

# THE EXHIBIT

*The Newsletter of UL Lafayette Science Museum*



## Letter from the Director

DR. JENNIFER E. HARGRAVE, UL LAFAYETTE SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES



Greetings from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. Our “Summer of Science” events are in full-swing. We’ve learned why we have seasons and about the different compositions of sand. We even had Animals of Australia visit us, thanks to Schoolhouse Safari! With a full calendar for July, now is the perfect time to visit the museum and sign up for a chance to win a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum! Be sure to check the calendar for more summer fun, like STEM Saturday, our one year anniversary, and a Planetarium Marathon.

We invite you to support our mission to provide educational, engaging experiences in STEM fields to the community, K-12 students, and University students, provide innovative research opportunities, and preserve current and future museum collections for use in exhibits, classrooms and scientific research. We have a variety of opportunities for businesses and individuals to provide financial support so that we can continue to expand and enrich our programming and exhibits. You will receive recognition, as well as museum benefits, for your generous gift. For more information about how you can play a pivotal role in the museum's work and its mission, please contact me at [jennifer.hargrave@louisiana.edu](mailto:jennifer.hargrave@louisiana.edu) or call 337-482-0678.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



## UL Lafayette Science Museum One Year Anniversary

CELEBRATE WITH SCIENCE, DOOR-PRIZES AND MORE!

On July 15, 2023, UL Lafayette Science Museum will celebrate the one year anniversary of the partnership between the University and Lafayette Consolidated Government to operate the UL Lafayette Science Museum.

"Over the course of the year, we have worked to revitalize the museum through educational events and exhibits," said Dr. Jennifer Hargrave. "We've strengthened our partnerships and worked to preserve and fulfill the museum's mission. The support and enthusiasm we've received from the community has been and continues to be vital to the continued success of the museum. We are looking forward to another great year of science, learning and fun."

Join us Saturday for festivities including door-prizes and science activities. Tour our exhibits and enjoy a full slate of planetarium shows. It's the perfect time to become a museum member and enjoy the benefits your membership including free admission, member events and more.

We're looking forward to year two with you!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**STEM SATURDAY :  
METEOROLOGY W/KLFY -  
JULY 8**

**LPL BIBLIOBIKE VISITS -  
JULY 7 & 28, AUG 18**

**ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY -  
JULY 15**

**MEMBERS ONLY EVENT:  
FOSSILS IN ACADIANA -  
JULY 15**

**MYSTERY ANIMAL VISIT  
W/SCHOOLHOUSE  
SAFARI: JULY 16**

**PLANETARIUM  
MARATHON: JULY 19-21**

**DOCUMENTARY DATE  
NIGHT: JULY 27**

**INSECT DAY - AUG 26**



## Members Only Event

LEARN ABOUT NEW FOSSIL FINDS IN ACADIANA

Museum members are invited to join us Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 10:30am at UL Lafayette Science Museum for our first Member Event all about paleontology.

UL graduate student and paleontologist, Ms. Hannah Hawkins, will review new discoveries from the UL School of Geosciences. Hannah will present a brief summary of her thesis work "A Mastodon and Bison Fossil Locality in Acadia Parish, Louisiana."

Members will be able to see these new fossil finds, meet paleontologists and learn about their research. Ask questions and enjoy refreshments, meet museum staff, researchers and network with other museum members.

The event coincides with the one year anniversary of UL Lafayette's partnership to reopen the museum. So celebrate with us and enjoy the benefits of museum membership.

Hannah Hawkins is a Lafayette local. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology from UL Lafayette in 2020, and a Master of Science in Geology in May 2023. As a student, Hannah worked with paleontologist, Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, studying Louisiana mammalian paleontology.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY**

**UL EMPLOYEE: \$45** (1 ADULT)

**INDIVIDUAL: \$65** (1 ADULT, 1 GUEST)

**DUAL: \$85** (2 ADULTS, 2 GUESTS)

**FAMILY: \$115** (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN)

**FAMILY FLEX: \$150** (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN, 4 GUESTS)

**PREMIUM: +\$50** (2 GUESTS, 10% STORE DISCOUNT, PRIORITY EVENT REGISTRATION)

MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE MUSEUM STORE.





# Planetarium Marathon

BINGE WATCH ALL YOUR FAVORITE PLANETARIUM CONTENT

We're thrilled to announce the return of the Planetarium Marathon, which will run July 19-21, 2023. Enjoy seven planetarium programs a day for three days in a row! And the only programs that will repeat is 'The Sky Tonight' live program at 4 p.m. each day. Some programs are designed for children while most will be for the general public. Topics include constellations, telescopes, planets, stars, galaxies, space flight, and more – pick your preference or see 'em all! Planetarium programs generally last 35 to 40 minutes. They begin promptly and late entry is not possible. People of all ages are welcome, but programs may overwhelm pre-schoolers because of darkness, length, and more. Please be prepared to exit the planetarium if your child becomes disruptive.

