



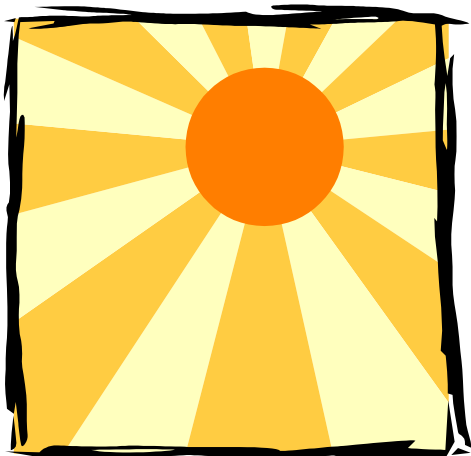
CONSTELLATION

Summer 2005, No. 2



"If anybody were to drop a stone and tell them that it didn't fall, do you think they would keep quiet? The evidence of your own eyes is a very seductive thing. Sooner or later everybody must succumb to it."

From "Galileo" by Bertolt Brecht



Navigating NASA Resources with Help from Your Broker/Facilitator

You are probably familiar with many of the resources that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has to offer planetariums, but did you know that the NASA Science Mission Directorate funds a broker/facilitator program designed to help planetarium directors navigate through the resources? If you are already aware of the broker/facilitator program, have you contacted the broker for your region to find out how they can help you meet your education and public outreach goals? Here are a few suggestions regarding how working with your space science broker can benefit you.

As you can see from the map provided in Figure 1, seven different broker/facilitator programs serve the United States. The Mid-Atlantic Region Space Science Broker (MARSSB) serves Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and shares Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC with the South-eastern Regional Clearinghouse (SERCH) broker program.



Figure 1. MARSSB serves the Mid-Atlantic Region

MARSSB along with its fellow broker/facilitator programs are designed to serve as regional contacts for scientists and educators. Our goal is to help you use the resources and expertise available from NASA to plan and implement high quality and high impact Earth and space science educational programs. In our role as a

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CONTACT!

MAPS Executive Committee

Officers (2005-2007)

President

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Schools, MD
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President-Elect

Gloria Villalobos
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Toms River, NJ
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Past-President

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Secretary

Sam Storch
Edwin P. Hubble Planetarium
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Treasurer

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kconod@newarkmuseum.org

Alan Davenport
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Lee Ann Hennig
Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology
Alexandria, Virginia
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A Note from the Past President

Greetings Fellow Sky Watchers,

I've cut the front and back lawn, swept billions of "helicopter" seeds that fell from the Maple trees, planted a rose bush in the perennial garden, and watered the tomatoes...it's almost summer in Western New York! With the summer solstice officially June 21st at 2:46 AM EDT, it's time to think of long sunny days and warm clear star filled nights.

Our 40th Anniversary Conference has come and gone. Kudos once again to Derrick Pitts, his MAPS 2005 committee extraordinaire, all our vendors, distinguished speakers, the Franklin Institute, and **YOU** for an outstanding experience. Hopefully you learned something valuable, met a new colleague, or shared a trick-of-the-trade with someone who may actually use it under his or her dome.

For your calendar! MAPS 2006 is slated for Wednesday – Saturday, May 17-20 in Toms River, New Jersey, with our own President Elect, Gloria Villalobos as host. And not in the too distant future, the "Triple Conjunction" of MAPS, SEPA, & GLPA in Wheeling, West Virginia, Tuesday – Saturday, October 9-13, 2007. Ah yes, autumn at Oglebay...I'm looking forward to that already.

ID deadline. Should MAPS have a position statement on Intelligent Design and Creationism? Members who have thoughts concerning a possible statement by MAPS should make their positions known to me in writing. Please do not use MAPS-L list for this response. My mailing address is 180 Crandon Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14225 or email me at mobiledome1993@earthlink.net. The deadline is July 31.

Congratulations! Patty Seaton moves up the ladder to become our new President and Gloria Villalobos becomes our new President Elect. Both serve in their respective office for a two-year term. In addition, I like to thank April Whitt for running for president of MAPS; the Board appreciates your willingness to serve our organization.

