



August 2019

Dear Colleagues:

The leadership and staff of the Ritter Planetarium at the University of Toledo are excited to host the 55th annual conference of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association (GLPA). The conference dates are Wednesday, October 23 through Saturday, October 26, 2019. The conference will be held at the University of Toledo and at the Park Inn by Radisson in downtown Toledo, Ohio.

This year we will continue the practice, first started last year at Michigan State University, to extend the conference into late Saturday afternoon. We hope this will allow slightly more free time for fellowship, to visit poster papers, and to chat with our sponsors.

Wednesday's events (including the opening reception) will be held at the Park Inn Hotel. Most of Thursday's activities will be on the University of Toledo campus, at the Ritter Planetarium and in the nearby Student Union. Friday we are back at the hotel, and Saturday we end at the University of Toledo.

Registration for the conference is \$230. This includes the Wednesday night reception and all break-time snacks. Rooms at the Park Inn start at a very reasonable rate of \$117 per night including tax. The meal package (optional) is \$130 and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner on Thursday; breakfast and lunch on Friday; and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The banquet on Friday night (also optional) is an additional \$54.

We have a great line-up of guest speakers. GLPA's own Gary Tomlinson will deliver the Spitz Lecture at the banquet. Other speakers include Shannon Schmol from Abrams Planetarium who will present the annual Astronomy Update. Jessica Garcia from the University of Michigan will give a talk on diversity and inclusive education. Robert Dempsey, a NASA flight director, will talk about his experiences as an ISS Flight Director and his preparations for the Boeing-Space X Starline launches scheduled for later this year. Finally, Karen Bjorkman, from the University of Toledo, will give a talk on the role of ground-based telescopes in the era of space-based telescopes.

One of the many exciting events we have waiting for you is an opportunity (weather permitting) to tour and look through our one-meter reflector on campus and to hear about some of the research taking place at the observatory. Another tour will feature our photovoltaics labs on campus where you will learn about the amazing developments in solar energy.

Families attending the conference may want to visit Imagination Station, a hands-on children's science museum, located only two minutes away from the hotel, or the world-famous Toledo Museum of Art located half-way between the hotel and our beautiful campus. Finally, the Toledo Zoo is about 15 minutes away from the hotel.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at this exciting conference. Sharing our knowledge and working together we make this a better world for everyone.

Sincerely,

Alexander T. Mak
Associate Planetarium Director, Ritter Planetarium
2019 GLPA Conference Host