

newscience

NEWS FOR MEMBERS, PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER

SPRING 2025



Where the
**WONDER OF
WHY**
comes to life

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Connect with curiosity.

Dear Friends of the Saint Louis Science Center,

As I write this, it is difficult to believe that my tenure leading the Saint Louis Science Center and its wonderful team is coming to a close. I cannot help but reflect on the rich and rewarding experience it has been over these past five years as CEO and prior years serving on the Board of Trustees. I have enjoyed seeing the Science Center evolve its strategic direction, vision, mission and values, as well as continue delivering the kinds of hands-on experiences and programs that invite everyone to become closer to science and see a place for themselves in STEM.

Leading this remarkable team has been an honor, and I cannot wait to see all the great work they will continue to do. To that end, we are pleased to introduce Dr. Ray Vandiver as the Science Center's new President and CEO. Ray brings more than three decades of experience leading science centers and museums, as well as a well-versed knowledge of STEM and informal learning. I encourage you to read more about Ray on [page 4](#).

Supporters like you help make everything we do possible. Whether you are a Science Center member, philanthropic partner, or a friend of our organization, this issue of *NewScience* highlights just some of the recent and upcoming work that you are helping us achieve. From a recap of our annual Community STEM Showcase to offerings like the GROW gallery's new AgScience Explorers workshops and the return of our Summer STEM Explorers camp, the Science Center is continuing to ignite imaginations and unlock innovation.

I encourage you to check out our Science Today article, written by Jenna Gorlewicz, an associate professor in aerospace and mechanical engineering at Saint Louis University and a member of the Science Center's Board of Trustees, on her research into haptics and the technology of touch.

I hope you will also seek out the recap of our most recent Einstein Society reception, where we celebrated our Einstein Society members and corporate partners for their essential support. In addition, our Donor Spotlight profiles Peter and Julie Sharamitaro, who have been Science Center members since 1988 and have recently joined the Einstein Society; be sure to read about their history with the Science Center and why they believe in supporting our mission to inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science.

Thank you again for your support and making our mission possible. As the Science Center moves forward under new leadership, I hope and encourage you to continue engaging with us, sharing word about our impact, and seeking out something new to discover at the Science Center.



Warm wishes,

Todd Bastean
President and CEO

To inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science. Mission of the Saint Louis Science Center

Connect with us for updates,
special events and fun science.



Smithsonian Affiliate
Membership Program



Spring Hours

Thursday–Saturday: 9:30am–4:30pm

Sunday: 11:00am–4:30pm

Monday: 9:30am–4:30pm

OPEN until 5:30pm:

+ Thursday, April 17 – Saturday, April 19

+ Monday, April 21

+ Saturday, May 24 & Sunday, May 25

OPEN until 7:30pm: Friday, May 30

Contact

314.289.4400 | slsc.org

Saint Louis Science Center

5050 Oakland Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Membership

Services, Sales & Member Reservations:

314.289.4414

slsc.org/membership

memberships@slsc.org

Reservations

Advance Sales & Group Reservations:

314.289.4424

Education

Programming information: education@slsc.org

Events

Host your next private event at the Saint Louis Science Center. Services and catering provided by Saint Louis Science Center Events. For information: 314.286.4667.

Accessibility

Complimentary wheelchairs and strollers are available in the lobby. Motorized scooters are available for a rental fee. Personal Hearing Assistance Devices are available at the OMNIMAX® Theater and Planetarium. Captiview caption devices are available for all OMNIMAX® films.

Official Partners

The Saint Louis Science Center gratefully acknowledges the support of our Official Partners.



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Cover photo by Tyler Small: A young guest engages with an activity at January's Community STEM Showcase.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

Dr. Ray Vandiver

The Saint Louis Science Center is proud to welcome Dr. Ray Vandiver as our new President and CEO. Dr. Vandiver took the helm on February 28, 2025. With more than three decades of experience leading science centers and museums, Vandiver joined the Science Center from the Discovery Lab in Tulsa, OK, where he served as the founding Executive Director for more than 12 years.

“We are thrilled to bring an executive of Ray’s stature to the Science Center,” said Dr. Mark Wrighton, chairman of the Science Center’s Board of Commissioners and chairman of the CEO search committee. “Not only is he a strong leader with well-versed knowledge of STEM, informal learning and leading science centers and museums, but he also is returning to his roots, as he was born and raised in St. Louis and holds a B.A. in physics from Saint Louis University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from Missouri University of Science and Technology.”

Vandiver will lead the Science Center’s team of nearly 160 team members as they work to execute the organization’s strategic plan for the future and deliver the organization’s mission “to inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science” to the region.

Prior to serving as the Executive Director and CEO of the Discovery Lab, Vandiver was Vice President of the Center for Learning Experience at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), and served as founding executive director of the Bootheel Youth Museum in Malden, MO.

Vandiver is succeeding President and CEO Todd Bastean, who is retiring after more than five years of dedicated service to the Science Center.

Bastean said, “I am honored to have served the Science Center and the community in these last five years, and I know Ray will be a great leader for the team and collectively they will accomplish wonderful things together in the future.”



“Leading the Saint Louis Science Center is particularly meaningful to me, as it allows me to return to my hometown – a city that shaped both my personal and professional life,” said Vandiver. “I spent my formative years immersed in the unique culture and community of this city, and I am elated to lead this prized educational institution that inspires everyone to be curious and engaged in science.”



STEM Improves by Hearing Many Voices

The Saint Louis Science Center envisions an equitable and inclusive society where people are passionate about science and use it to improve lives, transform communities and empower future generations. Through exposure to STEM concepts and recognition of contributions made by members of various communities, we aim to inspire and empower individuals from all backgrounds to pursue and thrive in STEM fields.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

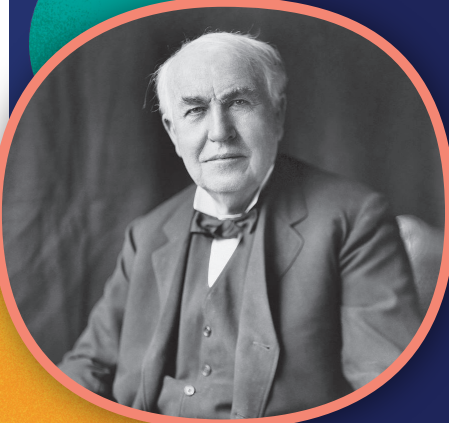
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

- + Chaired the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as its first woman leader
- + Was the first woman to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- + Served as the first woman and first African-American to serve as president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)
- + Called "perhaps the ultimate role model for women in science" by *Time* magazine

DEAF HISTORY MONTH

Thomas Alva Edison

- + Considered one of America's most prolific inventors, including many of the modern age's most important products: the electric light bulb, the phonograph and the motion picture camera
- + Held more than 1,000 patents in his lifetime
- + Created what has become one of America's largest investor-owned energy companies, Consolidated Edison
- + Established the Menlo Park industrial research laboratory



ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Guo Obata

- + Helped build St. Louis-based HOK into one of the world's most respected design, architecture and engineering firms
- + Served as the design principal for the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum and the Science Center's James S. McDonnell Planetarium
- + Designed Priory Chapel at the St. Louis Abbey, regarded by *Architecture Digest* as "one of America's greatest hidden treasures"



STEM like ME

To celebrate these accomplishments made by individuals from various backgrounds, we've introduced the **STEM Like ME** blog on our website.

Visit slsc.org/stem-like-me to discover inspirational biographies of leading STEM contributors during:

MARCH: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

APRIL: DEAF HISTORY MONTH

MAY: ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



GWEN GAMEWELL AND FAMILY

Five-year-old Gwen Gamewell is a super member, coming to the Science Center at least twice a week for Preschool Science Series and Discovery Room sessions. During one session, a team member asked Gwen if she is going to be a scientist when she grows up, to which she replied, "I AM a scientist."

