

# 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. As summer draws to a close, I want to thank our members and visitors for making our “Summer of Science” such a success! We had nearly 7,000 visitors this summer. It was wonderful seeing so many of you exploring our museum and extra events. Just because school has started doesn’t mean the fun has ended though. We have many exciting events planned this fall. We hope you continue to visit us to see all that’s new. We have updated school field trip information on our website, so get a head start and schedule your field trips now!

One of our favorite events, Documentary Date Night, made its much anticipated return in July with a great turnout. I want to personally thank our new friends at Aqueos for sponsoring this event. We have at least three more planned for Sept. 28, Nov. 30, and Jan. 25. Mark your calendars and join us!

Additionally, Oats and Marino has sponsored the update of our “Space Travel and Robotics” exhibit, and we have partnered with KLFY to update our Weather exhibit. We are so grateful for these sponsorships that allow us to continue to provide quality exhibits for you. We have a variety of sponsorship opportunities for business and individuals. Please contact me at [jennifer.hargrave@louisiana.edu](mailto:jennifer.hargrave@louisiana.edu) or call 337-482-0678 to support science in our community and to reach a regional audience.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



## Field Trips at the Museum

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TODAY!

Field trip season is officially here! At UL Lafayette Science Museum, we host field trips Wed. - Fri. between 9am and 3pm. Most groups spend about 2 hours at the museum. There is so much for your students to see and do, including viewing our exhibits and experiencing a planetarium show. We also have a lunch space available.

Groups of 15 or more are eligible for the group field trip rate. One group payment of cash or check is required to receive reduced admission rates. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.

### What is the cost?

- Youth ages 3-18: \$5
- PreK through Grade 5: 1 complimentary chaperone or teacher for every 5 students
- Grade 6 through Grade 12: 1 complimentary chaperone or teacher for every 10 students
- All additional Adults: \$3 each

Each field trip includes access to all exhibits and a 30-minute planetarium show for up to 80 people. Groups larger than 80 can book additional shows. Book early to be sure we can accommodate your group. The museum also provides a lunch space if needed.

Please fill out the Request Form on our website, or by clicking [here](#).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**STEM SATURDAY: FALL SCIENCE - SEPT 9**

**SENSORY DAY - SEPT 17**

**DOCUMENTARY DATE NIGHT: MY OCTOPUS TEACHER - SEPT 28**

**STEM SATURDAY: SOLAR ECLIPSE - OCT 14**

**HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT - OCT 29**

**STEM SATURDAY - NOV 11**

**DOCUMENTARY DATE NIGHT - NOV 30**





## Documentary Date Night

SCIENCE FILMS IN THE MUSEUM GALLERY

Back by popular demand and through a generous sponsorship by Aqueos, we have revived Documentary Date Night! At this fun event, 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.

Our first screening was Academy Award nominated "Fire of Love," about volcanology. It was held July 27 and we had a great turnout and lots of positive feedback.

Next up, on Sept. 28, 2023, at 7pm, we will be screening "My Octopus Teacher," which won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2021. The film screening is free, donations are accepted and concessions and museum memberships will be for sale at the event. Doors open at 6:30pm and the film starts at 7pm. A discussion led by UL Faculty members will follow.

Two more Documentary Date Nights are scheduled for Nov. 30, and Jan. 25. Those films will be announced in our next newsletter and on Facebook as the dates approach.

## 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.





**OATS &  
MARINO**  
LOUISIANA  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW  
A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

## Oats & Marino Sponsor Exhibit Upgrade

UL Lafayette Science Museum would like to recognize Oats & Marino Louisiana for generously sponsoring an upgrade to the “Space Travel and Robotics” exhibit. The interactive robotics exhibit is part of Leaving Earth, which focuses on the history of space flight. This exhibit demonstrates the critical role robotics play in space travel and missions. It is a popular interactive station in the museum for visitors young and old, as they try their hand at operating the robotic arms to reach, grab and lift a ball and then drop it into a target. Two people can test their skills against one another as they attempt to collect all the balls within the time limit.

As an example, the robotic arm on the International Space Station plays a key role in station assembly and maintenance; it moves equipment and supplies around the station, supports astronauts working in space, and services instruments and other payloads. Astronauts receive special training to perform these tasks.

