

## NSSEC Rice U Status Report – August 2020

Patricia H. Reiff, Rice University

- **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 August, because of our focus on Zoom planetarium shows and events.

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

Dr. Reiff finished the series free online Zoom showings of planetarium shows on Wednesdays, and star shows on Thursdays. Schedule here: <http://space.rice.edu/nssec/shows.html> . Signups were through Eventbrite so that we can keep metrics and ensure that the Zoom meetings are not oversubscribed.

The Sky Shows on Thursday afternoons, in addition to teaching seasons, constellations, etc. also feature Mars overflights created by HMNS student interns. The museum’s planetarium astronomer, James Wooten (African-American) hosted every other sky show. .

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

Date	Event Name	No. registered	Max simultaneous connections	Estimated children
8/5/20	X-Planets - Spanish	3	7	
8/6/20	Night Sky TONIGHT	19	14	6
8/12/20	Force 5 (repeat for hurricane season)	25	18	3
8/12/20	Force 5 - Spanish	5	10	1
8/13/20	Night Sky TONIGHT	15	12	2
8/19/20	Great Planet Adventures (Kids)	12	10	3
8/19/20	Great Planet Adventures for Kids (Spanish)	2	1	
8/20/20	Night Sky TONIGHT	4	7	1
8/26/20	Ice Worlds English	24	17	3
8/26/20	Ice Worlds Spanish	1	7	
8/28/20	Night Sky TONIGHT	26	19	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AUGUST, 2020</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>22</b>

### ***Dual-Language Shows***

For August, 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. Our totals for the Spanish versions were not as high as we would like. In future, advertising to targeted audience would be more effective but we did not have the staff support to do that.

Total of all Events (4/22 – 8/30/2020);		
Total registered:	2362	(Spanish only: 29)
Maximum simultaneous streams:	1253	(Spanish only: 83)
Total estimated children (visible):	321	(Spanish only: 10)
Minimum actual users:	1574	(Spanish only: 93)

### ***Survey of Participants***

We created a survey of the participants. So far the results are very positive, but we only have 59 responses so far. We will have a full analysis next month, and will update our Zoom streaming paper (referenced below) with the results when we get more responses. Note: many participants registered for multiple events, so only 1243 individuals as of 7/17. We will send the survey to the final two weeks worth of participants and tally up the survey results.

### ***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/>