Below are answers to our member spotlight questions from the five year old's point of view, as well as some additional information from her little brother, Finn, and her parents, Nick and Amy.



Q: How long have you been a member?

A: "Um, one year? No, two years."

Q: How often do you visit, and what do you like to do here?

A: "I think 3,000 [times]. I like to see Ms. Delaney and Ms. Angeline in the Discovery Room."

Q: Tell me a favorite memory about the Science Center.

A: "Summer camp. We got to use Sharpies!"

Q: What types of member events do you like best?

A: "Hot cocoa at Member Appreciation Night."

Q: What's your favorite member benefit?

A: "Seeing OMNIMAX® movies with popcorn."

Q: Why would you recommend a Science Center membership to anyone considering it?

A: "Ms. Delaney's science class."

"I AM a scientist."



Gwen's brother, Finn, is two years old. He would like to add he likes "the BIG dinosaur."

Gwen's mother Amy explained, "We have been members for two or three years. My brother gifts us a membership each Christmas."

"We typically visit the Science Center once or twice a week," Amy continued. "We love the Preschool Science Series and the Discovery Room. If Gwen is in Preschool Science for her age group, Finn visits the Discovery Room, and when Finn is in Preschool Science for his age group, Gwen visits the Discovery Room. This works really well for our family."

Amy's favorite memories are of seeing her kids enjoy their interactions with our team and how much her kids love it here. "Watching Gwen see herself as a scientist is my favorite," she said.

Gwen's dad, Nick, added, "Seeing Finn so excited during *Train Time* at the OMNIMAX® or Gwen dancing during the Fleetwood Mac Laser Light Show have been highlights. I also liked when Ms. Dakota was set up in the Life Science Lab to take questions about whales. Gwen asked about 15 questions, and Ms. Dakota answered them all. Gwen got to touch real baleen and pretty much had to be dragged away so others could ask questions. She talked about touching the baleen for weeks."

As far as favorite member events, Amy said she likes Member Previews and Special Member Events. "Events that are less crowded give the kids a little more freedom to explore and do activities we don't normally do when we visit," she explained.

Both parents said their favorite member benefit is the free parking. Amy would recommend a membership because, she said, "The value is incredible. There are a variety of things to do that always work with my kids' changing interests and ages. We come every week for Preschool Science Series and the Discovery Room because they're the best. Summer STEM Explorers camp was a big hit with Gwen, and the member discount was great." Nick reiterated, "The discounts make things more affordable, and member nights let us visit with less commotion."

Thanks to Amy, Nick, Finn and Gwen Gamewell for sharing their thoughts about our membership program.

If you'd like to learn more about how to give the year-round gift of membership to a family who would love our programming as much as the Gamewells do, please visit slsc.org/membership or call 314.289.4414.

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 | 5:30PM & 7PM

OMNIMAX® Member Preview: Superhuman Body

Reservations available February 27

Join us for an immersive, giant-screen experience about the greatest machine we know. Explore the inner workings of the human body and the incredible breakthroughs in science that are allowing us to live longer, healthier lives. Explore the amazing biological systems that make us tick, and meet the people behind some of the greatest medical innovations of the past decade. Your reservation includes popcorn and a soda.

SUNDAY, MAY 11 | 9-10:30AM

New Member Expedition

Reservations available April 21

Are you new to membership at the Saint Louis Science Center? This event is perfect for you! Join other new members as we guide you through all the benefits of being a Science Center member. Be sure to join in the building tour and enjoy some refreshments. And stick around for our Mother's Day Member Lounge (separate tickets required)!

SUNDAY, MAY 11 | 11AM-2PM

Mother's Day Member Lounge

Reservations available April 21

Come make Mom a beautiful flower crown in the GROW Classroom and learn all about native wildflowers and the pollinators that love them! We'll also have a card-making station, as well as coffee and cupcakes.



STEM EXPERT SPOTLIGHT



Jenna L. Gorlewicz is an Associate Professor in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Saint Louis University, where she holds the Eugene Kranz Professorship for Excellence in Research. Dr. Gorlewicz directs the Collaborative Haptics, Robotics and Mechatronics (CHROME) Lab, where her research interests focus on human-centered design, haptic and multimodal interfaces, robotics, medical devices and engineering education. She is engaged in numerous initiatives at the intersection of people and technology, harnessing use-inspired research and deep, interdisciplinary collaborations with the community to rethink technology design and interaction that is inclusive to all. Dr. Gorlewicz also has a vested interest in entrepreneurship and broad societal impact and is co-founder of an educational technology company, Vital, and a medical device company, Aurenar. Her passion for research and innovation has led her into an administrative role as Associate Dean of Research and Innovation in the School of Science and Engineering at SLU, which she began in 2022. In addition, Dr. Gorlewicz serves on the Science Center's Board of Trustees and is a generous supporter through the Einstein Society.

THE Technology OF Touch

Over a decade ago, a happenstance meeting with a bright, energetic sixth grader with blindness, who was unequivocally honest about her thoughts on her future career, changed my research trajectory. When she found out I was an engineer, Kira said, "An engineer – that's so cool! ...I'll never be one." When I naively asked her why, she said, "Don't you know? I'm blind." She went on to describe the challenges of learning math as a blind student, and in so doing, she brought my attention to one of the largest barriers facing persons with disabilities today: lack of access to information necessary to pursue and persist in education and career pathways, particularly those in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Driven to use my engineering training for broad societal impact, I focused my research career on pioneering multimodal, inclusive technologies designed with (not for) communities often marginalized in technology design. **Whoa—say what?! Let's break that down.**

Multimodal, inclusive technologies designed with (not for) communities:

Multimodal, meaning using many senses. Think about your five senses – seeing, smelling, tasting, hearing, touching. They all contribute to the ways in which you experience and connect with the world around you. Yet, many technologies are dominated by visual inputs and outputs, like touchscreens, computers, televisions; we live in a world obsessed by seeing. The design of multimodal technologies involves creating technologies that appeal to multiple senses – not just one. In my lab (the CHROME Lab at Saint Louis University), we are particularly interested in the sense of touch. Touch is one of our earliest learning modalities and yet, as we continue to evolve in a digital world, it's one that's often lost. Think about Zoom meetings, browsing the web or playing video games – many have experienced Zoom fatigue or difficulties in feeling connected remotely because these experiences are almost solely focused on visuals and sounds. We're missing the very human element of touch – being in connection with the world around us. This lack of touch is also particularly problematic for people with disabilities, including those who are blind or have low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing, or are deafblind – as touch is a necessary mode of communication and interaction with the world.



A student working in the CHROME Lab in the School of Science and Engineering at Saint Louis University.

Designed with, not for!

Have you heard of the engineering trap? It's the notion of designing for more features or more capabilities – sometimes to solve the wrong problems! So often in technology design, we forget that just because technology can do something doesn't mean it should. Real innovation and impact come from collaborating with the communities and the intended users of the new technologies we are developing and evaluating value, not features. In our lab, people with disabilities are key members of our research team and our collaborators. This is necessary and critical to advancing inclusive innovation. For example, on our wearables project, our team leaders are deafblind, and we are learning from them how touch communication works! On our hockey puck for the blind project, we collaborate closely with the St. Louis Blues Blind Ice Hockey Club. On our research team relating to accessible touchscreen graphics, we have several members who are blind or low vision, along with teachers of students with visual impairments, co-designing the graphics solutions we are imagining. This is more than asking someone to be a tester or a study participant. This is about ideating and iteratively designing together.