A call for nominations! Interested in serving your fellow planetarians? Nominations are open for MAPS Board. Let us know if you'd like to run, we must have interested candidates on the slate by December 2005, so don't wait, plan now.

In the "I couldn't believe my eyes" department, wasn't it terrific to see Tom Stek and his lovely wife at the Margaret Nobel Address banquet? What a treat! To see a true legend of this organization was indeed a pleasure. Thanks for coming Tom!

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Maps 2005 in Philadelphia



The delegates gather in front of the Franklin Institute.

Photo by Roger Davis



A view of Logan Square from the Taurus Incident
Photo by Mary Hiller



H. George Hamilton, Fels Planetarium Director Emeritus, gave the Margaret Noble Address.

Photo by Steve Russo



Darryl Davis and Scott Negley compare astronomy ties at the Banquet.

Photo by Steve Russo



Paul Krupinski and Steve Russo check out the portable planetarium demos.



2005 MAPS CONFERENCE

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**MIDDLE ATLANTIC PLANETARIUM SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF MAY 27, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Paul Krupinski at 4:35 PM.

Announcements: Paul Krupinski welcomed everybody and introduced the Executive Board.

Introduction of New Members: Four new members were introduced. Paul welcomed the new members to the organization, and advised everybody to consult the MAPS web site, www.maps-planetarium.org.

Treasurer's Report: Tony Villano presented the financial report, showing that we opened with a balance of \$22,978.07, and that as of the present time, we have \$27,766.58. Tony indicated that increased vigilance with respect to Conference expenses has and will continue to improved our financial position.

Membership Committee: Tony Villano reported that we have 182 paid members, including 14 life members, for a total of 196 members. Tony also reminded the membership that certificates of attendance for "professional development" hours are available.

Secretary's Report: Sam Storch presented the minutes of the 2004 meeting. These had also been printed in the Constellation earlier. The minutes were approved.

Conference Report: Patty Seaton was not present at this meeting, so the report was presented by Paul. For May 17-20, 2006, we will be at Gloria Villalobos' facility at Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ.

Steve Mitch announced the 2007 "triple conjunction" with SEPA and GLPA as well as MAPS. The meeting will be at Oglebay, in Wheeling, West Virginia, and has been set for October 9-13, 2007 (Tuesday evening through Saturday). Rooms will be held through Sunday for those who wish to stay the entire weekend. Note that the cutoff dates for reservations will be early, on August 9, 2007, so early booking is an absolute requirement for this meeting.

The leaves will be in full color, so this conference, with perhaps as many as 400 delegates, will be visually beautiful both inside and outside of Wilson Lodge. All 205 rooms and 20 cabins have been set aside for us. One of the days will probably be at Jim Hughes' facility in Pittsburgh.

John Elvert, past IPS President, has proposed a 7-region meeting in Baton Rouge, LA. Although he suggested 2008, that year is an IPS meeting year, so the year may have to be changed.

Publications Committee: Kevin Conod reported that the DVD of the Proceedings from the most recent Conference have been well-received.

Those who wish to help with the editing, production, or distribution of the Constellation should contact Kevin. We also need articles to be submitted for the Constellation, our quarterly publication. Deadlines are about a month prior to the equinoxes and solstices, which is when the issues are published.

The Proceedings for 2002 and 2003 will be included with this year's CD disk.

Education Committee: Francine Jackson reported that the issue of "ID" (Intelligent Design) will be examined under New Business, below.

The activities guides for the educational issues of Starry Night software will be sent to our committee for review and suggestions.

The members of the committee will be asking for educational materials to be sent to Sri Lanka, particularly with respect to their planetarium. Rotary and Kiwanis clubs may be able to fund the sending of materials overseas. Details will follow in the Constellation.

Under Roof, Dome, and Sky is still available for sale for \$15, with lots of useful classroom activities. Please contact Francine for details.

IPS Report: Lee Ann Hennig, who is the IPS Secretary, reported that we had about a dozen members at the past meeting in Valencia, Spain. Susan Button is our IPS President-Elect.

Lee Ann reported that the next meeting in July of 2006 will be in Melbourne, Australia. Proposed sites for 2008 are Chicago (Adler), California (Chabot at Oakland), or Morelia, Mexico.

