The 2012 New Media Practitioners Professional Development Workshop brought seventeen bloggers, podcaster, and other science communicators to LASP for a two-day intensive workshop with space scientists. The workshop was a collaborative professional development opportunity for attendees to learn about current issues surrounding future exploration of the Moon and other small bodies in our Solar System. The Colorado Center for Lunar Dust and Atmospheric Studies (CCLDAS) sponsored the event.

Workshop web page: http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/education/journalist-workshops/2012-mediajournalist-workshop/

Hosting PI: Mihály Horányi, CCLDAS

Primary LASP E/PO organizers: Marisa Lubeck and Stephanie Renfrow

Behind-the-scenes LASP assistance:

- Melissa Dozier, accounting
- Jason LaClair, procurement
- Margaux Krahe, E/PO student employee
- Alex Thom, E/PO student employee
- Erin Wood, E/PO
- Tom Mason, E/PO
- Susan Sand, administrative assistant

Themes:

- Earth’s Moon and lunar dust
- Asteroids and comets
- Google Lunar X PRIZE
- The moons of Mars: Phobos and Deimos

Speakers:

2. Dr. Daniel Britt (http://bit.ly/ORlOe4): Co-Investigator for Mars Pathfinder and Deep Space 1; Physics Department, University of Central Florida
3. Dr. Richard Dissly: Senior Manager, Science Business Development, Ball Aerospace & Technologies
4. Dr. Mihály Horányi (http://bit.ly/P9sfPe): PI for CCLDAS; LASP scientist; CU-Boulder Department of Physics
5. Dr. Hal Levison (http://bit.ly/NciF8E): SWIFT co-author; Department of Space Studies, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)
6. Dr. Alan Stern (http://bit.ly/oRblmn): PI for New Horizons; Former NASA executive; Associate Vice President, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)

Attendees:

2. Kevin Baird: Photographer and communicator, New Space initiatives via the Space Tweep Society
   Flickr: http://bit.ly/T1gFUM
3. Kate Becker: Journalist, PBS-NOVA and NOVA scienceNOW
   Blogs: The Nature of Reality (http://to.pbs.org/RLas3E) and Inside NOVA (http://to.pbs.org/NKdCHe)
4. Dauna Coulter: Writer, Science@NASA
   Personal blog: http://bit.ly/6RVLq
7. Matthew Francis: Physics and astronomy writer, Galileo's Pendulum, Double X Science, and Ars Technica
   Blog: http://GalileosPendulum.org
8. David Geaney: Founder and writer, Mars Travel
   Blog: http://www.marstravel.org/
   Website: http://www.geaneyintel.com/
9. Kate Greene: Science/technology writer and blogger, The Economist
   Will blog during a 4-month simulated Mars mission: @HI_SEAS
   Website: http://kategreene.net/
10. Bob King: Writer, Duluth News
    Audio essayist, "StarTalk Radio"
    Blog: http://www.sciencecomedian.com/
    Website: http://ti.me/4a39yb
12. Joanne Manaster: Blogger, Scientific American
    Website: http://bit.ly/P1u6f7
13. Maggie McKee: Science journalist, New Scientist
14. Diana Perkins: Space science STEM educator and STEM blogger
    Blog: http://www.stemschool.com/
    Website: http://www.stemedcoalition.org/
15. Joe Rhea: Astrosphere New Media Association
    Podcast series: Astronomy Cast and 365 Days of Astronomy
16. Amy Teitel: Science writer and blogger, Vintage Space
    Website: http://amyshirateitel.com/
17. Tyler Yohe: SciFi video game developer, Broken Crown Games
    Website: http://www.brokencrowngames.com/

Final agenda:

**Friday, July 20**
4:30 p.m.  Optional LASP tour: Bill Possel, Director of LASP Mission Operations & Data Systems
5:30 p.m.  Dinner reception and welcome: Oak at Fourteenth, downtown Boulder
7 p.m.    Asteroids and OSIRIS-REx: Ed Beshore
Saturday, July 21
9 a.m. Breakfast and day’s agenda: Stephanie Renfrow/Marisa Lubeck
9:45 am Kuiper Belt: Hal Levison
10:30 a.m. Discussion
10:45 a.m. Break
11 a.m. What is a planet? Alan Stern*
11:45 am Discussion
12 pm Lunch
12:45 pm Dust and Moon: Mihály Horányi
1:30 pm Discussion
1:45 p.m. Break
2 p.m. Exploration: NASA & Aerospace Industry: Richard Dissly
2:45 p.m. Discussion
3:15 p.m. Tour of CCLDAS
4 p.m. Post-evaluation
4:15 p.m. Informal attendee discussions

