

“RE-ENTRY!”

Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society 2021 VIRTUAL Conference

June 4-5, 2021



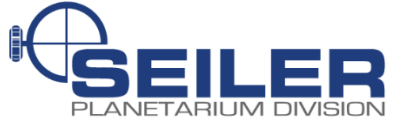
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THANK YOU to our Sponsors for their generous support!

You may recall that, at our 2020 Virtual Conference, we received very generous sponsor funding, which MAPS will use to provide financial aid for Members to attend future in-person conferences.

This year, we have invited sponsors to join our Virtual Conference with no additional fee beyond MAPS dues, and we happily invite each of them to make a 10-minute presentation over the next few days. We would like to thank the sponsors listed below for their continuous support of MAPS and its Members over the years!



MAPS Executive Committee

OFFICERS, 2019-2021:

April Whitt, President
Brian Koehler, President-Elect
Kevin Williams, Past President
Amie Gallagher, Secretary
Talia Sepersky, Treasurer

DIRECTORS, 2020-2022:

Lee Ann Hennig
Paul J. Krupinski
Patty Seaton

INCOMING OFFICERS, 2021-2023:

Noreen Grice, President-Elect
Amie Gallagher, Secretary
Mike Francis, Treasurer

MAPS Program Committee

Brian Koehler (Chair)
Kerri Kiker
Mike McConville
April Whitt
Kevin Williams

Friday, June 4, 2021

- 1:00 – 1:45 pm “Zoom Room” opens for social time
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm Welcome Remarks: **April Whitt, MAPS President**
- 2:00 – 3:30 pm Presentation Block “A”:
- 2:00 – “Music and Astronomy Night” --- Kerri Kiker**
 - 2:15 – Sponsor Presentation: DIGITALIS EDUCATION SOLUTIONS**
 - 2:25 – “Robeson Planetarium:
Project Phoenix is Rising” --- Ken Brandt & Tim Barry**
 - 2:40 – Sponsor Presentation: SSIA TECHNOLOGIES / SKY-SKAN**
 - 2:50 – “Lighting the Way to Discovering
New Worlds: Exoplanets” --- Patty Seaton & Jessica Leedy**
 - 3:05 – Sponsor Presentation: SPITZ / EVANS & SUTHERLAND / COSM**
 - 3:15 – “Using UNITY to
Make Interactive Exhibits” --- Kevin Schindler**
- 3:30 – 4:00 pm BREAK
- 4:00 – 5:30 pm Presentation Block “B”:
- 4:00 – “Signs from the Universe” --- Carrie Cruz**
 - 4:15 – Sponsor Presentation: MUSEUM OF SCIENCE BOSTON**
 - 4:25 – “A New Exhibit, a New
Planetarium Connection!” --- Brian Koehler**
 - 4:40 – Sponsor Presentation: SEILER INSTRUMENT**
 - 4:50 – “To the Moon and Back: Virtual
Field Trip for Primary Grades” --- Amie Gallagher**
 - 5:05 – Sponsor Presentation: CHROMACOVE**
 - 5:15 – “The New Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium
at SUNY Buffalo State College” --- Kevin Williams**
- 5:30 – 7:00 pm BREAK
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm MAPS Banquet:
Fun & Games
Awards
Margaret Noble Address

Descriptions for Friday conference events

“Music and Astronomy Night” --- Kerri Kiker

For the past five years, the Cradle of Aviation has held a collaborative live concert event with Adelphi University. Music and Astronomy Night is a way to get interns from various backgrounds and draw a non-science audience into the theater.

“Robeson Planetarium: Project Phoenix is Rising” --- Ken Brandt & Tim Barry

Episode 47: Project Phoenix forces continue to push upward, having risen from the floodwaters of Hurricane Matthew. Ken will regale MAP-ers with our latest tales of enlisting support to go to the North Carolina state legislature for approval and funding, and Tim will recount our initial steps for the design of our new Robeson planetarium and science center.

“Lighting the Way to Discovering New Worlds: Exoplanets” --- Patty Seaton / Jessica Leedy

We collaborated on a 4th grade virtual program using the transit method of discovering exoplanets as a new phenomenon/application for Performance Expectation 4-PS4-2: Waves and Their Applications In Technologies for Information Transfer: Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen. We made adaptations along the way to provide supports, and Jessica made the program even more interactive by converting it to PearDeck. Students make connections to other life science objectives by developing criteria for an exoplanet to be able to support life.

“Using UNITY to Make Interactive Exhibits” --- Kevin Schindler

Most of our exhibits are almost 30 years old, and they looked it. We replaced an old styrofoam HR Diagram exhibit with a homemade touchscreen version, and it was surprisingly simple to do!

