GLIPSA 2016 Program

Workshop, Mark Webb, Adler Planetarium

Title: How to Speak Gibberish and Influence People

Description: Talking to an audience in the dark causes us to lose many of the normal communication cues available to us. However, the tone of our voice can communicate as much and sometimes more than the words we use. How we say things can be a powerful tool at our disposal but many times we don't stop to consciously plan that part of our presentation. In this series of fun exercises we will get the chance to communicate using only the tone of our voice, because words with actual meanings will be forbidden.

Session 1, Derek Demeter, Seminole State College

Title: “Choosing Your Own Planetarium Experience”

Description: In this session we will explore our new “Planetarium Response System” which gives the audience full control over the progression of their planetarium experience. I will demonstrate its use by presenting a segment from our new interactive show “How Do We Know?” which explores the science behind the many concepts in astronomy.

Session 2, Renae Kerrigan, Peoria Riverfront Museum

Title: Evening Events in the Dome: How the Peoria Riverfront Museum has Found Success

Description: Evening events in the planetarium are a great way to reach an adult audience, and can bring in money for your institution. In this session, I will discuss how we have built a successful program of evening events at the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and describe the planning and budget process. There will be time for open discussion of what has worked at your facility, and challenges planetariums face.

Session 3, Dr. Keith Davis, University of Notre Dame's Digital Visualization Theater

Title: Those Data Are Yours! Popular Programming Paths in Python for Presenting Publicly Posted Projects

Description: Data collected as part of publicly funded science projects are frequently available online. Whether a simple table or a complex query driven database these projects can tell beautiful science stories that illustrate the vast array of astronomical objects. CBAT (http://www.cbat.eps.harvard.edu/lists/Supernovae.html) has a table of every named supernova since 1885, more than one exoplanet database (http://exoplanets.org/) has the latest discoveries, and you can even simulate your own star from a website (http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~townsend/)!

But these data sources usually aren't formatted for planetaria, and are bigger than you want to manipulate by hand. Python is an easy to learn programming language with dozens of free, well-documented modules written for manipulating astronomical data. Keith Davis will present examples of Python code, give a short intro on how to get started, and will have groups of participants make their own plan to incorporate data into their own live presentations. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops or tablets if available, not everyone needs one but one or two per group would be helpful.

Session 4, April Whitt, Fernbank Science Center

Title: A Paper Model of Earth's Atmosphere

Description: Use a meter-length adding-machine tape to create a model of Earth's atmosphere layers. Useful for meteorology, Earth Science, and teaching about the SOFIA mission.

Session 5, Karrie Berglund, Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.

Title: "Targeting Misconceptions"

Description: This session will explore astronomical misconceptions that our planetarium visitors may bring into the dome with them. We will first identify common astronomical misconceptions that we encounter. We will then discuss possible sources of misconceptions; strategies for challenging and (hopefully) eradicating misconceptions; and ideas for preventing the creation of new misconceptions.