

**42nd Annual Conference of the
Great Lakes Planetarium Association
Merrillville, Indiana
October 25-28, 2006**

Workshops

Several outstanding workshops are being offered on Thursday afternoon. Workshops are either 90 or 45 minutes long. Most workshops are free, but a few have an additional charge for materials.

Cosmic Analogies: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly – a 90 minute workshop. Presented by Dragan Huterer, Randy Landsberg, Hiranya Peiris, and Andrew Zentner. Representatives from the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics (KICP) will share and critique cosmology analogies used by planetarians, educators, and researchers themselves. They will offer their own favorite and least favorite analogies, explaining what they feel is good, bad, and just ugly about each. Audience participation will be encouraged. The discussion will also be fueled by analogies suggested by participants of previous KICP cosmology short courses who will be polled ahead of time via email for their contributions. The workshop is free and limited to 30 participants.

Star Light, Star Bright – a 90 minute workshop. Presented by Jeanne Bishop, Dayle Brown, and Susan Button. Participants in this hands-on workshop will experience a variety of activities and demonstrations inside and outside of the dome. The activities are designed to increase understanding of the nature of light and how it is used to learn about space. Participants will examine the eye's reaction to light and color, demonstrate the function of rods and cones, experiment with colors of light, make their own "Color Analyzers", create "Secret Messages", examine star colors, and explore invisible colors in the electromagnetic spectrum. There is no charge for this workshop, but participation is limited to 20 delegates.

Using Tactile Planispheres in the Planetarium – a 90 minute workshop. David Hurd will demonstrate how to use the planisphere and discuss how to work with participants who are blind that visit your planetarium. Limited to 20 participants. The first twelve to register will receive a \$60 tactile planisphere for free! Eight additional spots are available for those who already have a tactile planisphere or who are willing to purchase one for \$60. The free planispheres are provided by the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Planetarium through a PLATO grant from DePaul University.

Digital Video Technologies for Planetaria and Exhibits – two 45 minute workshops. Presented by Mark Trotter. Bowen Technovation helped the planetarium community make the exciting leap into AstroFX digital video servers over the past eight years and has perfected the use of these tools. Long time planetarium director and Bowen Technovation staff member Mark Trotter will teach participants how to utilize and operate the latest-technology video servers with a focus on the new AstroFX MediaManager systems. The first workshop will serve as an introduction to digital video servers and the second workshop will concentrate on production techniques. There is no charge for either workshop, which are limited to 30 participants each.