And this, perhaps, is what I love most about my career. I'm an engineer who works with people of all backgrounds and abilities to imagine a more inclusive tomorrow. As a faculty member, I get to share this passion with graduate and undergraduate students in and out of the classroom – training the next generation of engineers to think inclusively about technology design and its impacts. As an Associate Dean of Research and Innovation, I have the opportunity to witness the power of deeply convergent, interdisciplinary research that is amplified across school and university walls. As an entrepreneur, I have the chance to make a real impact through the translation of new ideas and new technologies that can, literally, reach the hands of people everywhere. Underlying all of this is the power of collaboration and community – it's about people.

Looking back, I'm not certain my sixth-grade self knew about engineering like Kira did. I did know that I wanted to land in a career pathway that focused on people. Who knew that mechanical engineering was that pathway? The next time you pick up a technology, put on your engineering hat and think inclusively about how it may (or may not) work for those around you. And remember – keep in touch, friends.

Did you know that there's a whole field focused on the science and technology of touch? It's called haptics! In the CHROME Lab, we design technologies that you can touch and be touched by. Imagine feeling and hearing data in a visualization like a bar chart or a line graph – not just seeing it! Imagine learning about geometries and shapes, molecules and bonds, or the force of gravity through simulations, but instead of just seeing the concepts on screen, you can construct and feel them in real-time with tangible components you are holding in your hands. Imagine wearing a device that provides a tracing sensation on your wrist to support best practices in guided breathing and mindfulness – not having to open an app and visually observe a progress bar. These are the types of projects we work on in the CHROME Lab, and they are all centered on the notion of fully engaging our senses in the technologies we use – particularly the sense of touch!

Inclusive, meaning designed to work for as many individuals as possible, including the “edges” – not just the “masses.” Inclusive design is an approach to design that seeks to create products that work for people of all backgrounds and abilities. In the CHROME Lab, we are particularly interested in inclusive design as it relates to accessibility. Accessibility is focused on making information, products and environments usable, with a focus on people with disabilities. Today's technologies are often not designed with accessibility in mind, which creates huge disparities in what information is available to whom and when, and we seek to change this. We're imagining what STEM education “looks like” when the content isn't something you just see – it's something you see, hear and feel. We're thinking about how sports can be played engaging all the senses, not just vision. Did you know St. Louis has a blind ice hockey club? You should check it out! A key part of doing inclusive design is living it – that is, not just thinking inclusively about the technology but being inclusive in the design process – involving the community and end users as key collaborators.

About the CHROME Lab:

The CHROME (Collaborative Haptics, Robotics and Mechatronics) Lab is a place where engineers work collaboratively with professionals to create new technologies that augment human capabilities, not limit them. In a world where humans are often required to “learn” technology, we seek, instead, to adopt human-centered design practices that result in technologies that feel natural and intuitive. We are particularly interested in how we can promote effective multimodal information transfer, with a focus on haptic (touch) technologies as a primary mode of interaction. Our research applications span education, medicine and consumer technologies. Our research partners span educators and schools, clinical practitioners and those on the margins of society – for whom technologies are often not designed, but from whom, we stand much to learn about human capacity.



BEHIND THE SCENES (AND THE SCIENCE)

at the Planetarium

At the Science Center's James S. McDonnell Planetarium, we don't just teach about science; we also do science ourselves!

Members of the McDonnell Planetarium team have maintained an official National Weather Service weather station on the grounds of the Planetarium for nearly 40 years. Data collected at this weather station is shared with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to help improve local forecasting and climate research.

Our weather station is equipped with a variety of manual and automated weather equipment including anemometers, barometers, soil temperature probes, solar radiation meters, rain gauges and more.

The weather station's data collection relies on daily readings taken by members of the Planetarium team. "Even with automated gauges that provide remote, real-time data, physical measurements observed by a real human ensure the greatest accuracy of the data we collect," said McDonnell Planetarium Manager Will Snyder. "It's not unusual to see our team members, braving sub-zero temperatures or pouring rain to take our daily readings."

Data collected at the Planetarium weather station is also used to support local agriculture in Missouri. Thanks to a partnership with the University of Missouri, data from our station and others across the state is made available to farmers through the Agricultural Electronic Bulletin Board (AgEBB). According to Snyder, "Modern farming practices rely on extremely accurate weather data, and we are honored to be part of the data collection process that helps farmers to better plan for and react to changing weather conditions."



Planetarium Facilitator Alex Guajardo puts her meteorology degree to good use as she measures weather conditions outside the Planetarium.

Real-time data readings from the Planetarium's weather station can be viewed by visiting the AgEBB website at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/weather/realTime/slsc.asp>. In addition to real-time weather conditions, this site also provides access to historical archives of weather data collected at the Science Center.

“Weather impacts our lives every day,” said Snyder, “and the hyper-local data that we collect here at the Science Center is a tangible way we contribute to the local science community.”



NWS Meteorologist Jared Maples talks with members at Member Appreciation Night on December 9, 2024.

In addition to being cooperative observers in our daily reporting to the National Weather Service, the National Weather Service has partnered with the Science Center through SciFest and Science Center member events to provide weather-related public education experiences.

From cloud formations to severe weather science and preparedness, the National Weather Service has provided relevant and impactful content and learning opportunities that connect to our everyday lives. We are grateful for the many years the National Weather Service has partnered and worked with us in order for the community to learn directly from the weather experts!

Spring Weather Safety Tips:

Spring is the rainiest season in St. Louis. Sometimes this wet weather can come in the form of thunderstorms, and sometimes those can be severe. **Here is some useful thunderstorm information shared by NWS Meteorologist Jared Maples.**

- Thunderstorms need three things: moisture, lift and instability. When air is a uniform temperature, it is stable (at equilibrium). But if there is both warm and cool air present, the warm air will rise until it cools to the air temperature around it and is at equilibrium. This upward movement of warm air creates lift.
- For a thunderstorm to be considered severe, it would require wind gusts of at least 58 mph, hail of 1" or more in diameter and/or tornadoes.
- If you're stuck outside in a thunderstorm, find the nearest shelter with four walls and a roof. These structures are often grounded so an electrical lightning charge can pass through the shell of the structure into the ground. Do not touch any plumbing, wiring or framework of the structure.
- If you are outside with no shelter, get away from tall objects like trees, crouch down with your hands on the back of your head and try to get on your tippy toes so you are in the lowest possible position with as little ground contact as possible. This way, you have less opportunity to become the contact point through which lightning can discharge with the ground.



The WONDER of... QUANTUM SCIENCE

What is it?

Quantum science explores how the tiniest bits of matter, such as atoms and electrons, behave in ways that are very different from things on our everyday scale. This means having to use different kinds of mathematical equations and experiments to study these tiniest of particles.

At this miniscule scale, for example, particles can exist in multiple states at once (quantum superposition). A quantum particle can act and be measured not only like a particle, but also like a wave, with multiple places it could be rather than a single location at a given time. Quantum particles can also interact across distances instantly (quantum entanglement), which means that taking a measurement on one entangled quantum particle will tell us something instantly about the other entangled particle, no matter how far apart they may be.

What do we do with it?

Learning how to apply quantum science and systems to create measuring devices beyond existing capabilities is at the heart of quantum science. For instance, it's helping scientists create powerful quantum computers that can solve problems regular computers can't handle, as well as develop super-secure methods for sending information, like quantum cryptography. In addition, quantum science also improves sensors, making them more accurate.

What are the current research and future applications of quantum science?