	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
9:30 am	From Earth to the Universe	Two Small Pieces of Glass	Firefall
10:30 am	Stars	We Choose Space	To Space and Back
11:30 am	*Earth, Moon & Sun	*Rusty Rocket's Last Blast	*Secret of the Cardboard Rocket
1:00 pm	Cosmic Journey	Dawn of the Space Age	Phantom Universe
2:00 pm	We Are Astronomers	Black Holes	Voyager
3:00 pm	*Accidental Astronauts	*Larry Cat in Space	*Little Star That Could
4:00 pm	The Sky Tonight	The Sky Tonight	The Sky Tonight

\* Children's program. All ages are welcome, but the program is best for elementary school children.



## Documentary Date Night

We're bringing back Documentary Date Night! On Thursday, July 27 at 7pm, we'll show a documentary film in the museum gallery. Bring a date, bring a friend or just yourself for an evening at the museum. Attendance for the educational film screening is free and will be followed by a discussion led by UL faculty.

The film will be Academy Award nominated "Fire of Love," the story of intrepid French volcanologists, Katia and Maurice Krafft, and their work to unravel the mysteries of volcanoes by capturing some of nature's most explosive imagery.



## Insect Day at the Museum

Prepare to BUG out as UL Lafayette Science Museum is taken over by amazing crawling, flying and slithering creatures for Insect Day at the museum on Saturday, August 26 from 11a-4p.

See live and preserved insect displays including Louisiana natives and exotic species, butterflies and native plants. Insect Day was created and organized by Steven Barney of The Beetle Experience.



## Mystery Animal Pop-up

Our friends from Schoolhouse Safari Animal Encounters and The Beetle Experience will be at UL Lafayette Science Museum on Sunday, July 16, from 2-3 pm with a Mystery Animal Pop-up.

Birds, reptiles, bugs or mammals: who knows who you'll meet at the museum? Join us to meet some animal ambassadors. Learn from their handlers about their characteristics, habitat and habits. A fun surprise t for all ages!



## Summer of Science

Sign-up for our Summer of Science passport on your next visit. As you complete activities, you'll receive a stamp on your passport. Complete five activities this summer and you'll be entered in a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum, the geology lab and planetarium for the winner's family. Increase your chances by becoming a museum member for an extra entry in the drawing.

The drawing will be held on August 2, so there's still plenty of time and a full schedule of activities to enjoy!

# Meet Dave Hostetter

RETIRED PLANETARIUM CURATOR & VOLUNTEER  
EXTRAORDINAIRE

We interviewed Dave Hostetter, who retired in 2020 after 40 years as the museum's Planetarium Curator. Dave generously continues to volunteer his time in the planetarium and at the museum, training students and part-time workers, maintaining the planetarium equipment, developing program schedules and preparing exhibits.

## **What is your field of study and expertise?**

I received my B.A. in Astronomy from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1975. I began working at the Battelle Planetarium at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, OH, then the Fleischmann Atmospherium-Planetarium in Reno, NV, as School Program Coordinator/Head Lecturer in 1977. I was hired as the Planetarium Curator at what was then the Lafayette Natural History Museum in 1980. I'm a Fellow of the International Planetarium Society and Past President of the Southeastern Planetarium Association (SEPA). I was twice the SEPA annual conference host and served as SEPA's Parliamentarian for 20 years, and was honored with SEPA's Paul Campbell Fellowship Award. Even now, I'm still active in both organizations.

## **Tell us a bit about yourself?**

I was born and grew up in Ohio. I earned a Private Pilot License in 1984, and enjoyed flying for years before it became too expensive in time and money. I met my wife doing presentations about the return of Halley's Comet. We have a son, and I have two step-daughters, all grown. Since retirement, I created a Facebook page, Acadiana Sky, and [www.acadianasky.com](http://www.acadianasky.com), where I post things to find in the night sky. I still take my telescope out to events and present at libraries and on Zoom. As my friends say, "You can take the planetarian out of the dome, but you can't take the dome out of the planetarian." As my wife says, "*This is retirement?*"



## **Describe your history with the Museum?**

I started the Curator's job in 1980, when the Museum was at the old building near Girard Park. I've guided the planetarium through an upgrade, a move to a new building, and another upgrade to fully digital. I figure I've done over 10,000 planetarium programs for over 300,000 people, not including the thousands at our telescope viewings. I've had a hand in the astronomy and space exhibits, too, including the spacecraft hanging from the ceiling in the Museum's front lobby.

