreachcom.html.

As part of the Outreach Committee's efforts to assist planetariums in developing countries, David Weinrich reports "We have been talking about ways of helping astronomy educators in developing countries for the past two years. Now we are ready for a pilot project that we hope will lead to future astronomical outreach to many developing countries."

As part of this pilot project, a refurbished Mediaglobe digital projector will be donated by Joanne Young of Audio Visual Imagineering to the Ghana Science Center in Africa. The science center will provide funding for shipping it from Orlando, Florida to Ghana. They will also provide a dome for the projector, identify local science teachers or astronomy enthusiasts who can be trained to operate the system, and give shows and provide funding for the training.

Dave explains, "We felt that it is especially important that there be active involvement of personnel and resources from Ghana. They have to be involved in the planning, the implementation, and the future operation of the planetarium.

"We believe that it is especially important that local personnel be trained to run the planetarium and that there is adequate documentation of the project for media presentations and for reports to the International Planetarium Society."

Congratulations to David and Joanne for getting this project off the ground. Thank you Joanne for your generosity, as well, because this could not happen without you. Congratulations also to the Ghana Science Center as the recipient of this gift and for Jacob Ashlong's efforts to make this happen. I eagerly look forward to progress reports

David Weinrich initiated a pilot project with Joanne Young and the Ghana Science Center in Africa.
Photo by Susan Button

about this pilot project and hope that this will be the first of many such initiatives.

Contact Information: David Weinrich at weinrich@mnstate.edu; Project Coordinator Jacob Ashong at jacob_ashong@yahoo.com, Ghana Science Center.

Technology Committee

I am delighted to announce that Karen Klamczynski has agreed to serve as the new chair of the IPS Technology Committee. This chair has been vacant for some time and I am grateful that Karen is eager to take on this job. The first project to be initiated by this committee is a glossary of technical terms on the committee's web page; under consideration is a Frequently Asked Questions about planetarium technology. I look forward to working with this revitalized committee.

Contact information: Karan Klamczynski, Evans & Sutherland, Education & Training Specialist, Digital Theater Division, 770 Komasa Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 USA; phone: (1) 801-588-7409; fax: (1) 801-588-4520; email: karenk@es.com; website: www.es.com.

Awards Committee

Jon Bell has stepped down, after many years service, as chair of this committee. Thank you Jon for all of your hard work, and I am pleased to see that you will remain as a member of this committee. Lars Broman (Lbr@teknoland.se) has volunteered to fill this position and you will see his call for nominations for awards to be given at IPS 2008 on page x of this issue. Thank you Lars for volunteering for yet another vital service to IPS!

Affiliates

One representative for mobile planetariums is needed in each regional organization. Some



affiliate organizations already have someone doing this job. The work of this representative is to collect and communicate news to the directors of portable planetariums in your region via any means they prefer, such as newsletter, listserve, email, etc. and to communicate with me about what is happening in the region. This person also needs to solicit pictures, articles, and lesson plans for the IPS website, the Mobile News Network column, and the *Planetarian*.

Proactive communication is the key! This representative needs to find out who is operating a mobile dome in their region and entice them to come to conferences by making sure there are workshops and papers of interest to them. These people are a valuable resource. If the stationary domes at conferences are utilized exclusively for highly technical demonstrations and movies, then workshops need to be held in portable domes. Educational and technical workshops can be presented by and are valuable for planetarians working in stationary as well as in mobile domes.

Seeing in the Dark

Gail Rubin asked me to spread the word about the PBS special *Seeing in the Dark*, a film by Timothy Ferris that was shown on 19 September 2007. The film was advertised through IPS News and Dome-L. Gail reported that since the show, "More than 700 requests have been submitted by students for stellar images from the Seeing in the Dark Internet Telescope (SIDIT) in the first week!" As a result, she told me that the web site at www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark will be available in perpetuity. In addition to the SIDIT, the site also features valuable information to get newcomers started in stargazing.

