

NASA/HEAT Rice U Status Report – March 2022

Patricia H. Reiff, Rice University

- ***Education: Astronomy for Teachers Class continues***

Five teachers have enrolled for graduate credit in my class ASTR503 “Astronomy for Teachers”, and another five for professional development. Their tuition would be \$8900 for three hours, but because of discounts from Rice and support from other accounts, the grant is only paying \$900 each. The course contains learning objectives about all of stellar and galactic astronomy, but for the purposes of this grant, they will learn about the Sun and its life cycle and effects, plus review materials to be shown in a workshop at NSTA (and help with the workshop, like they did at CAST in the fall).

Participants:

Teachers: 11 people, 7 women, 2 Hispanic, 2 African-American, 1 Asian.

- ***Equinox LIVE from HMNS, March 19, 2022***

Again we had an equinox event from the HMNS sundial on March 19, 2022. Participants came both in person and via Zoom. We had solar telescopes out, gave away eclipse glasses (with a map for the 2023/2024 eclipses), and demonstrated how the sundial can measure both time of day and time of year.



(left) Feni demonstrating Sunspotters to visitors. (right) The shadow of the gnomon approaches the brown stripe which indicates solar noon.



(left) Solar telescope viewing the sun. (Right) image of the Sun through the special ball on top of the gnomon. James Wooten explains the event.

Participants:

In person at HMNS: approximately 200 (mostly in families)
 Online: Approximately 60

Materials Distributed: Eclipse glasses and eclipse maps (one per family) (120).

• ***Annular Eclipse and Artemis Animations Additional Distribution***

The annular and total eclipse animations, plus the Artemis animations, are continuing to be distributed.

We did not send out any new notices to our eclipse planetarians list this month and have provided digital copies to 58 planetariums so far.

Planetarians can sign up to get any of our animations for free here:

<https://forms.gle/sS8q31qFSDRnhnbX7>

Annular eclipse animation info and links:

https://space.rice.edu/eclipse/eclipse_animations.html **Note** the descriptions and links to the individual pieces are given in October 2021 report.

Recipients of the animations March 2022:

Two planetariums downloaded the animations in March: (one from St. Cloud, MN 56301 and one from Gatineau, Quebec, Canada)

Our eclipse information email list is now up to 748 contacts, with 208 planetarians with active subscriptions. People can sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/cv68Qj>

“Reach for the Stars” gets into high Gear

We decided on April 9, 2022, as the date for the next “Reach for the Stars” event for middle school girls. The Local Organizing Committee has been formed and has started weekly planning sessions for the event (<http://space.rice.edu/ReachForTheStars>). We decided to change the four tracks to: Astronomy and Space; Physical Science; Medicine; and Engineering and Robotics. We are delighted that Nicola Fox of NASA HQ will be our Keynote speaker this year. Our prime sponsor will once again be Cheniere, but with many Rice entities contributing. The Eventbrite for ticketing for the event was opened up, and is essentially a sell-out. We reserved some tickets to support deserving girls who could not afford the minimal ticket price.