At WashU, my current research focuses on developing ultrasensitive quantum sensors in diamonds and applying them to various fields, such as life science, material science, geology and agriculture. Here are some examples:



For life science, we directly introduce nanodiamond quantum sensors into living cells to see temperature images in cells with different genetic mutations. Temperature is an indicator of metabolic reactions and activity in a cell. Being able to study live cells this way may help improve drug screening and testing.



For material science, we use diamond-based quantum sensors to study high-temperature superconductors. Current superconductors require very cold temperatures or high pressure to function. Our quantum sensors are helping us in the potential discovery of more robust and practical superconducting materials at near-ambient "room temperature" temperatures and pressures.



For geology, diamond-based quantum sensors offer a unique tool to image (1) local magnetic signatures from lunar samples (obtained from the Apollo mission), which helps scientists reconstruct the ancient magnetic history of the Moon; (2) stress and deformation of minerals in a high-pressure environment (like in the Earth's core), which helps geologists to understand the origin of deep-focus earthquakes in the Earth's mantle.



For agriculture, nanodiamond-based quantum sensors help in the study and understanding of the biofuel production process through providing much clearer fluorescence labeling test results.

Chong Zu is an Assistant Professor in Physics at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his B.S. in physics and mathematics from Tsinghua University in 2011. After completing his Ph.D. in Prof. Luming Duan's group at Tsinghua University in 2016, he began postdoctoral work at UC Berkeley in Prof. Norman Yao's group. He joined Washington University as an assistant professor in the summer of 2021, where his research interests in the Zu Lab lie at the interface between atomic, molecular and optical physics, condensed matter physics and quantum information.





Explore AgScience with Us

Join us in GROW for our new daily GROW Workshops!

We depend on and interact with agriculture so much in our day-to-day lives, and the GROW Gallery continues to shed light on the ways agriculture is essential. These sessions will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis and are free of charge to guests. Every day from 2:30-3:30pm, GROW team members will lead interactive activities based on topics that change on the first Thursday of each month. These workshops are designed to be fun and engaging for everyone, regardless of their age or level of familiarity with agriculture.

In March and April, guests can discover the different ways to start a garden, learn what plants need in order to germinate and grow, and take home a plant to start their own garden. In May, guests can explore the different fibers that make paper and create some paper of their own! In June for Pollinator Month, guests can explore the different native pollinators that can be found in GROW.

Stay tuned to slsc.org for the remainder of the year's topics and discover all the wonders the world of agriculture has to offer!



Summertime STEM Exploration Returns!

Join us for an unforgettable adventure at the **Summer STEM Explorers Camp** at the Saint Louis Science Center! (Hurry! Limited space remains.)

Designed for curious minds ages 5-9, Summer STEM Explorers offers hands-on activities that bring STEM to life in exciting and engaging ways. Campers will dive into topics like paleontology, engineering, neuroscience and more—all while fostering a growth mindset and a love for learning. We will explore exciting STEM careers and science happening here in St. Louis. Camp provides the perfect environment for young explorers to spark their imaginations, build new skills and have tons of fun. Choose from week-long camp sessions on topics like Dinosaur Discoveries, Maker Mania, Scientists at Play and more.

Camp tuition is \$350 for a one-week session. Camp sessions run Monday through Friday, 9am until 3pm each day. One camp t-shirt is included.

Aftercare is available for an additional weekly fee of \$75 from 3:00-5:30pm. **Members at the Family & Friends level or above receive a 20% discount! Want to upgrade and take advantage of this deal? Call 314.289.4414 to upgrade your membership.**

Learn more and register your little scientists at slsc.org/camps.



SUMMER STEM EXPLORERS

Limited space remaining!



MONDAY, MAY 26

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PAPER AIRPLANE DAY:



The Science of Flight

Have you ever wondered why some paper airplanes soar gracefully while others fail? On National Paper Airplane Day, we celebrate the simplicity of these creations while uncovering the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) principles that make them fly. At the Saint Louis Science Center, we have been taking flight — both literally and figuratively — by exploring and teaching the science of aerodynamics.

Last summer, the Science Center, supported by incredible partners like Boeing, delved into the world of flight and aerodynamics, sharing about the four forces of flight — thrust, lift, drag and gravity — and delivering hands-on lessons to share these concepts with children across the St. Louis community. From crafting intricate paper airplanes and gliders to creating songs and dances about flight, the Science Center's Community Science department found creative ways to make STEM education engaging and approachable for learners of all ages.

One of the most exciting highlights was the Community STEM Showcase on MLK weekend. During the event's Mission Paper Airplanes activity, guests became aeronautical engineers - designing and launching their planes to complete specific missions. Each participant experimented with different wing shapes, folds and throwing techniques to reduce drag and increase lift, all while discovering how thrust (their throw) and gravity worked together to determine their airplane's flight path.

National Paper Airplane Day is a perfect reminder that STEM is everywhere, even in something as simple as a piece of paper. **So, grab some paper, start folding and see how far your imagination can soar!**

The lessons taught were rooted in the fundamental principles of aerodynamics:

Thrust is the forward force generated by a throw. A strong throw can produce more thrust, but the plane's design must be carefully aligned to complement this force.

Lift occurs when air moves around the plane's wings. By curving the wings slightly, higher air pressure below the wings and lower pressure above them create the lift needed for flight.

Drag is the resistance caused by air. By refining designs to reduce drag, participants found ways to achieve longer, smoother flights.

Gravity is the downward force pulling the plane to the ground. Lightweight materials and designs can help counteract gravity and extend flight time.

As the Science Center gears up for this year's STEMtastic Summer Camps, we're excited to develop even more interactive projects to inspire curiosity and creativity in audiences of all ages.

Want to try it at home?

Grab a sheet of paper and experiment with different designs. Start with a classic dart airplane for long-distance flights, then try making a wide-winged glider for a slower, more graceful descent. Which one flies farther? Which stays in the air the longest? With each attempt, you'll gain a better understanding of how the four forces of flight interact. **Share your paper airplanes with us on Facebook or Instagram!**



