

THE EXHIBIT

The Newsletter of UL Lafayette Science Museum



Letter from the Director

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



Greetings and Happy New Year from UL Lafayette Science Museum. What a fantastic year 2023 was for our museum! I am so grateful to see the support that our community and beyond showed us this year. We welcomed more than 20,000 museum visitors in 2023, and 122 school field trips that brought in 4,902 students! Part of the museum's mission is to provide informative and interactive experiences in STEM fields to the community and our K-12 and University students. Thank you so much for supporting our efforts.

As we reflect on our successes of 2023, I am eager to move forward into 2024 with even more to offer our community. We have several new exhibits in the works for the spring and we are already planning for a STEM-filled summer. We hope that you continue to support our efforts by participating. Be sure to get your membership (or renew your last one!) so you don't miss any of the excitement.

I agree with Marie Curie when she said: "I am among those who think that science has great beauty". My hopes for the new year are that you continue to feed your curiosity by visiting us at UL Lafayette Science Museum. Together, we can add the beauty of science to our community, state, and beyond.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



Documentary Date Night

SCIENCE FILMS IN THE MUSEUM GALLERY

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.

On Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7pm, we will screen the documentary "JANE." The film draws from over 100 hours of never-before-seen footage that has been tucked away in the National Geographic archives for over 50 years. Award-winning director Brett Morgen tells the story of Jane Goodall, whose chimpanzee research challenged the male-dominated scientific consensus of her time and revolutionized our understanding of the natural world. Set to a rich orchestral score from legendary composer Philip Glass, the film offers an unprecedented, intimate portrait of a trailblazing woman who defied the odds to become one of the world's most admired conservationists.

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**STEM SATURDAY:
GEOLOGY ROCKS - JAN 13**

DOCUMENTARY DATE NIGHT - JAN 25

EARLY CLOSURE AT 4PM FOR MARDI GRAS PARADES - FEB 3, 9, 10 & 11

**STEM SATURDAY:
PHENOMENAL PHYSICS - FEB 17**

STEM SATURDAY - MAR 9

A white calendar icon with a grid of dates, set against a blue circular background with a drop shadow.

In the Planetarium

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 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 p.m. 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.

JANUARY	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
11:15 a.m.		Rusty Rocket	
1:30 p.m.		Phantom of the Universe	Phantom of the Universe
2:45 p.m.		Larry Cat in Space	Larry Cat in Space
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight	ALMA: In Search of Cosmic Origins	ALMA: In Search of Cosmic Origins
FEBRUARY	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
11:15 a.m.		Rusty Rocket	
1:30 p.m.		Phantom of the Universe	Phantom of the Universe
2:45 p.m.		The Sky Tonight	The Sky Tonight
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight	ALMA: In Search of Cosmic Origins	ALMA: In Search of Cosmic Origins

**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.*

STEM Saturdays: Geology & Physics

Join us Sat., Jan. 13 for STEM Saturday: Geology Rocks. Explore the three rock types and how they form with UL Lafayette's geology department. We will have examples of each rock type and activities to demonstrate how they form.

Then on Sat., Feb. 17, we'll focus on physics for STEM Saturday: Phenomenal Physics. Join us and the UL Society of Physics Students as they lead activities that explore levitation. You are sure to be wowed by their demonstrations, including making instant ice cream!

STEM Saturdays are made possible through a grant from Halliburton and offer extra hands-on, educational activities related to a science topic. Extra activities are included with regular museum admission.



Museum Spotlight: More than Exhibits

RESEARCH COLLECTIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS AND STUDENTS

Last month, our own Dr. Jennifer Hargrave and Dr. James E. Martin took a research trip to the collections at the Vertebrate Paleontology collections at the University of Florida (UF). They brought several fossils with them to compare with those at the UF museum for identification. This helps to decipher which fossil animals we have in our LSM collections, and provides valuable insights into the evolution and geographic range of our fossils. The researchers primarily focused on the newly discovered fossils from Acadia and Iberia parishes for use in an upcoming fossil exhibit, as well as scientific papers. They also brought some geologically older fossils from Oregon and Washington that are part of other ongoing research.

The vertebrate paleontology collection is housed within the LSM has nearly 200,000 fossil specimens, many of which have never been on display. Instead, they are used for research for professional scientists and students. The Lafayette Science Museum will be sure to let you know when our research papers come out. You will also see some of these amazing finds in the display opening in late spring.



New Museum Membership Levels

MORE BENEFITS & WAYS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE IN LAFAYETTE

With new membership options at general and premium levels, you can support our educational mission, outreach efforts and the creation of new exhibits. Visit anytime with your membership and never miss an exhibit, planetarium show or event. Memberships are valid for 12 months from the purchase date and count as charitable gifts for tax purposes.

CORE BENEFITS FOR ALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Unlimited free visits to museum & planetarium;
- Receive our e-newsletter *The Exhibit*;
- Invitations to member-only previews & events;
- Free admission to over 360 museums and science centers worldwide through the ASTC Travel Passport Program
- Museum Store Discount (varies by level); &
- Discounts on camps, classes, & some events.