She is very excited about the potential inspiration that this program can provide for students, teachers, and the public. So she wrote, "I wanted to let the members of the International Planetarium Society know that as part of our educational outreach on behalf of *Seeing in the Dark*, we are offering a free DVD of the program to those planetarium managers who would like to hold a screening of the program at their facilities. It makes a wonderful complement to an evening of stargazing. The only stipulation is that they cannot charge people to see the program, and we would like to be kept apprised of any screening events that take place." Her offer, available to planetariums across the world, was published in IPS News and through Dome-L and I repeat it here for anyone who might have missed it. Gail Rubin's email and phone number are: email gpr@flash.net; phone (1) 505-265-7215.

Planetarium Show Wiki

Kevin Conod sent the following note to Dome-L: "As I mentioned on Dome-L a while



These planetarians are both stationary dome and portable dome planetarium educators. Six analog and two digital planetarium workshops were presented in portable domes at the recent Triple Conjunction Conference in October at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA. The workshop presenters were, from left to right, back row: Susan Button, Paul Krupinski, Gene Zajac, Jeanne Bishop, Dayle Brown; front row: Reed Varian, John Meader, Chuck Bueter. Missing: Karrie Berglund. Photo by Elizabeth Wasiluck

back—it'd sure be nice to have a planetarium show wiki to help keep track of new and existing shows for 'conventional' theaters.

"So I started one on wikispaces... I've never started a wiki before, so this is very basic. Check it out at planetariumshows.wikispaces.com."

Contact information: Kevin Conod, planetarium manager/astronomer, the Newark Museum's Dreyfuss Planetarium, 49 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102 USA; email: kconod@newarkmuseum.org; phone (1) 973-596-6529; www.newarkmuseum.org/planetarium.

NASA Science News

I am sure that all of you have been having special shows and/or events to mark the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik. I am of the generation who actually remembers this auspicious occasion! There's a great Science@NASA story about a new spacecraft that may provide a way for you discuss how blending old technology with the new helps keep the momentum of space exploration. It's titled "Tones from Deep Space" and can be found at science.nasa.gov.

Special Libraries Association: Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division

During the IPS officers meeting in Hawaii last June, we introduced ourselves to the Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee and discussed how we might benefit from collaborating with each other. One of the fruits of

meeting with this group is another networking opportunity. I recently received the following message from Ruth A. Kneale, systems librarian for the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, who wrote "A fellow librarian and friend, Liz Bryson, dropped me an email about meeting you and hearing about the International Planetarium Society. I've visited your website, and it's fascinating! I'm moderating the Astronomy Roundtable for the Physics-Astronomy-Math (PAM) division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) at the annual conference next June, and I was wondering—might you or one of your representatives be willing to come to Seattle and give us a brief presentation about the IPS? (Our website is at units.sla.org/division/dpam/ for more information about our division, and SLA in general.) Either way, I appreciate your time and consideration! Cheers, Ruth"

I immediately replied that IPS was very interested in making a presentation during this roundtable event. Then I went to the SLA website to discover more about this group.

I found out that "The Special Libraries Association (SLA) was founded in 1909 in the state of New York and is now the international association representing the interests of thousands of information professionals in over eighty countries worldwide." Check it out for yourself www.sla.org/content/SLA/AssnProfile/index.cfm.

I also went to the PAM website and learned that "The scope of the PAM Division includes all aspects of librarianship in the fields of physics, astronomy, and mathematics. Par-

ticular emphasis is given to the control, dissemination, and retrieval of knowledge and information in these areas.” (units.sla.org/division/dpam/governingdocs/index.html)

Intuitively, I felt that IPS and the Special Libraries Association PAM division could work well together, and my resolve strengthened after researching the missions of this organization. As a result, I chose an ambassador from IPS to make a 10- to 15-minute presentation during the Astronomy roundtable on the morning of 18 June 2008. Karrie Berglund, who not only is an IPS member but also an educator and vendor, lives one hour away from the meeting location and volunteered to introduce the librarians to IPS, to discuss our common goals, and suggest some ways in which we can collaborate to enhance our research and outreach efforts. I look forward to working with Karrie on this presentation; I am sure that this is an effective first step toward developing a strong relationship with a resource that has previously been untapped.