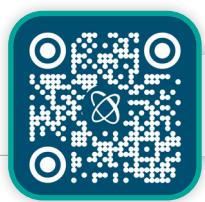
LAUNCHED FALL 2024

Experience Guides

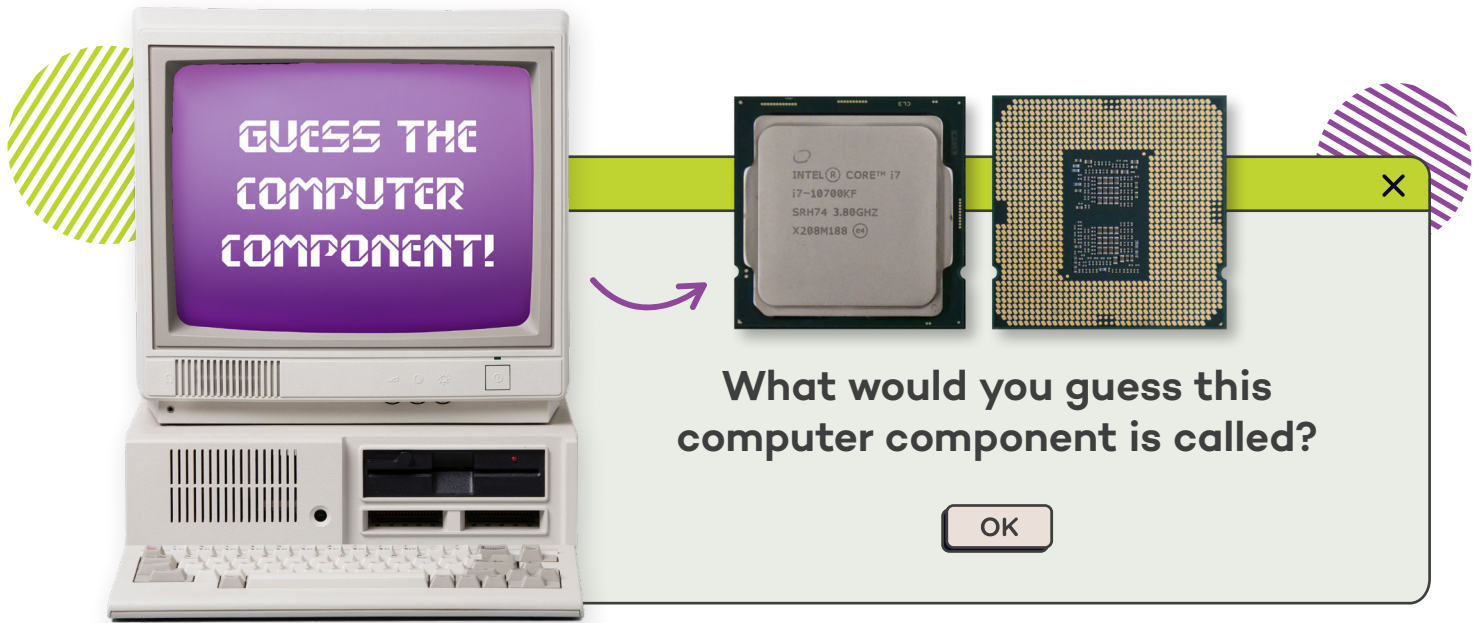
If you have been to the Science Center on a Thursday or Friday morning, you have likely seen the hundreds of school-aged children visiting with their schools. Some schools purchase tickets to a show or a private education program led by Science Center Education team members. But many schools choose a fully self-guided experience.

To provide the best experiences possible, the Education team launched free, downloadable Experience Guides for teachers and chaperones to use with their students. These guides align with state standards and are available for grades K-8. Teachers can use these guides to help plan their trip in advance and to help chaperones navigate the galleries with groups of students.

“We are thrilled to offer this to schools as a way to help them have the best experience possible,” says Maddie Earnest, associate director of galleries. “Our team spent months reviewing all the gallery experiences available and figured out how they best corresponded to NGSS Science Standards for various grade levels. We hope that teachers and chaperones find this a useful tool, and we look forward to hearing feedback so we can continue to improve upon these guides.”



To access our Experience Guides or to learn more visit slsc.org/experience-guides.



If you guessed the CPU, you are correct!

The CPU (Central Processing Unit) is like the brain of your computer. It does all the thinking and makes your computer run, from simple tasks like opening a web browser to more complex ones like playing video games or editing videos. You can find CPUs in many devices like phones, smartwatches, gaming consoles, cars, TVs, smart home gadgets and even home appliances. Without the CPU, your computer or device wouldn't know what to do!

CPUs come in many different types, depending on what you need. Whether you're building a gaming computer, buying a budget laptop, or picking a serious workstation, there's a CPU that's just right for you.

In mobile devices like phones and tablets, CPUs are designed to be energy efficient. They provide good performance while saving battery, handling everything from apps to streaming and gaming on the go.

CPUs have changed a lot since the 1970s. The first one, the Intel 4004, was released in 1971. It had just one core and could process 92,000 instructions per second, running at only 740 kHz. Today's CPUs can process billions of instructions per second and often run at speeds over 5 GHz!

In the 2000s, CPUs started using multiple cores, meaning they could handle more than one task at a time. This made computers much better at multitasking and handling heavy programs.

Advances in technology have also helped. Early CPUs had large transistors, but now they use tiny ones, allowing billions of transistors to fit on a single chip. This makes them faster and more energy efficient.

Today, many CPUs also include extra features like AI technology, built-in graphics, and designs that help save energy. As technology improves, we may see new breakthroughs like quantum computers and 3D-stacked chips that could change what CPUs can do in the future.

Information

For everyday tasks:

For tasks like browsing the web, watching videos and writing documents, a CPU with **2-4 cores** is sufficient. It handles simple tasks efficiently and helps save battery on laptops.

For gaming:

You'll want a faster CPU with **6-8 cores** to ensure smooth gameplay, especially with today's demanding games. Features like **overclocking** (the process of enhancing performance by increasing a processor's clock speed beyond its factory-set specifications) or pairing the CPU with a good graphics card can further boost performance.

For creating:

If you're editing videos, creating 3D models or designing graphics, a CPU with **12 or more cores** is necessary. This allows for faster processing when rendering large projects or using heavy software.

For businesses or specialized tasks:

For tasks like data analysis, you need a powerful CPU with **16+ cores** and extra memory support. These are best for handling complex and demanding tasks.



Take to the skies – AND BEYOND!

Since 2013, Science Center guests and their co-pilots have been able to hop in the simulated cockpit of an F-15 fighter jet and maneuver their way through battle. These simulators have spun thousands of our guests upside down and all around, providing more than a decade of laughter and memories.

In early 2025, we said goodbye to the beloved I-360 Interactive Flight Simulators and welcomed brand-new flight simulators featuring high resolution graphics, advanced controls and a variety of planes to choose from! This simulator empowers guests to learn how to fly and operate the aircraft, but they will need to be careful; those 360-degree spins are still possible as they track down their targets.

In addition, the Virtual Reality Transporter will be welcoming back a remodeled fan favorite ride: Cosmo Coaster! Guests should be sure to look all around them on this high-speed space roller coaster that will explore various planets, a simulated dust storm on Mars and even diamond rain on Neptune!

Be sure to stop by and try your hand at these thrilling new adventures and stay tuned as the Experience Flight gallery evolves to highlight the rich aviation history St. Louis has to offer.

Members fly at a discount!

To learn more, [visit slsc.org/sims](https://www.slscc.org/sims).



Scout it Out

The Saint Louis Science Center offers scout programming available to Girl Scouts and Scouting America (formerly known as Boy Scouts of America) scouts.

Scouting America:

The Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge is offered three times a year. Participants in this three-hour program leave having met the requirements for this badge, as well as having an increased awareness that every person can help to make sure that natural resources are used well. Check [slsc.org](https://www.slscc.org) for available dates.

Girl Scouts:

Girl Scout badges are offered once a month for Brownies and Junior scouts. These two-hour programs are led by a gallery team member and allow the scouts to meet all the requirements of the badge.

Brownies:

Bugs

Insects are everywhere, and they do much more than “bug” us. No matter the time of year, scouts in this workshop have the opportunity to observe live insects. Weather permitting, from April–October, Brownie scouts will get hands-on as they discover an array of insects who call our GROW Gallery orchard home.

Home Scientist

Chemistry is everywhere! Scouts will explore science with ingredients they can find at home. Get hands-on with electricity, density, chemical reactions and even non-Newtonian fluids.

Juniors:

Flowers

Flowers aren’t just pretty; they play an important role in our ecosystems and in providing food and medicine for humans. In this badge workshop, Junior Scouts discover the science behind flowers. Using our GROW and Life Science Lab Galleries, explore medicinal plants and create a bouquet to take home.

Learn more about our scouting program offerings at [slsc.org/programs/scouting-programs/](https://www.slscc.org/programs/scouting-programs/).

Meet the Team

Dave Gioia

OMNIMAX® MANAGER AND CHIEF PROJECTIONIST

If you've ever seen a documentary or a feature film in our OMNIMAX® Theater, it's likely you've seen Dave around the Science Center. Have you ever wondered how the movie magic in the OMNIMAX happens? If you have, Dave is the guy to talk to, and he'd be happy to spill the beans!

Q: Tell us about yourself – anything you'd like to share.

I'm fascinated by the extraordinary, ordinary world.