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## STEM Saturday: Fall Science

Fall into fun with us for STEM Saturday: Fall Science on Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 10am-2pm. Join us as we explore our favorite things about fall and get ready for the autumnal equinox. We will learn about leaves and why they change color, how seeds work, and why the days get shorter as we move into autumn.

STEM Saturdays are made possible through a grant from Halliburton. The event is presented one Saturday each month and offers extra hands-on, educational activities related to a science topic. The extra activities are included with regular museum admission.



# Insect Day at the Museum Was a Huge Success

A CREEPY CRAWLING, BUZZING MUSEUM TAKEOVER

More than 900 guests visited the museum for Insect Day on Saturday, August 26, 2023. The event celebrated the diversity of the insect world. Organized by Steven Barney of The Beetle-Experience, the event brought experts from the Audubon Insectarium, Entomology LSU, Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater Baton Rouge, The Louisiana Carnivorous Plant Enthusiasts, Atelier de la Nature, Worm Lady Recycles, LLC, Sunshine and Clay Hives and Schoolhouse Safari Exotic Animal Encounters to the museum to share their time, talent and expertise with attendees of all ages. There were engaging and educational displays of live and preserved insects, plants and animals. Visitors learned about entomology and ecology and had FUN while participating in hands-on activities, not to mention, taking in the museum's exhibits and planetarium shows. A huge thank you is in order for the organizers and volunteers and museum staff who contributed to the day's success. Thanks as well to our enthusiastic visitors who stopped by to BUG OUT with us!





## Summer of Science

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WITH 7,000 MUSEUM VISITORS AND ONE LUCKY WINNER

Our Summer of Science has officially come to a close, and it was a busy one. Nearly 7,000 visitors joined us this summer for events and activities. We held a lot of firsts, our first anniversary celebration, our first in a series of the revival of Documentary Date Night and our first Member Event. This summer also marked the return of the Planetarium Marathon. More than 600 visitors attended the 3-day event in planetarium to see a total of 21 back-to-back planetarium programs. We had a fantastic time with Mystery-Animal Pop-ups, ArtWalk and visits from Schoolhouse Safari Exotic Animal Encounters and The Beetle-Experience. Our STEM Saturdays focused on Meteorology and Summertime Science of sand, sun and seasons.

Everyone who visited the museum and completed the Summer of Science passport activities was entered in a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes tour of museum, collection, planetarium and geology lab. Congratulations to our winner, Destyn, who toured the museum with her family led by Museum Director, Dr. Jennifer Hargrave.



# In the Planetarium

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SCHEDULE

The universe awaits in our state-of-the-art, all-digital, full-dome planetarium! Currently, we have a weekday planetarium show Friday at 4 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.

SEPTEMBER	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.		Larry Cat in Space	
1:30 p.m.		Astronomy Shorts	Astronomy Shorts
2:45 p.m.		Solar Eclipse/Accidental Astronauts*	Solar Eclipse/Accidental Astronauts*
4:00 p.m.	Solar Eclipse/Rusty Rocket*	Discover the Stars	Discover the Stars
OCTOBER	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.		Flight Adventures	
1:30 p.m.		We Choose Space	We Choose Space
2:45 p.m.		Solar Eclipse/Larry Cat*	Solar Eclipse/Larry Cat*
4:00 p.m.	Solar Eclipse/Larry Cat*	From Earth to the Universe	From Earth to the Universe

*\*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.*

## Annular Solar Eclipse on Saturday, October 14

### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SCHEDULE

An Annular Solar Eclipse will be partially visible in Acadiana on Sat., Oct. 14, 2023. The term annular refers to a ring of sunlight that surrounds the silhouette of the Moon. This occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth while the Moon is at or near its farthest point from Earth. Because the Moon is farther away from Earth, it appears smaller than the Sun and does not completely cover the Sun.

Although Lafayette is not in the path of annularity, it will still be an exciting celestial event to observe. In Acadiana, we will see the moon cover 76% of the sun. To learn more, catch the Solar Eclipse program in the planetarium in September and October.

Remember, NEVER look directly at the sun. To see the eclipse, only use certified eclipse glasses, safe solar filters, or solar viewer. See page 10 for details and instructions).



