

NSSEC Rice U Status Report – July 2020

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- **Communication: next iClip underway**

HMNS is creating a new planetarium show on exoplanets and the possibility for life on other planets. We are using “Open Space” to create Mars paths both for the Perseverance rover and the “Ingenuity” helicopter.

- **Education: Stellarium and other online training for planetarians and teachers**

Dr. Reiff is hosting free online Zoom training for Stellarium, Space Update, and Space Weather for teachers and also for planetarium educators. So far 86 planetarians and 19 teachers have signed up for one or more trainings. The website for information and archiving is here: <http://space.rice.edu/nssec/training/>. We only did one teacher training in July, because of our focus on Zoom planetarium shows and events.

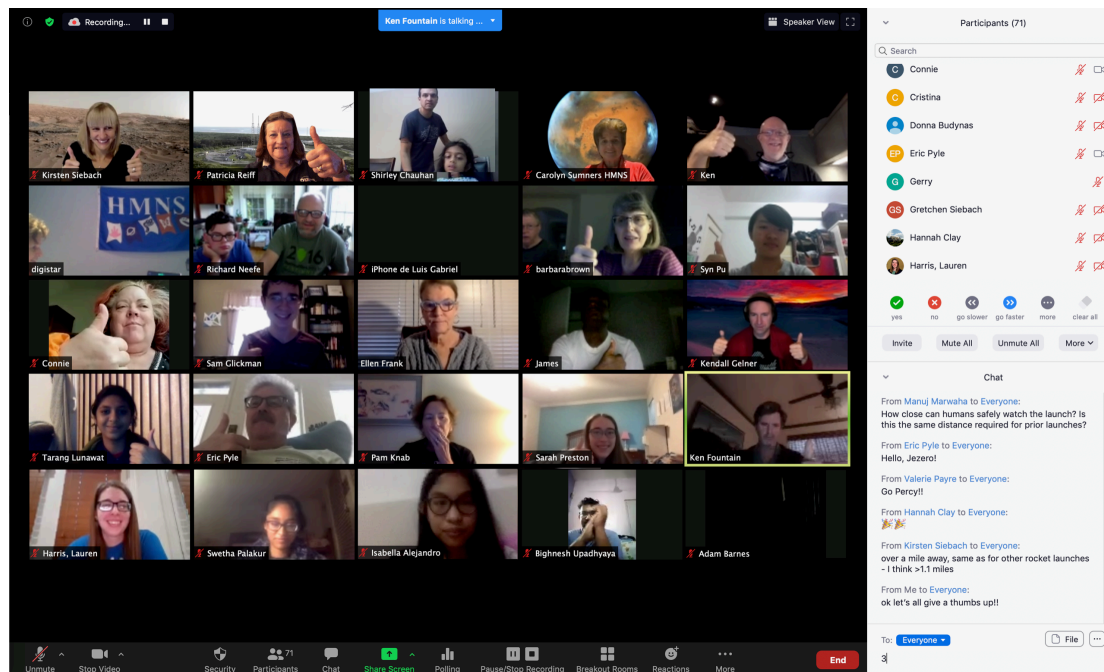
- **Communication: Free Zoom Planetarium shows (diversity focus)**

Dr. Reiff is continuing the free online Zoom showings of planetarium shows on Wednesdays, and now star shows on Thursdays. Schedule here: <http://space.rice.edu/nssec/shows.html>. Signups are through Eventbrite so that we can keep metrics and ensure that the Zoom meetings are not oversubscribed. We are sending out a survey to our participants this week after the final scheduled show.

The Sky Shows on Thursday afternoons, in addition to teaching seasons, constellations, etc. also feature Mars overflights created by HMNS student interns. The interns were chosen from the Houston-area Science Fair winners. The museum’s planetarium astronomer, James Wooten (African-American) is hosting every other sky show. .

- **Communication: Mars 2020 watch party**

We also hosted a “watch party” for the 2020 Mars event, with “Mars Geologist” Prof. Kirsten Siebach (who has worked with two Mars rovers so far) providing expert commentary. The show ran for three hours (two hours after the actual launch and deployment), and can be watched here:



<https://riceuniversity.zoom.us/rec/share/xZUIAKzW0k9OXp2U1mTfV4QPL5vaaaa81SNLq6lLy02VTYF-8OcTQo8Rbv2K2xsB>

Here is a chart of the online shows and attendance in July:

| Date | Event Name | No. registered | Max simultaneous connections | Estimated children |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7/1/20 | Search for Life in the Universe | 62 | 36 | 6 |
| 7/1/20 | Search for Life - Spanish | 7 | 12 | 3 |
| 7/2/20 | Night Sky TONIGHT - Mars 1 | 24 | 11 | 4 |
| 7/8/20 | Amazing Astronomers | 38 | 33 | 6 |
| 7/8/20 | Amazing Astronomers - Spanish | 4 | 12 | 1 |
| 7/9/20 | Night Sky TONIGHT - Mars 2 | 22 | 13 | 4 |
| 7/15/20 | Secrets of the Dead Sea | 39 | 23 | 4 |
| 7/15/20 | Secrets of the Dead Sea - Spanish | 0 | 11 | 1 |
| 7/16/20 | Night Sky TONIGHT - Mars 3 | 21 | 13 | 4 |
| 7/22/20 | Fate of the Maya | 37 | 27 | 7 |
| 7/22/20 | Fate of the Maya - Spanish | 4 | 11 | 2 |
| 7/23/20 | Night Sky TONIGHT - Mars 4 | 29 | 12 | 4 |
| 7/29/20 | Night of the Titanic | 38 | 30 | 5 |
| 7/29/20 | Night of the Titanic - Spanish | 3 | 12 | 2 |
| 7/30/20 | Perseverance Launch Party | 193 | 71 | 10 |
| 7/30/20 | Night Sky TONIGHT | 17 | 22 | 4 |
| TOTAL | JULY, 2020 | 538 | 349 | 67 |

Dual-Language Shows

For July, we showed dual showings of all of our planetarium shows, in English at 6 pm and in Spanish (with English subtitles) at 7pm. This format should be good both for English language learners and for Spanish language learners! So far most of the participants for the spanish shows also watched the English version.

Publications

An update to our writeup of the best Zoom streaming procedures, and one on portable planetarium seating during COVID-19, plus others of our educational literature, has been posted to our website:

<https://www.eplanetarium.com/publications/>