

Tessmann Spectator imagine imagine

Planetarium Sets New Field Trip and Endowment Fund Goals



The Tessmann Planetarium has relaunched its field trip and endowment fund programs and is also setting up a new scholarship fund... and we need your help!

In these days of deep recessionary cuts in the California education budget, the planetarium is a low-cost solution that augments science and astronomy education for students, grades K-12. Interactive and lively programs incorporate state and federal science standard guidelines.

Through the Santa Ana College Foundation, you can sponsor a field trip and send a school on a journey through the universe. Currently, many of our local OC schools cannot afford the cost of a bus for a field trip. A donation of only \$1200 allows 100 students and teachers to "blast off" on a memorable learning experience. Your donation

also provides for the cost of round-trip transportation.

With your help, we can also maintain, repair and replace planetarium hardware and software, as well as maintain and enhance the building. Your contribution will help keep the Planetarium functioning as a major Southern California educational resource for thousands of students for years to come. Our Endowment Fund goal is to reach one million dollars.

The new scholarship fund will help a deserving student follow a path of study to a career in astronomy.

You can make a difference in science and astronomy education in southern California by making a contribution to the planetarium's endowment fund. Contact the Santa Ana College Foundation for more information.

714-564-6091

www.sac.edu/foundation

Our Goals



Santa Ana College

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Apollo 16 Astronaut Visits the Tessmann

Call for scheduled weekday show dates. Selected dates are available from September through May.

Also, ask about our Saturday programs.

Space is limited, reservations required!

Call us:

For Reservations and Information,

call the Planetarium at

(714) 564-6356

on Tuesday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM Or leave a message.

We do return your calls!

What's inside:

New Website Features

Spring into a Summer of Stars!

Spring 2009

On November 20, the Tessmann Planetarium was honored by the presence of Apollo 16 astronaut and American hero, Charles Duke. The event was hosted by the Young President's Organization (YPO).

Lunar Lander Pilot Duke gave a presentation about his experiences on the Moon. Currently 73 years old, he is the youngest of the elite group of 12 men that walked on the lunar surface. Although he still gets certified as an astronaut every year, he doesn't expect that NASA will launch him back into space any time soon.

The entertaining and very down-to-Earth astronaut mesmerized the audience with stories of his lunar expedition. He explained how his Blackberry has a million times more memory than his lunar module did. The highlight of the evening came when he explained how he rescued fellow astronaut Tom Maddeningly's wedding ring from forever being lost in space.

Charles Duke definitively ended a perennial debate that has raged at the planetarium for years: Can you see stars from the daylight side of the Moon? Duke explained that although the sky is a velvety-black, the Moon was in daylight while he was there and no stars were visible in the bright glare of the Sun.

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Charles Duke *Continued*

Duke, who was accompanied by his wife Dotty, are co-authors of a book, "Moonwalker." In April of 1972, Apollo 16 was the fifth American mission to the Moon and landed in the Descartes Highland region. Their surface survey helped scientists revise theories of the formation of the highland region. The crew spent a total of 71 hours on the Moon. According to the Guinness Book of Records, Duke and Mattingly's lunar rover holds the lunar surface speed record with a top speed of 11 miles per hour. For more information on astronaut Duke, see: <http://www.charlieduke.net/>



Apollo 16 Astronaut, Charles Duke, shares his lunar experience with an attentive audience at the Tessmann Planetarium.

Planetarium director, Dr. Steve Eastmond, also made a presentation during the evening about the importance of science education and how, over 40 years, the Tessmann has developed into a major resource in the southern Californian community.

The YPO is an organization that helps young company leaders build better organizations through education and idea exchange in a supportive atmosphere.

For more information, see: <http://www.ypo.org/>

New Website Features

Several new features have popped up on the Tessmann Planetarium website. A popular new link fills you in as to what you can see in the night sky each month.

Beginning in April, we will begin posting a web cast called "Space to Explore: Live from the Tessmann Planetarium." The show will be hosted by Astronomical Society of the Pacific board member Scott Roberts. Roberts is also the president of Explore Scientific. The show will be produced and edited by Tessmann Planetarium staff member, Bob Menn.

Visit our website:
www.sac.edu

Spectator Wins Award

Last year's spring issue of the Tessmann Spectator won a silver medallion award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations in the "Nifty and Thrifty" category. Congratulations to design artist Penny Perkins and the staff of the Spectator for their award-winning effort.



Jason Statham of Ash Enterprises performs annual maintenance on the planetarium's Chronos projector.

Observers Corner

Spring into a Summer of Stars!

By Sheryl Johnson

Are you ready for an adventure? Excitement is no further than your own back door. The sky is waiting for you with a treasure trove of mysteries. Make this your season to open doors to realms unknown for your whole family.

The best thing about your new hobby is that it doesn't cost a cent. Find a spot to sit where there aren't any glaring lights shining directly in your eyes. Obtain a simple star map. Maps can be found in the center of Astronomy or Sky and Telescope magazine. Or find one online or at the library. Make sure you are using one for the current time of year.

Then simply observe the brightest stars that you can see. The light polluted skies of Southern California can actually help you. When learning the constellations, look for the brightest stars. City lights tend to blot out the dimmer stars so you will have less confusion finding the brighter ones. Later, when you have figured out the major constellations you can take a drive out of the city and you'll be amazed at how many more stars you can see. If you just learn one constellation a month, you will be surprised at how much of the sky you will recognize in a year.

Start off by locating the Big Dipper. Turn your map in the same orientation as the Big Dipper is in the sky. Then only look at the part of your map that is right in front of you. Turn your map as you turn in different directions. By drawing a line through the two end stars in the bowl of the Big Dipper (in the direction that steam would leave the bowl), you can follow an imaginary line to the North Star.

After you spot the Big Dipper, you can learn to locate the star Arcturus. Follow the curve of the handle of the Big Dipper out to the first brightest star that you come to, and that will be Arcturus. Astronomers say, "Arc to Arcturus." Arcturus is a wandering star, a renegade, on its own journey around the Milky Way Galaxy. Can you discern its reddish color? That means, it's one of the cooler stars.

Bring a pair of binoculars to see more features on the Moon or to locate dimmer stars on your chart. Check out some books, go on the internet or join a local Astronomy Club to learn more. One of our favorite books is 365 Starry Nights, by Chet Raymo. This book is a perfect guide for discovering the mystery of the night sky. It has pictures for kids to color and, it tells you what you can find in the sky each night of the year.

Make this spring or summer your season for a new beginning. After beginning your new hobby, come back and visit us at Tessmann Planetarium. We will answer all your questions. Next time, bring along some stars in your eyes!