Sunday, July 22
8:45 a.m. Breakfast and day’s agenda: Stephanie Renfrow/Marisa Lubeck
9:00 a.m. Phobos and Deimos: Dan Britt
9:45 a.m. Discussion
10 a.m. Exploration: NASA & Small Companies: Alan Stern
10:45 a.m. Discussion
11 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. Round table discussion: Mihály Horányi, moderator
12 p.m. Wrap-up and final evaluation
12:30 p.m. Lunch

*Morning schedule adjusted from original lineup to accommodate an impromptu Levison/Stern debate: Is Pluto a planet?

Speaker presentations: All videos are posted on the workshop web page: http://bit.ly/KZAfpX
  • Alan Stern, Planet Categorization and Planetary Science: http://youtu.be/0PWOQGxbGWE
  • Alan Stern, Presentation 2: http://youtu.be/haWjeDEpcnw
  • Mihály Horányi, Dusty Plasma Processes: http://youtu.be/CCc3-HnaoYc
  • Dan Britt, The Moons of Mars: http://youtu.be/zpjC-U3rNQQ
  • Hal Levison, Recent Advancements in Solar System Formation: http://youtu.be/4QArFhKVL_o

Workshop Twitter feed:
  • Hashtag: #LASPnewmedia
    o Some example tweets:
The first thing Neil Armstrong did on the lunar surface was grab a quick "contingency sample" in case of emergency exit. #LASPnewmedia

Fascinating hashtag to follow today: #LASPnewmedia

My video interview w Elon Musk at @SpaceX for @TimeSpace: The Private Frontier http://t.co/MyHeGl18 #LASPnewmedia

Target Asteroids! Opportunity for amateur astronomers to participate in long-term citizen science re NEOs #LASPnewmedia

"Most people in the IAU are as close to planetary scientists as a divorce lawyer is to a tax lawyer." @AlanStern #LASPNewMedia

When physics thwarts housekeeping #LASPNewMedia http://t.co/WgY2v4IK

Hal Levison & Alan Stern enter the Planetary Definition Thunderdome: 2 men enter... 9 planets enter... only 8 leave #LASPnewmedia

Real lunar dust!!! #LASPnewmedia http://t.co/J5hwoU6

Science outreach/edu issues are multifaceted/complicated. We can impact by sharing our enthusiasm with those who'll listen. #LASPnewmedia

Stern: the most exciting thing going in spaceflight today is the spectrum of commercial space activities. #LASPnewmedia
• Total number of workshop-related tweets based on hashtag: ~805
  
  o Analytics chart via Topsy Labs:
  
  *Mentions That Matter*. We only show those mentions within Twitter that are significant and valid. Significant to us means a tweet that’s been retweeted or contains a link. Valid means we’ve removed any bots or spammy sources.
• Live tweets during presentations and tours: ~555+


LASP web feature: http://bit.ly/P0hqmZ

Sampling of resulting blog posts/media mentions:
  o “Moon dust in my hand a levitating experience:” http://bit.ly/M4ypu1
  o “From facilitating citizen science to meeting space science stars and back again:” http://bit.ly/QL3NOz
  o “Dwarf planet, dwarf controversy:” http://bit.ly/Pu1vlF
  o Some attendees will produce additional material in the future based on what they learned at the workshop.

Top themes (popularity based on amount of tweets/blog posts, and final evaluation):

1. Is Pluto a planet? The Levison/Stern debate
2. CCLDAS dust accelerator tour
3. Near-Earth objects/asteroids

Photo archives:

Evaluation results:
  o Some general results:
    o 65% strongly agree and 29% agree that they left the workshop with increased knowledge about space research and exploration in general
    o 65% agree and 35% strongly agree that they have new ways to explain the importance and challenges of space science to their audiences as a result of the workshop
    o 82% strongly agree and 24% agree that through the workshop, they connected with New Media practitioners who they didn’t know before
  o A sampling of the comments:
    o “This workshop significantly improved my ability to connect with the people/places I need to in order to expand my network for space science writing.”
    o “I appreciated the perspectives and research of the scientists and the candid way they showed them. I will definitely return to these researchers as experts for stories and background.”
    o “In addition to tweets during the conference, I will use this as part of future articles on spaceflights and human exploration.”
    o “It has given me new perspectives on new media outreach and how to better reach a wide audience.”