Q: How did you come to work here? Tell us about the evolution of your career with the Science Center.

The summers after seventh and eighth grades, I volunteered at the Planetarium. I was a big *Star Trek* fan, and I had a book on solar fusion I got at the Planetarium gift shop. I think I was so happy to finally understand how the sun worked that I volunteered at the Planetarium. That and *Star Trek* had drawn me in...

During my time volunteering, I got to see a test show in the OMNIMAX while it was being built. They hadn't even finished all the drywall. I still remember mind-blowing scenes from that film, *To The Limit*, which was the film the theater opened with in 1991.

In 1996, I was working as a live sound engineer in a local club where the door guy was a part-time projectionist at the OMNIMAX, and he told me about an opening. My audio and musician experience, as well as some time studying film in college, got me in the door for an interview!

From 1996 to 2001 (with a few hiatuses) I was a part-time OMNIMAX projectionist and Planetarium Operator. From 2001 to 2005, I worked only in the OMNIMAX as a projectionist, and in 2005 I became a full-time projectionist. Then, in 2011, I became Manager & Chief Projectionist.

I am grateful to have been sent by the Science Center to train at IMAX® headquarters in Toronto on two occasions – once for projectionist certification in 2006 and then in 2010 for IMAX technician training and certification.



In 2019, the theater entered the next generation of digital cinema technology, and I'm honored to have been able to help guide and oversee that renovation.

Q: Tell us about what you do here, whether on a daily basis or just on occasion.

My team of wonderful people and I run the OMNIMAX Theater. I am responsible for anything theater related, from guest experience to technology and maintenance.

On any given day, I may spend time hosting our guests, making film schedules, programming theater lights and media, troubleshooting and repairing various pieces of equipment and more. The fact that there are so many different things I get to do is one of the things I love most. Who wouldn't want to run an amazing cinema like ours? I'm very lucky.

Q: What is your favorite part of what you do?

I always enjoy figuring out puzzling problems and fixing them, technical or otherwise. But lately it's the basics – providing an excellent cinema experience and then getting to watch people enjoy it. It's very satisfying, especially if we've managed to make it special for some of our more vulnerable guests. I also enjoy talking to guests about the amazing technology in use in the theater – we are here to spark an interest in science and provide enriching experiences for our guests.

NOW SHOWING AT THE

OMNIMAX® Theater



Making Science Accessible: Your Science Center's Commitment to an Inclusive Guest Experience

We're excited to share updates about our ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive environment where everyone can experience the wonder of science. Our Sensory Team continues to expand initiatives that make the Science Center a welcoming space for guests of all abilities.

We're proud to announce that our popular Sensory Friendly Science Time continues! **Every Sunday from 11am-1pm**, we offer a specially designed environment that accommodates various sensory needs, allowing families to explore and learn together in a comfortable setting.

To better serve our guests with sensory sensitivities, we've expanded our inventory of KultureCity™ sensory bags. These valuable resources can be checked out upon arrival and include headphones, fidgets and other items designed to help those with sensory needs navigate the Science Center. This enhancement reflects our commitment to ensuring everyone can fully engage with our exhibits and programs.

We're also strengthening our community connections by working with community partners to expand the reach of Sensory Friendly Science Time. These collaborations help us better understand and serve diverse needs while making our programs more accessible to a broader audience.

Looking ahead, our dedicated Sensory Team is actively developing new ways to integrate accessibility throughout the Science Center. We believe that science education should be accessible to everyone, and we're committed to continuing this important work. We welcome your feedback and suggestions as we strive to make the Science Center an even more inclusive space for all our guests.

Thank you for being part of our community,
Your Science Center Sensory Team

SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER

Esports



The Saint Louis Science Center Esports team is excited to announce **Second Saturdays!** The Science Center now hosts Super Smash Bros. Ultimate competitions that are open to the public. The free events have been expanded to allow up to **64 entrants per competition**, running from **11am to 5pm**.

“Due to the demand we’ve seen for entry into these competitions, our team was excited to find a way to offer our monthly events to more members of the community. We are thrilled to be able to continue this popular offering and happy we were able to expand the entrant pool to 64 competitors,” says Doug Stanze, director of guest services. The new Saturday offerings will also include opportunities for players to compete in Mario Kart, Rivals of Aether II, and MultiVersus throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE!

And save the date for our upcoming Arcadian competition on **June 21**, which will host some of the top competitors from the region. The event will be streamed on our Twitch channel ([@stlsciencecenter](https://twitter.com/stlsciencecenter)). Visit slsc.org/esports for more information.



SAVE THE DATE!

SciFest: The Great Outdoors Expo

SATURDAY, MAY 10 | 9:30AM-4:30PM

Discover a deeper appreciation for the great outdoors at our all-day, free event! Participate in activities and engage with STEM experts and organizations related to outside life, safety, activity, work and play, weather, nature and more.

See the latest news about SciFest at slsc.org/scifest.



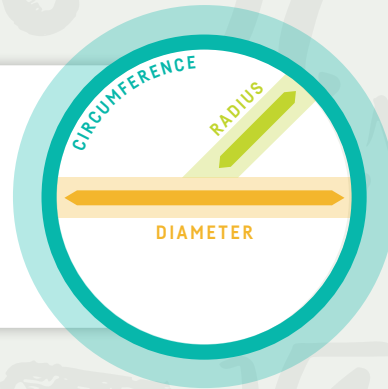
What is Pi, exactly?

Pi is a number that is infinitely long, but that doesn't mean that it's big. Pi is just a little over 3, usually approximated at 3.14. But, because it is an irrational number, 3.14 is just the beginning. You can't write all of pi without rounding it off. Its digits continue without stopping or even repeating patterns 3.1415926539 (and on and on it goes).



Why is Pi important?

Pi shows up naturally in math, because it is the ratio between the **circumference** (distance around) and the **diameter** (distance across) of a circle. Which circle, you may ask? All of them! Aside from circles, pi comes up in math relating to most common curved shapes, including ellipses (ovals), cones, cylinders and waves.



Come celebrate Pi Day at the Science Center!

We celebrate Pi Day every year on **March 14** with pi-themed activities for everyone! St. Louis is one of the best places to celebrate Pi Day because of our 314 area code.



March 22 & 23, 2025

EV Experience

Returning March 22 and 23, our EV Experience – made possible by the generous support of **BMW** and **Ameren** – looks to be even more electric than before! From everyday commuter vehicles and work trucks to luxury rides and 500+ horsepower sports cars, you and your family will have the chance to get behind the wheel of some seriously high-tech machines.

Excited to learn more about the benefits to EVs? Several models will be on exhibition in Boeing Hall alongside educational opportunities and local experts. This mini-EV car show has a little something for everyone!

Stay tuned to our website and social media for updates on how to register for your chance to drive some of today's most impressive vehicles.



Special thanks to **Ameren** and **BMW** for their generous support for the EV Experience.

JAMES S. MCDONNELL Planetarium



Astronomy Dates

MARCH 13-14 | Total Lunar Eclipse

Set an alarm to wake up in the early morning hours of March 14 to witness a “blood moon.” Totality of the lunar eclipse in St. Louis will begin at 1:26am and last over an hour until 2:31am. Maximum eclipse will be at 1:58am. For more information on observing prospects, visit slsc.org/types/night-sky-updates.

APRIL 21-22 | Lyrid Meteor Shower Peak

The annual Lyrid Meteor Shower will peak in the early morning hours of April 22. While typically only producing an average of 10-15 meteors per hour, the Lyrids are capable of uncommon surges that can bring rates of up to 100 per hour!

