

NSSEC Rice U Status Report – March 2020

Patricia H. Reiff, Rice University

- ***Communication: work on determining next iClip underway***

HMNS is creating a new planetarium show on exoplanets and the possibility for life on other planets. We are working with them to create a clip that would be useful in their show but can stand on its own to distribute free under our iClips project. At present it appears the clip that might be most useful to use as a stand-alone clip would be that of the helicopter from Mars2020 mission making a flight across the landing area. We have reviewed the second draft script of the show.

- ***Education: “Astronomy for Teachers” ASTR503 underway***

The class is proceeding as planned. Fortunately, we were already running our class via Zoom because some of the teachers are not in Houston. Changing the format to all-remote, then, was not a problem and is working fine. We did have to adjust the homework to reflect no group observing.

- ***Education: International Astronomy Olympiad***

We decided NOT to participate in the IAO in 2020 because of Coronavirus concerns. The schools are not in session so the preliminary testing would be difficult, and the competition being in Italy in September does not seem to be a safe trip. We will reconsider for 2021.

- ***Education: “Stellarium training” for planetarians and teachers***

Dr. Reiff is hosting free online Zoom training for Stellarium, Space Update, and Space Weather for planetarium educators and teachers. So far 75 have signed up for one or more trainings, and 30 have participated so far. The website for information and archiving is here:
<http://space.rice.edu/nssec/training/>

- ***New NSSEC 2.0 proposal***

We submitted our proposal for the continuation of NSSEC 2.0, and are working on editing the proposal going forward.

- ***Education: “Solar Week” March 23-27***

Dr. Reiff has agreed to once again participate as a SME in “Solar Week”, March 23-27. She participated in four “hangouts” with students and teachers, answering questions about the sun, the magnetosphere and space weather. This is the 20th anniversary of Solar Week.

- ***Cancellations due to Covid-19:***

Science weekend, Springfield, MO (Mar 27-28) (keynote speaker and dome presentation)
NSTA National conference, Boston (April 2-4)