## **What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

Recently, my volunteering is focused on training some part-time and student employees in the planetarium to present programs and live shows. I'm really pleased with their progress—they're a good group! Next we'll begin work on our live eclipse program before the October solar eclipse, and helping them learn to use a solar telescope for safe viewing. I'm also helping to document our collection of traditional planetarium equipment. I've just finished cleaning up some ¼ scale models of Apollo spacecraft that will soon hang from the Museum lobby ceiling with the Gemini and Shuttle models. I like thinking that I can still help the Museum get back on its feet.

*Continued, Page 7*

### **What is your earliest memory of the museum?**

That would be my job interview in early 1980. I flew in from Reno overnight, did the interview and a live constellation show for an 8th grade class after almost no sleep, and flew back to Reno the next day. It was a whirlwind tour. I almost didn't take the job because the planetarium was so outdated, but part of the job was to do an update, and that sounded interesting. I had been through part of that process when I started work in Reno, and I wanted the responsibility of being the curator instead of being someone's assistant. My first show here was a big deal to me!

### **Tell us about your favorite exhibit?**

Of course, I think more about planetarium programs! I enjoy doing the live shows, but particularly like the "Modern Universe" program I developed based on audience questions. Having no idea what the program would be about until we started was a fun challenge for me! I have an interest in space history, and enjoy the playback program, "Dawn of the Space Age." As I look back at our playback programs, I'm still happy with the many topics and selections. I was fortunate to have supportive Museum Directors who allowed me to obtain a *lot* of good programs, a better selection than many planetariums have.

### **What's the best thing you've heard from a visitor?**

There are a few things that stand out. About 5 years ago, a woman in the audience came to the console after the program, peered at all the computers and other equipment, and very pleasantly said, "I have a feeling this is not a place that can be run by a complete idiot." I got a pretty good laugh out of that. Once I opened the door to let the audience enter, and heard a woman gasp and say, "It's the same guy!" She had come to a school program as a child, and was bringing her own child to the planetarium for the first time. The best, however, has been when an adult has told me that coming to the planetarium in elementary, middle, or high school was what first got them interested in the science career they now have.

### **Why is a science museum in Lafayette important?**

We live in the most technological, science-based era in the history of the planet. There are a lot of issues that Americans face that involve science and technology in one way or another. It's important for them to understand the basics, and to be able to spot pseudo-science posing as science, to make intelligent decisions. Try as they might, schools have so much to teach that they can only give an overview of many different sciences. Science museums are places where people of all ages can go to learn more deeply, be inspired, and have fun all at the same time! Lafayette has lots of very good museums, galleries, and theaters for the arts, but the UL Lafayette Science Museum is one of the few places in town to go for science.

### **How can the University continue to inspire people of all ages through the museum?**

The infrastructure is still mostly there. If we can hire a good, professional staff, continue to keep up with new scientific knowledge and technology, and be sure our visitors have fun as they learn, the Museum will be able to accomplish its mission. It can be as good as it was before it was abruptly closed—different, perhaps, but just as good in its new way. I'm looking forward to that!



Dave Hostetter, Continued

**What is your ideal vision for the future of the museum and its mission in the years to come?**

As work continues on the Museum's artifact collection, I hope it will have a bigger role in the Museum's exhibits. The traditional planetarium equipment collection is, I think, unique in the nation in some ways. I hope to see the Museum's educational value recognized strongly by the University, with the exhibits including scientific research to benefit both the Museum and UL Lafayette. For decades, the Museum has been a resource about science and technology for the public and area school systems. Given proper staffing, it can also be a real asset for many university classes. Done well, we'll probably have to move the Museum to another, even bigger building (or campus) in another 20 years or so!