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Membership brochures are available from Lee Ann. The recent mailings from IPS to members have had many good resources from NASA and other organizations included with the journals. Membership is becoming more valuable than ever.

Susan Button reported that she intends to increase the emphasis on education within IPS activities and publications. She has Spanish-language and portable planetarium materials on CD for those who wish it. How can IPS serve you better?

Elections Committee: Steve Russo presented the report to the membership. Gloria Villalobos is our new President-Elect. The incumbent Secretary (Sam Storch) and Treasurer (Tony Villano) were reelected, and Paul Krupinski is now Past President as of this meeting.

Our next election is almost upon us. The slate of nominations for Board Members must be ready by December so that elections mailings will take place in January 2006, with results to be tabulated by Steve Russo, head of the Audit Committee. Jerry Vinski is the Chairman of the Elections Committee. If you are interested in running for the Board, please see Jerry Vinski.

Awards Committee: Wendy Ackerman reported that the Distinguished Service Award will be presented at the meeting this year, and the Exceptional Service Awards will also be presented. Members are encouraged to nominate people for these awards.

Script Bank: Alan Davenport did not present a report.

Old Business: Paul reviewed the results of our Board meeting, and explained the decision to provide members with a commemorative MAPS 40th-anniversary mugs. Also planned are improvements to our web site.

New Business: On January 5, 2005, a letter was sent to Lunar and Planetary Institute in support of the "Sky Tellers: Tales of Earth and Sky," for which funding is being sought. If funded, the program will be free of charge for members. No further information has been heard as to specific details of the program, however.

The Board has considered the issues and statements with respect to the controversy over Intelligent Design and Creationism. The following statement was presented to the membership at the Business Meeting:

"Should MAPS have a position statement on Intelligent Design and Creationism? Members who have thoughts concerning a possible statement by MAPS should make their positions known to Paul Krupinski, in writing, by July 31, 2005. Please do not use the MAPS-L list for this purpose. Paul's address is 180 Crandon Blvd., Buffalo NY 14225, or via e-mail at mobile-dome1993@earthlink.net." This information will be printed in the Summer issue of the Constellation.

For the good of the order:

A moment of silence was observed for Jo Torpy, a former secretary from the early 1970's and John (Skeeter) Eliason; these members passed away this year.

A visual demonstrating the Expanding Universe of Patty Seaton was displayed, explaining why she cannot be present for this meeting.

Scott Negley proposed the taping of keynote speakers on DVD for a permanent record of the Conference activities. The Board will discuss this matter.

Paul was congratulated and thanked for his job well done over the past years.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Gary Purinton & Jack Steiffer Retire from Fairfax County, Virginia

Gary Purinton is retiring from Fairfax County Public Schools after 25 years in the Falls Church High School planetarium. Jack Steiffer is also retiring from Oakton High School, where he has been the planetarium teacher since October of 1982. Between them, they had 48 years of planetarium experience.

Two Fairfax County teachers have been assigned as replacements. Rebecca Pifer, a physics teacher at Woodson High School, will be taking over for Jack at Oakton. She will also be teaching physics half time. Dave Fowler, a Geosystems teacher at Hayfield Secondary School, will be replacing Gary at Falls Church High School, where he will also teach Geosystems half time.

Jack is staying in Fairfax County, but Gary will be moving back to his home town of Clarion, PA. There he may find a way to help out a little in the planetarium at Clarion University. The science department at Falls Church took Gary out to lunch at an oriental restaurant the last week of school. They all broke open their fortune cookies at the end of the meal. Gary's read, "You will be free of the heavy burdens you have been carrying." They all got a good laugh out of that!

PIPS Conference

- ◆ Where: Schenectady Museum & Suits-Bueche Planetarium
- ◆ When: Monday, August 22, 2005
- ◆ Time: 8:30AM - 4:30 PM

On Monday, August 22, the Suits-Bueche Planetarium at the Schenectady Museum will hold a PIPS Conference.

