



GREAT LAKES PLANETARIUM ASSOCIATION

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Mark Percy
Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium
1595 Hopkins Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

Kevin Williams
Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

GLPA in the Queen City – October 2022

Dear Delegate,

We invite you to visit beautiful Buffalo, NY, for the 58th Annual GLPA Conference!

Extending the conference has been discussed for years. This will be the first year implementing a new extended format, beginning with our opening reception on Tuesday, October 18th. The Buffalo State College (BSC) Student Union Social Hall will be our venue for this reception and some other meals, and the Sponsor Hall will be in the same space. At the opening reception, you will also be able to enjoy the top-notch jazz of the Tim Clarke trio.

Wednesday begins with delegate presentations and sponsor hall time at the BSC Student Union. After lunch, we will begin our visits to three spectacular destinations. During the afternoon, you will visit Buffalo State's brand-new Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium which will show off their Spitz 4K SciDome, an AVI RGB SkyLaseFX with all the extras, and the stunning Zeiss ZKP4 star projector. You will also ride on a bus tour of some of Buffalo's incredible architecture, including Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House and the Richardson Olmsted Complex.

The third destination will be the University at Buffalo's Center for Computational Research. Dr. Will Kinney who will be our dinner speaker Wednesday evening has created simulations of the early universe's evolution on these clusters, and Director Adrian Levesque will discuss how their research works to enhance scientific, academic and business projects involving supercomputing. Dr. Kinney's dinner presentation will discuss "Cosmic Inflation and the Beginning of the Universe." Dinner will be followed by a cocktail two-hour in the Sponsor Hall.

Williamsville North High School welcomes us to the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium on Thursday. This school planetarium features a Sky-Skan Definiti fulldome system, a Spitz A5 star projector and an AVI RGB SkyLase. The school's spacious auditorium will host other delegate and sponsor presentations as well as our annual business meeting. Returning to Buffalo State again for dinner, Dr. Wendy Paterson, Dean of the School of Education, will present "Space, the Final Frontier: These are the Voyages..." After dinner, enjoy a variety of fun "SAMC After Dark" activities in and around the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium.

Late evening activities throughout the conference will include the traditional hospitality format as well as alternative activities in other spaces. Our conference hotel is the Embassy Suites in downtown Buffalo which is situated right on our trendy Chippewa Street and near the artsy Elmwood Strip. We

are hoping that you can enjoy exploring the neighborhood nightlife as yet another option. By the way, the hotel rooms are all actually suites with ample space to share with one or even two other people.

Friday will begin at the hotel when Dr. Shannon Schmoll will deliver the Astronomy Update. State and special interest group meetings will be interspersed with more delegate presentations. We are honored to have Dr. Jenny Shipway leading us in an interactive session from “across the pond” to help us understand how psychology research can help us dispel misconceptions. The annual banquet will follow, and our Armand Spitz lecturer will be Mr. David Weinrich.

The conference will conclude with workshops on Saturday morning and closing ceremonies before lunchtime. But wait, there’s more! Please consider coming early or staying late. There will be a GLIPSA session all day on Tuesday as well as a special laser show design workshop before the opening reception. A post-conference tour to Niagara Falls - one of the seven natural wonders of the world - will be led by our co-host Dr. Kevin Williams who is an Associate Professor of Earth Sciences. This is a very special opportunity to learn about Niagara Falls from an expert. After the afternoon trip to the Falls, you can visit the Buffalo Museum of Science’s rooftop Kellogg Observatory and view the night sky through the recently refurbished Lundin refractor.

We look forward to welcoming you to Buffalo and GLPA 2022 from October 18th through the 22nd this fall! You won’t be disappointed, and maybe you’ll even consider coming back on April 8, 2024, because Buffalo is right on the centerline of the coming total solar eclipse. Two spectacular natural wonders await you in Western New York.

With kind regards,



Mark Percy
Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium
mpercy@williamsvillek12.org
(716) 626-8523



Kevin Williams
Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium
williak@buffalostate.edu
(716) 878-5116