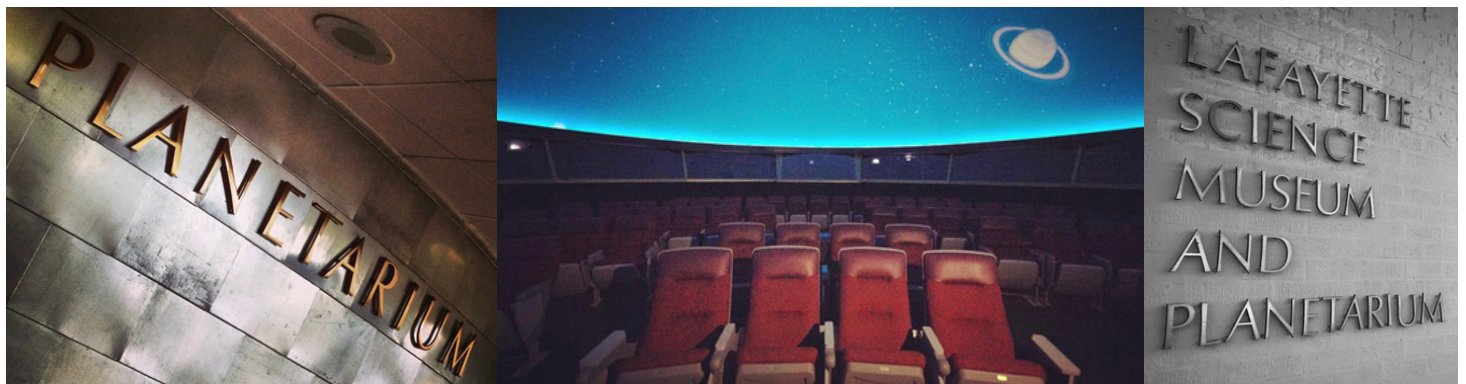


**Tell us something we may not know about the museum?**

The top of the 40-foot diameter planetarium dome is about 27.5 feet above the floor. There are two levels of catwalks behind the dome giving access to audio, projection, and control equipment. The dome is perforated to control echoes, and to allow heating and air conditioning to circulate through the theater. The glass in the projection booths is special "optically clear" glass designed specifically for theaters, and is more transparent than regular glass.

**What's your favorite scientific fun fact?**

Saturn is the only planet in our solar system with an average density less than water. If you had a bathtub big enough, and put Saturn in it, Saturn would float. You would never want to do that, though, because Saturn might leave a ring. (I have built entire program segments around getting to say that in front of an audience.)





# In the Planetarium

## JULY & AUGUST SCHEDULE

The universe awaits in our state-of-the-art, all-digital, full-dome planetarium! Currently, we have weekday planetarium shows Wed. - Fri. at 11:15 am and 2:45 pm. and weekend shows beginning with a Saturday morning children's program at 11:15 a.m. Programs continue Saturday and Sunday at 1:30, 2:45 and 4 p.m. Also in July, we will host our annual Planetarium Marathon with a special schedule on July 19, 20 and 21. See page 4 for details.

JULY	Wednesday	Friday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	
1:30 p.m.				Astronomy Shorts	Astronomy Shorts
2:45 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*
4:00 p.m.				Discover the Stars	Discover the Stars

AUGUST	Wednesday	Friday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space	
1:30 p.m.				Discover the Stars	Discover the Stars
2:45 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*	The Sky Tonight/Accidental Astronauts*
4:00 p.m.				Astronomy Shorts	Astronomy Shorts

*\*As we work to grow our planetarium team, our live planetarium show "The Sky Tonight" or an alternate special children's program will be shown based on staff availability.*

## LPL Bibliobike Visits

Lafayette Public Library's Bibliobike will visit UL Lafayette Science Museum with science-themed books and library card sign-ups on the following dates from 2:30-3:30 pm:

Fridays, July 7 & 28

Friday, August 18

Check out books in the museum lobby with your library card or LPSS student ID. Don't have a card, no worries! You can sign up for one right there at the Bibliobike!





## UL Lafayette Science Museum Partners with KLFY News 10

UPDATED WEATHER EXHIBIT, ROOFTOP WEATHER CAMERA AND METEOROLOGY EVENTS

UL Lafayette Science Museum is happy to announce our partnership with KLFY News 10! This partnership benefits the museum in many ways.

First, the meteorologists from the KLFY Storm Team 10 are helping us update and improve the content in our weather exhibit, Louisiana Weather: A State of Uncertainty. If you haven't seen what they've done so far, make a plan to visit the museum and check it out. This is just the beginning of the big plans we have to update the current exhibit.

We are excited to welcome KLFY meteorologists to the museum on Saturday, July 8 for our STEM Saturday all about meteorology. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be a TV Meteorologist then join us to find out about how your local weather reporters became meteorologists and their experience of being on-air for Acadiana. Plus, they'll be available to answer any of your weather questions.

In addition to educational content, updated exhibits and meteorology events, KLFY and the museum have installed a rooftop weather camera at our building in Downtown Lafayette. We are now part of the Sky 10 Camera Network, which monitors weather in our area in real-time. Have you seen the images from the museum's roof-top camera? You can use this link to find it: <https://www.klfy.com/sky10-camera-network/>. The camera gives a great view from downtown and valuable weather information.

By partnering with local sponsors and organizations, like KLFY, with a mutual interest in interactive and engaging science experiences for people of all ages in our community, we are able to continue to grow and fulfill our mission. If you or your business is interested in partnering with the museum or sponsoring an exhibit, please contact us today to discuss opportunities to work together!

# Kids' Curiosity Corner