# Meet Paul McCasland

TECHNOLOGY GURU, LIFELONG FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM, AND TOP-NOTCH VOLUNTEER

We interviewed Paul McCasland, who has been involved with the museum since his teenage years. He's worked and volunteered at the museum in the planetarium and as a technician and continues volunteer his time to help out whenever needed. We are so grateful to museum friends and volunteers, like Paul, who lend their time and talent because they truly understand the value and importance of having a science museum right here in the heart of Lafayette.

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

I have an A.S. in Industrial Technology and B.S. in General Studies from USL. I hold a private pilot certificate and commercial drone operator certificate. Also hold a General class HAM Radio license. I have in-depth knowledge and experience with hardware and software development and integration.

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

I'm 59 years old. My wife and I have been married for 31 years. We have three children who are 29, 26 and 23 years old.

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

Science museums have the potential to inspire children and young adults by providing engaging and educational experiences. By showcasing the wonders of science and promoting STEM education, science museums can ignite a passion for learning and inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

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

I remember taking an elementary school field trip to the original museum in 1972. At that time the museum had been newly built in 1969 and was located near Girard Park.



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

It started with an Astronomy workshop I attended one summer in the mid 1970s. Then started volunteering at the old facility around 1976. I officially became an employee in 1981, and I worked part-time through the mid 80s. I stayed in touch over the years until around 2012 when the Museum Director asked me if I was interested in coming back to work. I jumped at the opportunity to come "home" and finish my work life where it started. I was part of a great team up until 2020 when the City closed the museum at the start of the COVID pandemic. Today I volunteer doing many of the same things I used to do because it's a huge need. All of this experience has fueled a lifelong passion for making science education engaging and entertaining. I plan to continue as long as I am able and allowed.

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

I enjoy anything related to technology and helping to maintain the museum's tech related exhibits and the planetarium facility.

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

The Planetarium. It continues to inspire me after 45 years.

*Continued, Page 9*



Paul McCasland, Continued

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

Moving forward, I feel the Lafayette Consolidated Government should continue providing taxpayer funded support to the facility and its collections as all of this is owned by the taxpayers and has been funded by them for more than 50 years.

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

Many people do not know we have an Observatory on the roof of our current facility. And we have a large collection of dinosaur fossils.

At the old facility behind the Heymann Center, the Planetarium chamber was partially underground and during heavy rains we would be vacuuming up gallons of water from the carpet.

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

UL Lafayette can provide expertise in various scientific fields, such as biology, physics, geology, and engineering. Professors and students can contribute to the development and maintenance of exhibits, conduct research, and offer educational programs and workshops. By working together, colleges and science museums can create a symbiotic relationship that benefits both institutions and promotes scientific education and engagement in the community.

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

"I learned something new today."

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

The temperature of lightning is about six times hotter than the surface of our sun.



# Curiosity Corner



## How to make the Solar Eclipse Viewer

1. Cut out the Eclipse Projector and Eclipse Screen, and cut between them on the middle line.
2. Glue or tape the Projector and Screen to thin cardboard for a sturdier viewer (this is not required to make the Eclipse Viewer work, but makes it easier to use).
3. Use a thumbtack to put a small hole in the Eclipse Projector at the black dot. Don't make the hole bigger than the shaft of the thumbtack.

## How to observe the eclipse safely

1. Stand with your back to the sun.
2. Hold the Eclipse Projector so that sunlight streams directly through the hole.
3. Hold the Eclipse Screen in the Eclipse Projector's shadow. The dot of light you'll see is a solar image.
4. For the best image, hold the Projector and Screen about 2 feet (60cm) apart.
5. The image is perfectly safe to observe, but **NEVER** look directly at the sun or through the projector hole at the sun!

<p>Acadiana Sky</p> <p><i>Eclipse Projector</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">•</p> <p>Never look directly at the sun!</p>	<p>Acadiana Sky</p> <p><i>Eclipse Screen</i></p> <p>Partial Solar Eclipse: October 14, 2023 Starts: 10:32 a.m. CDT Maximum: 12:04 p.m. CDT Ends: 1:44 p.m. CDT Never look directly at the sun!</p>
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[www.acadianasky.com](http://www.acadianasky.com)  
on Facebook at Acadiana Sky