What is and Why Join IPS- Revisited

While attending the Triple Conjunction Conference in Wheeling this October, I had several conversations where I was amazed by the perception some people have about IPS. Some feel that IPS is just an organization for large planetariums, and others feel that IPS conferences are just “trade shows.” Some people even said, “Why join IPS? What’s in it for me and my institution?” It is obvious that these people do not attend IPS conferences and have not read either the Conference *Proceedings* or the *Planetarian*, where they would discover that IPS is so much more and has so much to offer.

Obviously IPS is not just for large planetariums; I am from an educational outreach program with a small portable planetarium and other officers also are working in or have recently worked in small fixed domes in educational institutions. Members in IPS respect and provide the means to learn from the directors of small domes. And, yes, we do have exciting and innovative vendors who demonstrate their products so that members can educate themselves about the advances in planetarium technology. Equally important, however, are opportunities for networking and sharing with fascinating international colleagues through workshops, paper sessions and social events.

You IPS members already know these things, but it behooves all of us to keep stating clearly what IPS represents and the benefits we receive from being a member of this valuable organization. Some benefits are obvious and are even listed on our website (www.ips-planetarium.org/or/aboutips.html). You can point people there to read “The International Planetarium Society is the global asso-

ciation of planetarium professionals.” What it does not say is that you professionals (directors, teachers, technicians, writers, artists, media specialists, presenters, vendors, scientists, students) are the cream of the industry. You folks are special and dedicated to lifelong learning; you believe in expanding your horizons beyond your own regional organizations. I know that many IPS members pay their IPS dues and travel expenses out-of-pocket and some attend conferences on vacation time because they believe so strongly in networking with the “sages,” young and old, in the global planetarium community, and they value the international perspective. Even if members cannot attend IPS conferences, they cherish gaining inspiration from reading the Conference *Proceedings* and the *Planetarian* because of the international flavor and high level of expertise in these papers and articles.

As I explained to one of my colleagues, there are many reasons why some people chose to join international organizations. My parents instilled in me that the people of the world are like flowers in one big garden with many views, tastes, colors, varieties, and surprises. They told me to go out and explore this garden and always be open to learning something new. Some people’s parents may have taught them to be afraid and instilled in them the need to stay safely “at home.” IPS members typically do not fit in that category; they are an asset to their home institutions and regional organizations because they network with recognized international experts in their profession. So spread the word and encourage other talented colleagues to join us. ☆

(*Defining, continued from page 13*)

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Table 1: Statistical data from the lists of French, German and Italian planetaria. The second column gives the total number of planetariums; the third and fourth is the number of the large and medium domes according to our classification; the fifth is the average diameter of the domes; the sixth is the average seat number; and the seventh column presents the number density of planetariums per million inhabitants.

	Total	Large	Middle	<D>	<P>	pl/(10 ⁶)
France	69	3	10	6,29 m	45,77	1,137
German	88	9	11	8,45 m	71,56	1,069
Italy	85	1	5	5,69 m	43,40	1,443

Table 2: Planetariums are suggested to be classified into three categories, depending on the size of their dome.

	Diameter of dome
Large	18 m ≤ <u>D</u>
Middle	10 m ≤ <u>D</u> < 18 m
Small	<u>D</u> < 10 m
School	< 5 m

(*Sky Disc, continued from page 10*)

around the world: looking up to the sky is what everyone on Earth has in common.

Looking back at this heritage that we all share, we will help unite people on our planet. That is what we should do for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and for our joint future in this inspiring environment.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks for all the support without which this cooperative effort and this article would not have been possible; to the outstanding team of Dr. Harald Meller at Landesmuseum fuer Vorgeschichte in Halle; to Bettina Pfaff at Arche Nebra; to Professor W. Schlosser at Bochum University; and last, but not least, to my wonderful colleagues and co-workers on staff here in Hamburg, Astronomer Rahlf Hansen, Head of Production Tim Florian Horn and his teammates Isabella Buczek, Lisa Barchasch, and Kenan Broman.

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