For more information about this meeting of Powerful Interactive Planetarium Systems (PIPS), go to the following site:

www.look-to-the-skies.com/new_page_11.htm

Steven LJ Russo
Planetarium Manager
Suits-Bueche Planetarium

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NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined our merry band of planetarians. Please extend a warm welcome to the following new and returning members:

TOM ANASTACIO, HALF HOLLOW HILLS HS EAST, DIX HILLS, NY
 DENNIS BATEMAN, TE PAPA TONGAREWA WELLINGTON, NZ
 DAVE BEAM, DAVIS PLANETARIUM, BALTIMORE, MD
 TERI BELLOW, VOORHEES HIGH SCHOOL, GLEN GARDNER, NJ
 KURT BERNA, SKY-SKAN INC, NASHUA, NH
 MARY BLESSING, HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL, HERNDON, VA
 JOE BROCHU, SKY-SKAN INC, NASHUA, NH
 ROB CALUSDIAN, SKY-SKAN INC, NASHUA, NH
 TOM CASEY, HOME RUN PICTURES, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KEN COLES, INDIANA UNIV of PENNA PLANETARIUM, INDIANA, PA
 THOMAS CREPET, JOHN R. KIRK PLANETARIUM, NEW PALTZ, NY
 DUNCAN CRUNDWELL, 1602 GROUP, LLC, ALEXANDRIA, VA
 NATASHA CRUNDWELL, 1602 GROUP, LLC, ALEXANDRIA, VA
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 A.J. EPSTEIN, STARBALL, SEATTLE, WA
 GEORGE FLEENOR, KONICA-MINOLTA, BRADENTON, FL
 JEFF GALITZER, AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NY, NY
 REGINA GOSS, SOUTHAMPTON PLANETARIUM, BEL AIR, MD
 GARY GRAFF, ARTHUR STORER PLANETARIUM, PRINCE FREDERICK, MD
 MIKE HOYDIS, SKY-SKAN INC, NASHUA, NH
 JOHN KAUFMANN, STARBALL, SEATTLE, WA
 DANIELLE KHOURY, CHARLES HAYDEN PLANETARIUM, BOSTON, MA
 RICK LENTZ, BUEHLER PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY, DAVIE, FL
 GEORGE LOMAGA, SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUTCHOGUE, NY
 MARGARET MARINO, THE NORTH MUSEUM, LANCASTER, PA
 NEAL MAYER, EVANS & SUTHERLAND, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

JOAN L. PARRETT, THE NORTH MUSEUM, LANCASTER, PA
 DR ZORAN PAZAMETA, WICKWARE PLANETARIUM, WILLIMANTIC, CT
 CAROLYN C. PETERSEN, LOCH NESS PRODUCTIONS, GROTON, MA
 HUNG PHAM, E=PLANETARIUM, HOUSTON, TX
 GREG PLOTCYA, ABERDEEN HS, ABERDEEN, MD
 CAL POWELL, DISCOVERY MUSEUM, WESTPORT, CT
 STEVE PUSHKA, EVANS&SUTHERLAND, SALT LAKE CITY, UT
 DANIEL M. ROSEN, THE WESTERN SKY PLANETARIUM, FRUITA, CO
 LAURIE F. RUBERG, CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, WHEELING, WV
 WILLIAM SAFRANEK, FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL, BETHLEHEM, PA
 VOLKMAR SCHORCHT, CARL ZEISS GMBH, JENA, NISKACH SCOTT, EVANS&SUTHERLAND, SALT LAKE CITY, UT
 KIM SMALL, SANDY RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL, DRESHER, PA
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 JENNIE ZEIBER, SKY-SKAN INC, NASHUA, NH



DEADLINES

The Constellation is published quarterly near the solstices and equinoxes.

Issue	Deadline
September 2005	Aug. 26
December 2005	Nov. 18
March 2006	Feb. 24
June 2006	May 19

Please send articles, reviews, photos and other items to:

Kevin Conod
 Newark Museum
 49 Washington Street
 Newark, NJ 07102
 kconod@newarkmuseum.org

Join MAPS-L!

Remember to subscribe to the MAPS e-mail list "MAPS-L." Send a blank e-mail to: maps-l-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
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If you register for a Yahoo ID, you can access other features such as an archive of messages, files and a calendar. See: groups.yahoo.com/group/maps-l



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In conclusion. I can't believe this is my last President's Report to the great body of planetarium educators of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve! But now, I pass the hat and lobster to my dear friend and colleague Patty Seaton...

