



Great Lakes Planetarium Association  
Annual Conference  
October 10-13, 2018  
Abrams Planetarium  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Colleagues:

We, here at Abrams Planetarium, are thrilled to be hosting the 54th annual Great Lakes Planetarium Association conference. In some ways, Abrams is GLPA's home. We are the official address for the organization's non-profit designation and we hosted the first meeting of what would become GLPA before Grand Rapids hosted the first official GLPA conference.

You'll notice a few changes this year. First, the conference is extended until 6pm on Saturday, allowing us to shorten our days slightly. But I am sure everyone is going to stay up late anyway, catching up as friends do when they haven't seen each other in a long time! Also different is that all meals except the banquet are included in the registration fee.

The majority of the conference will be held at the Henry Center for Executive Development, though we will have plenty of time at Abrams as well. As usual, lots of sponsors will be displaying their products in the Sponsor Hall and will be available to meet with you one on one. Sponsor demonstrations in the planetarium theater are also scheduled.

We have a great line up of speakers. Dr. Ron Kaitchuck is back with his amusing and informative Astronomy Update. My predecessor, Dr. David Batch, will be our Spitz Lecturer. We will also be hosting a speaker from Michigan State University's Office of Inclusion to help us understand and be proactive in addressing diversity, equity, and issues surrounding harassment.

We also hope to be a family friendly conference again this year. There is a nursing room on site at the Henry Center and while at Abrams folks are welcome to use my office. We have several attractions in the area for visitors of all ages. So if you do bring your kids along, there are plenty of fun activities for them. For a full list of all the fun things to do, visit [www.lansing.org](http://www.lansing.org).

I look forward to seeing you at the conference and hope you will take away a lot of valuable information so you can continue to make planetariums the wonderful places they are.

Sincerely,

Shannon Schmoll, PhD  
Director  
Abrams Planetarium  
Michigan State University