MAY 31 | Venus Shines as “Morning Star”

Venus will reach its greatest separation from the Sun in its 2025 morning apparition. Look for the planet shining extremely brightly in the east before sunrise. When visible before sunrise, Venus is often described as the “morning star” even though it is technically a planet.

See a Star Show!



THE CONSTELLATIONS



Public Telescope Viewing

Free public telescope viewing has been offered on the grounds of the McDonnell Planetarium for more than 60 years! This program provides our community with the opportunity to look through a variety of telescopes with the aid of amateur astronomers from our Planetarium team and local astronomy clubs.

Star Parties

Nighttime public telescope viewing is offered monthly through public Star Parties. Beginning at dusk on the first Friday of each month, a variety of telescopes are available on the grounds of the McDonnell Planetarium, and operators will be on hand to answer questions and guide observing. Star Parties also include a free Monthly Sky Lecture hosted inside the McDonnell Planetarium's Orthwein Star Bay Theater. This program features what celestial objects will be visible in the current month's sky, including constellations, planets, and any other special astronomical events such as meteor showers. If observing conditions are poor, the Monthly Sky Lecture will still be offered in lieu of telescopes.

Upcoming dates and times include:

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 | 5:30-8:30PM

Sunset: 5:59pm

Civil Twilight: 6:26pm

Moon Phase: 50%

Planetary Targets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter

Astronomy Events: Mercury near greatest elongation (18.2°)

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 | 6:30-9:30PM

Sunset: 7:26pm

Civil Twilight: 7:53pm

Moon Phase: 40%

Planetary Targets: Mars, Jupiter

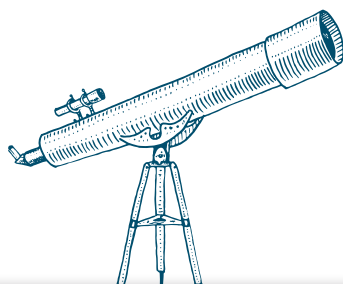
FRIDAY, MAY 2 | 6:30-9:30PM

Sunset: 7:53pm

Civil Twilight: 8:22pm

Moon Phase: 30%

Planetary Targets: Mars, Jupiter



For information about Public Telescope Viewing and Star Parties, visit slsc.org/telescopes.



Stargazing and Stretching

Join us for our ongoing Yoga Under the Stars sessions to relax and stretch out under the clearest night sky anywhere – the one in the James S. McDonnell Planetarium! Members receive discounted tickets to Yoga Under the Stars.

Upcoming sessions take place on **March 3, April 7** and **May 5**. These events sell out quickly, so don't wait – visit slsc.org/yoga to learn more and purchase tickets!



Coming Soon!

Do you know anyone who came to see a laser light show at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium in 1975? Maybe they'd like to join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of laser shows in St. Louis! The first laser shows in St. Louis took place in June of 1975.

Tickets for this summer's laser shows go on sale on May 1! To learn what shows we'll be offering this year and to purchase tickets, please visit slsc.org/lasers.



Community STEM Showcase Invites Everyone to See Themselves in Science

More than **4,400** guests joined us over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend for our annual Community STEM Showcase event, where scientists, engineers and STEM professionals from diverse backgrounds showcased their cutting-edge research, exciting inventions and career accomplishments. Young people were inspired to envision themselves as scientists with role models that look like them. And just as importantly, they saw the exciting jobs that scientists and engineers do every day—and that many businesses are struggling to fill.

Representatives from the Association of Black Scientists, Challenger Learning Center, BioSTL, Smart Kids, Inc. and more led hands-on activities and demonstrations to pique interest in STEM and show the variety of careers in their fields. Presentations and activities were also led by teens from the Science Center’s Youth Exploring Science (YES) Program.

Thank you to everyone who helped us make this year’s Community STEM Showcase a success!





STEM Signing Day Returns

The Saint Louis Science Center will serve as the venue for the Missouri Chamber's STEM Signing Day for the third straight year. This April 25, high school seniors from across Missouri will gather at the Science Center to be celebrated as they make commitments to study in STEM fields at 2- or 4-year colleges and technical schools.

Launched in 2019 by the Missouri Mathematics and Science Coalition of the Missouri Chamber Foundation, Missouri STEM Signing Day seeks to give students entering STEM fields the same level of awareness and excitement they might experience when signing to major sports teams. The event, sponsored by the Boeing Company and Missouri businesses, also hopes to bring awareness to STEM careers in the state, echoing elements of the Saint Louis Science Center's strategic plan.

While the celebration is for the students and their families, the public can engage with several partners and sponsors who will be on site that day.

For more information, please visit: mochamber.com/uncategorized/stem-signing-day/

[STL]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LEARNING [STL] FOR ALL

Welcomes Two New Organizations

In the fall of 2024, the Science Center welcomed two new organizations to the Science and Technology Learning (STL) for All membership program, the **Bayer YMCA** and **Mission: STL – Beyond School**. These two organizations join the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis in the STL for All program, which is designed to break down barriers to STEM learning by providing complimentary Science Center memberships to families served by participating community organizations.

The Bayer YMCA is more than just a gym; it's a place where individuals and families come together to improve their health, find support and connect with their community. Mission: STL – Beyond School is an AmeriCorps program that prepares students with the social, emotional and academic tools needed to be successful in high school and beyond.

With these new partners, the number of households served by the STL for All membership program has expanded to **more than 920**. We're excited to welcome these new families to explore and experience all their Science Center has to offer.

THANK YOU

DRURY
HOTELS



Special thanks to **Drury Hotels** and **Mastercard** for their generous support of the STL for All membership program and helping us inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science!

FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

THE LOEB PRIZE IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO TEACHERS IN ST. LOUIS WHO HAVE GONE BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY



A Legacy of Recognizing Special Teachers

Reflecting on the Impact of the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Prize for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics with Gayle Coleman

“Great teachers generate a love for learning that enables their students to accomplish amazing things,” says Carol Loeb – and the best of the best are recognized through the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Prize for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Loeb Prize being presented in partnership with the Science Center but before the award became the Loeb Prize known today, its first incarnation started as a way of honoring teachers in the Saint Louis Public School District. In 1990, the first person to be recognized by the Loeb family was Gayle Coleman, a longtime educator and a Saint Louis Science Center member.

Formally established as a partnership with the Science Center through the generosity of the Loeb family in 1995, the Loeb Prize annually celebrates St. Louis Metropolitan Area 6th–12th grade teachers who significantly enhance their students’ performance in science or mathematics. Teachers are nominated by principals, department chairs, and colleagues, and finalists are selected by a panel of volunteers and education professionals. Mr. Loeb, who passed away in 2004, was a former chairman of the board of the

May Department Stores Company, as well as a member of the Science Center’s Board of Trustees and chair of its Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Loeb has served on the Science Center’s Board of Trustees for over nineteen years.



Coleman’s students participate in oceanographer Bob Ballard’s Jason Project, an educational program allowing students to use computers to remotely operate equipment and communicate with Dr. Ballard.

During her multifaceted career, Coleman spent many years teaching math, science, and other courses in high school and college classrooms, as well as working with teachers to share innovative tips and techniques to help them become better math educators.

In the 1980s, Coleman cultivated a partnership with oceanographer Bob Ballard, which led to Coleman taking students on trips to participate in the Jason Project, Dr. Ballard's signature educational program at the time, and giving them opportunities to work with his computers and equipment.

In her time with the Saint Louis Public School District, Coleman worked with organizations like the Ford Foundation on ways to give teachers more autonomy to be innovative in the classroom. As a mathematics supervisor and later executive director for the district, she was responsible for implementing the program objectives of a grant from the National Science Foundation's Urban Systemic Initiative to garner community involvement and support for math and science programs.