Paul

Past President



A Note from the Incoming President

Happy Solstice! I am looking forward to the Solstice of 2005 for a number of different reasons. One is personal: I will be a new Mom by then (I'm scheduled to be induced on the 20th if the baby hasn't come by then). Hopefully, this baby will be part of the future of MAPS; after all, the nursery IS done in an astronomy theme, with the Summer Night Sky on the ceiling (correct alignments and magnitude of stars, thanks to the template)!

The other reason is also personal, but relates directly to all of you: I am thrilled to be taking the helm of MAPS as part of our 40th year anniversary! I have truly appreciated the two years I have served as President-Elect, learning much from the Board, and especially Paul Krupinski. I plan to continue the Team approach, working closely with Paul and now Gloria Villalobos! We are very open to listening to your ideas on how to make this organization serve you even better.

I think this year's conference was a great success and took steps towards this goal. Only on doctor's orders did I miss this conference, but I have heard nothing but wonderful comments about it: hats off to Derrick Pitts and team for making that happen! Our planned upcoming conferences of 2006 at Gloria's place and the 2007 "Triple Conjunction" conference are continued steps towards serving the planetarium community. But help us help you more in the "in-between" times. Please feel free to email me at any time (pcts13@yahoo.com) with suggestions and comments. I am committed to the planetarium community and desire to see it flourish n years to come through the many changes and challenges that we are sure to face. Bring it on!

Cheers,

Patty Seaton

President

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broker/facilitator we will try to keep you informed about new materials available and help you locate earth and space science-related educational materials that can enhance your educational programming. We'll also try to keep you informed about opportunities to work with the space science community as well as offer ways to link you to Science Mission Directorate research programs and missions.

The Sun Earth Connection Educational Forum is planning another multi-disciplinary experience Sun-Earth Day for next year. The event is called *Sun-Earth Day 2006 In a Different Light*. We will be going live for the total Solar Eclipse somewhere along the path of totality—possibly Turkey. The teacher packets will probably be mailed in December. If you want to participate in advance planning and receive periodic updates about this event, send an e-mail to Elaine Lewis at lewis@mail630.gsfc.nasa.gov. The website will go live by September 1st. You can view the teaser page now on <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov>. The date for next year's Sun-Earth Day activity is March 29th, 2006.



Figure 2. Image from Sun-Earth Day 2004 activities offered by Steve Mitch at the Oglebay Resort Planetarium and the Environmental Education Center

If you are interested in identifying activities to accompany your latest planetarium program, want to find out more about NASA informal education resources, or want to share your suggestions and/or feedback on NASA programs you have used, please contact your local broker. We're here to help you successfully navigate NASA resources.

Laurie Ruberg, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Mid-Atlantic Region Space Science Broker
(MARSSB)
marssb.cet.edu

Upcoming Events

July

- ◆ Jul 04 - Deep Impact, Comet Tempel 1 Impact/Flyby
- ◆ Jul 04 - Earth At Aphelion (1.017 AU From Sun)
- ◆ Jul 09 - Mercury Greatest Eastern Elongation (26 Degrees)
- ◆ Jul 13 -STS-114 "Return To Flight" Launch, Space Shuttle Discovery
- ◆ Jul 14 - Cassini, Enceladus Flyby
- ◆ Jul 17 - 30th Anniversary (1975), Apollo-Soyuz Handshake
- ◆ Jul 23 - 10th Anniversary (1995), Discovery of Comet Hale-Bopp
- ◆ Jul 24 - 55th Anniversary (1950), 1st Rocket Launch from Cape Canaveral
- ◆ Jul 30 - 395th Anniversary (1610), Galileo Observes Saturn's Rings

August

- ◆ Aug 02 - Messenger, Earth Flyby
- ◆ Aug 05 - Neil Armstrong's 75th Birthday (1930)
- ◆ Aug 10 - Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Launch
- ◆ Aug 12 - Perseids Meteor Shower Peak
- ◆ Aug 12 - 40th Anniversary (1965), Echo 1 Launch
- ◆ Aug 16 - Mars Solstice (Beginning of Northern Winter)

Source: JPL Space Calendar

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