INDIVIDUAL \$65 - 1 adult, core benefits + 10% store discount.

DUAL \$100 - 2 adults, core benefits + 10% store discount.

FAMILY \$125 - 2 named adults + your children or grandchildren (age 17 & younger), core benefits + 10% store discount.

SUPPORTING \$275 - Family benefits + a VIP Gallery Tour of special exhibitions upon request.

*Additional Adult \$45 - Add to any membership level.

*Current UL Student, Faculty, Staff - 10% off any level.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

These membership levels provide crucial support for all Museum activities. Members in this distinguished group enjoy exclusive privileges and opportunities in addition to the Core Member Benefits.

CURIOSITY LEVEL \$500

Family Membership with Core Benefits plus:

- Four one-day passes to share;
- 15% Museum Store discount;
- Sponsors membership for one local family.

INQUIRY LEVEL \$1,000

Family Membership with Core Benefits plus:

- Six one-day passes to share;
- 15% Museum Store discount;
- Invitations for a behind-the-scenes experience;
- Sponsors membership for 3 local families.

EXPLORATORY LEVEL \$2,500

Family Membership with Core Benefits plus:

- 10 one-day passes to share;
- 20% Museum Store discount;
- Invitations for a behind-the-scenes experience;
- Sponsors membership for 5 local families.

DISCOVERY LEVEL \$5,000

Family Membership with Core Benefits plus:

- 12 one-day passes to share;
- 20% Museum Store discount;
- Invitations for a behind-the-scenes experience;
- Sponsors membership for 7 local families.



A Very Merry Museum Holiday Event

HOLIDAY STEM ACTIVITIES AND A VISIT FROM MRS. CLAUS!

We decked the halls for a Very Merry Museum Holiday Event on Saturday, December 9. In conjunction with STEM Saturday: Puzzled presented by UL Lafayette's Department of Mathematics, we had holiday STEM activities and a visit from Mrs. Claus.

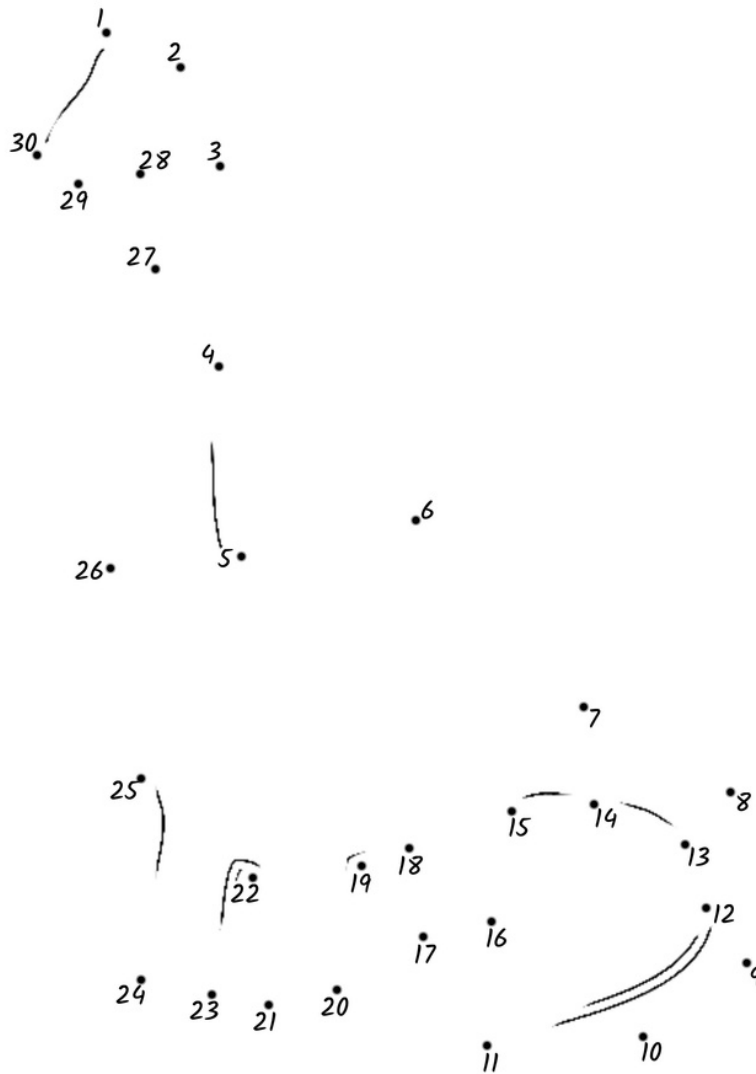
Museum visitors were welcomed to festive holiday decor. STEM activities included mathematics puzzles and brainteasers including Euler and Pythagorean puzzles, creating 3D folded gingerbread houses, and an engineering challenge using holiday themed materials like tinsel, tissue and ribbons to quiet a jingle bell.

In addition to photos and story time, Mrs. Claus also lead visitors in singing holiday songs and carols. A very merry time was had by all!



Curiosity Corner

Dinosaur Dot-to-Dot



What do you call a group of singing dinosaurs?

A tyranno-chorus!