“Signs from the Universe” --- Carrie Cruz

Starting a new business in a new place during a pandemic can seem daunting. It takes connections, patience and a sense of adventure to (hopefully) inspire the community to join you as you venture out into the universe--together!

“A New Exhibit, a New Planetarium Connection!” --- Brian Koehler

At Mystic Seaport Museum, our Planetarium is always trying to make connections to special exhibits that come and go from our institution. On Memorial Day weekend, MSM is opening a new display called the "Grand Panorama of Whaling". Can the Treworgy Planetarium connect to it? You bet we can! I'd love to share what we came up with.

“To the Moon and Back: Virtual Field Trip for Primary Grades” --- Amie Gallagher

This has become our most popular program for primary grade "visitors" this year. We learn about Moon phases and pretend to be an astronaut. I will take you through the entire lesson quickly.

“The New Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium at SUNY Buffalo State College” --- Kevin Williams

After years of drawn out construction, budget delays, and COVID-19, the new Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium is on the verge of opening to the public later this summer! I will introduce you to our new facility, and I will explain two exciting partnerships connecting to the Arts.

Saturday, June 5, 2021

- 9:45 – 10:00 am Welcome to Day 2: *April Whitt, MAPS President*
- 10:00 – 11:30 am Presentation Block “C”:
- 10:00 – “NASA’s Universe of Learning – Free Resources You Need!” --- *Carolyn Slivinski*
 - 10:15 – Sponsor Presentation: *GOTO INC.*
 - 10:25 – “90 seconds of WOW” --- *April Whitt*
 - 10:40 – Sponsor Presentation: *QUEBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK – CULTURAL SERVICES*
 - 10:50 – “A Brief Update on the 2023 Planetarium Conference” --- *Adam Thanz*
 - 11:05 – Sponsor Presentation: *AUDIO VISUAL IMAGINEERING*
 - 11:15 – “Since They Already Have Their Phones Out...” --- *Amie Gallagher*
- 11:30 – 12:00 pm BREAK
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm **MAPS Annual Business Meeting**
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm BREAK
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm “Re-Entry Roundtable”: a Group Discussion about What Comes Next
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm Closing Remarks and Farewell: *April Whitt, MAPS President*

Descriptions for Saturday conference events

“NASA’s Universe of Learning – Free Resources You Need!” --- Carolyn Slivinski

NASA’s Universe of Learning provides resources and experiences that enable your visitors – in person or virtual –to explore fundamental questions in science, experience how science is done, and discover the universe for themselves. Scientists and educators work side-by-side to create resources that communicate the astrophysics discoveries most relevant to STEM education and public understanding of science. Beautiful imagery, video content, scientific visualizations, data tools, scaffolded hands-on activities, community programs, and professional development are some of the resources that you can use right now with your audiences, or dive deeper to create unique programming. And we’re available to help you create that programming!

<https://www.universe-of-learning.org/>

“90 seconds of WOW” --- April Whitt

Do you have a "wow" tip or technique to share with other planetarians? Join Brian Koehler, Kerri Kiker, and a host of others to share it! Each of us will offer a short demo of some fun and fast teaching tool. Bring your own and share with us.

“A Brief Update on the 2023 Planetarium Conference” --- Adam Thanz

Find out what’s new with the 2023 planetarium conference that will be held at Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium in Kingsport, TN on June 20-24, 2023.

“Since They Already Have their Phones Out...” --- Amie Gallagher

People can't put down their phones. Maybe we can make use of them. Here are ways we are incorporating QR Codes into the exhibit area and Kahoots into shows.

“Re-Entry Roundtable: A Group Discussion About What Comes Next”

While many of us are at different stages of reopening or working towards reopening, we are all surely anticipating the next four or five steps. Join us as we close out our 2021 virtual gathering with a robust discussion about the directions in which our institutions and our communities are headed.

The Margaret Noble Address

Every year, the MAPS Conference Banquet includes the Margaret Noble Address, a keynote address given by an outstanding member of our MAPS community. This year is especially noteworthy, as 2021 marks the fifty-year anniversary of the inaugural address given by Margaret herself in 1971 in Reading, PA.

The Margaret Noble Address is named in honor of one of the founding members of MAPS. Margaret Noble was a teacher and planetarian at Cardozo High School in Washington D.C. Her particular talents in persuasion, diplomacy, persistence, and her passion for astronomy guided her efforts in bringing the universe to students.

In this special year, the MAPS Executive and Program Committees have invited four of our distinguished members to give a brief address on one of the “four pillars” of Margaret Noble. These four presentations will occur during our MAPS Virtual Conference Banquet on Friday, June 4.

2021 Margaret Noble Address speakers:



Joyce Towne: “Persuasion”



Noreen Grice: “Diplomacy”



Paul J. Krupinski: “Persistence”



Larry Berz: “Passion”