Looking back, Coleman says it's hard to pick out the greatest joys from her career because teaching is "something that you love to do." However, the decade-long Saint Louis Public School District Math Contest she spearheaded stands out. Coleman forged partnerships with sponsors to fund the competition; provide scholarships, savings bonds, and computers for participants; and develop education programs for students.

To Coleman, the original award was important – just as the Loeb Prize remains today – because it gave a sense of community recognition for those teaching math and science and honored the important impact teachers make. When health conditions required her to stop teaching, Coleman says thinking back on receiving the award gave her comfort.

At the award ceremony in 1990, Coleman used the moment to recognize her fellow teachers. "I told them I was proud to be one of them," Coleman says. "Being a teacher is one of the best things you can do in life." Much like the Loeb's original vision for the award, what speaks to Coleman is the role teachers have in helping mold, shape and prepare students to not just become successful, but also become the future.

Asked if she could say anything to Carol and her husband, Coleman says, "I would like to say the same thing I said when I won the award: Thank you for recognizing teachers and the work being done. Thank you for being willing to help and saying to St. Louis that we need to help teachers because education is a foundation for all of us, for a better world, a better society."

Today, Coleman and her husband, Roosevelt – himself a gifted teacher – enjoy visiting the Science Center with their many nieces and nephews whenever they can. She is glad that the Loeb's have created a legacy of recognizing special teachers

who are preparing tomorrow's leaders, at a place with a mission to inspire curiosity in everyone. Now more than ever, she thinks, it is critical to highlight the importance of teaching and its impact on the future.

"Your children are ours, too, and we want the best for them," Coleman says. "If we want people to be free and critical thinkers, we need to make every resource available to our kids. It's going to take the courage of individuals like the Loeb's and organizations like the Science Center to do this."

The Science Center looks forward to celebrating more innovative educators at the 30th anniversary of the Loeb Prize this spring.

THE CAROL B. AND JEROME T.

LOEB PRIZE

FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS



Carol Loeb

If you are inspired to support STEM experiences for the next generation of innovators, consider supporting the work of the Science Center with a gift to the Curiosity Fund at slsc.org/donate.



Saint Louis Science Center EINSTEIN SOCIETY



Sci-FEAST Preview Kicks Off a New Era for the Einstein Society

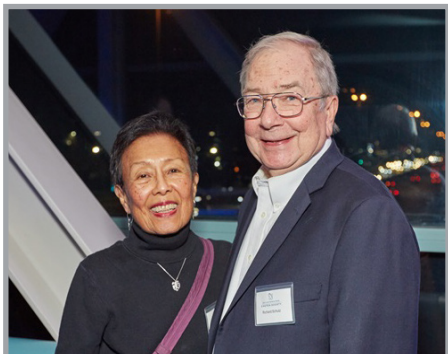
It was a night to savor at the Science Center’s Einstein Society Reception in November 2024. The event offered an early taste of Sci-FEAST—just one of the Science Center’s public STEM programs made possible with the essential support and participation of Einstein Society members and corporate partners.

As guests enjoyed special bites and a signature Einstein cocktail on the Skybridge, they also explored the science of brewing with Steampunk Brew Works and the science behind botanical distillates with Still 630. The Science Center’s catering service partner SSA Group and Ruth Watt, manager of STEM events at the Science Center, capped off the festivities by making ice cream on site using liquid nitrogen in a delicious display of molecular gastronomy.

Science Center leaders were grateful and excited to celebrate the impact of giving with dedicated partners. It was the first of what will be an annual series of special Einstein Society events designed to bring supporters closer to the Science Center’s mission to inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science.

To learn more about the Einstein Society, visit slsc.org/einstein-society.



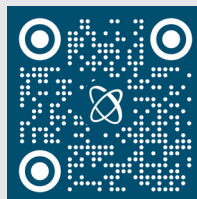


A New Sign of Gratitude

Putting science at the center of a fast-changing world takes partners. A new display, located on the Second Floor of our Oakland Building near the OMNIMAX® Theater, celebrates the individuals and organizations taking the lead in amplifying the Saint Louis Science Center's mission.

"This display includes members of our Einstein Society, top donors to our Curiosity Fund, corporate and foundation partners, museum and regional growth affiliates, and the taxpayers who support us through the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District," says Bobby Sanderson, chief institutional advancement officer at the Science Center. "We're thrilled to honor their impact with deep gratitude and appreciation."

The display will be updated annually to recognize gifts and collaboration from the previous calendar year.



Learn more about how you can connect deeper with the Science Center's work at slsc.org/support.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Peter & Julie Sharamitaro

As Saint Louis Science Center members since 1988 and now proud members of the Einstein Society, Peter and Julie Sharamitaro feel a longstanding connection to the organization.

This relationship spans from early years when Julie would bring their 3-year-old son to what was then the Academy of Science in Oak Knoll Park (holding him up so he could push the exhibit and display buttons) to more recent Science Center visits, including an afternoon last summer with their four teenage grandchildren and a celebration of Julie's sister's 60th birthday at *First Friday: Barbie*.

Looking back, Julie says, "The Science Center was my savior while watching grandchildren!" She recalls them spending time building arches—starting in the early age Discovery Room before graduating to the larger arch blocks in the Structures gallery—as well as powering the Energizer® Ball Machine, playing Mindball, and watching films like *Superpower Dogs* inside the OMNIMAX® Theater. "We'd spend hours seeking out our favorite exhibits. No pressure, all fun."

The Sharamitaros believe all children have a natural curiosity, and they fostered their two children's whenever they could. "The Science Center is a great place to do that," they say, "and the staff achieves just the right mix of letting children explore on their own while being available to offer help or answer questions. We think people of all ages like figuring things out for themselves."

Today, the Sharamitaros' favorite way to enjoy the Science Center is as a couple. "We've found the donor events—especially the recent Einstein Society Reception held on the Skybridge—to be enticing and unique." Beyond the membership perks of free parking and film and exhibition previews, the couple feels Einstein Society membership aligns with many of their personal values, including pride in St. Louis and hope for the future, and it offers a chance to engage in meaningful philanthropy with a feeling of partnership among other donors.

"We feel both an obligation and a real desire to give back to our community," they explain. "Even though we support several St. Louis institutions, our level of Science Center support reflects how much the organization has enhanced our lives and those of our children and grandchildren."

"Best of all, we like knowing that people of all ages who may lack critical educational resources are served admirably well by the Science Center."





Pictured: The Sharamitaro family enjoying Science Center galleries and events together.

The Sharamitaros understand the importance of supporting access to STEM learning and are happy to help bolster science education. “Here in St. Louis,” Peter says, “we believe the Science Center’s efforts will help level the playing field by offering programs for students who may not have the rich educational opportunities of some of their peers. Knowledge and technical ability are becoming ever more important in today’s world.”

“We think there may be no greater place for egalitarianism than in education, and we feel the Science Center’s free admission and many outreach programs foster exactly that,” Julie adds. “We feel lucky to live in a city where rich cultural and educational institutions are kept accessible to all, and we believe the Science Center’s use of our philanthropic dollars will pay off in so many ways.”

In the future, Peter and Julie hope to see a continued focus on STEM topics and outreach, collaboration with other institutions, and spotlighting Collections items in innovative ways. “Mostly, though, we hope the Science Center never loses its ‘wonder’ and ‘curiosity’ vibes. Learning should be as fun as it is rewarding.”

Although Julie can’t say for certain if their son’s button pushing four decades ago led him to become the civil engineer he is today, she encourages others to value the education and entertainment the Science Center provides. “Who knows,” she says, “if the next Albert Einstein or Stephen Hawking is that preschooler huddled next to their ‘bus buddy’ on a field trip at the Science Center.”

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