



Joanne Young
Audio Visual Imagineering
6565 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 2
Orlando, Florida 32822 USA
+1 (407) 859-8166
joanne@av-imagineering.com



Karrie Berglund



Ruth Coalson



Marc Moutin



Mark SubbaRao



Dan Tell



Mark Watson

Dear Fellow Planetarians

The year 2015 is behind us and I am pleased to report on the work accomplished to date by the Vision 2020 Initiative Team chaired by Jon Elvert and the IPS Council.

For all of you who have worked on committees or projects within a global, volunteer organization, you know it takes considerable time to collaborate from different time zones, languages, and cultures as we draw on the best from one another. To add to that mix, each organization has mandated procedures and protocols to follow. IPS is no different. Considering this, I am very proud to announce that the IPS Council and the Vision 2020 Initiative team have been moving together at a rapid and steady pace.

In addition to Jon, members of the committee are Karrie Berglund, Ruth Coalson, Marc Moutin, Mark SubbaRao, Dan Tell, and Mark Watson.

I reported to you earlier that IPS Council and Vision 2020 demonstrated our commitment to move IPS forward by contracting a professional facilitator for our Vision 2020/IPS Council meeting in Montreal last August. Our facilitator and the Vision 2020 team were able to organize us in such a way that each one of the officers and affiliate reps contributed fully in a creative way, exhausting our hearts and minds for what we, representing you, desire for IPS.

After the meeting, Vision 2020 had the task of collecting and analyzing each contribution in developing their recommendations.

As a result, Vision 2020 developed draft vision-mission statements and short-term recommendations based on SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, white papers produced by each V2020 member, and Council outcomes in Montreal.

This document was distributed to the IPS Council for further feedback until the final document was established and emailed as a Call for Vote. I will summarize that document later. But first, I want to bring two other important matters to your attention.

It has become quite evident that our society has not been encouraging involvement of young planetarium professionals. The Vision 2020 team made the following statement to the IPS Council:

It's not exactly a secret that the planetarium industry is aging. We need to encourage younger members to actively participate in IPS' future and one way to approach this would be to add "attracting younger members" as a goal of the Vision2020 charge. The V2020 team is in the process

of selecting one person to join the team as representative of that goal. This new team member could then draw on advice from a small team from his/her peers in the community. This would be in line with how we are handling the other V2020 goals.

I am happy to report this new goal is on its way to being fulfilled when Mark Watson, British Association of Planetaria (BAP) Representative, accepted this position as part of the Vision 2020 team. I met Mark for the first time in Montreal and found him eager to participate and contribute. I have great faith in him and Vision 2020 as we develop a format for young professionals to exercise great influence in developing the future of IPS.

Another well-founded statement from the V2020 team:

The V2020 team adamantly believes the IPS needs to evolve to meet the challenges that both threaten and beckon the future. The IPS needs to focus on welcoming the next generation and embrace youthful participation; it must be inclusive of all domes and content; the IPS must compete to survive and empower partnerships, and the IPS needs to lead and not be led by vendors. It also needs to provide a strong set of recommendations, so it is our hope that Council/Officers sincerely support our efforts.

In summary, the Vision 2020 Initiative Team recommends that IPS change its organizational structure and presented IPS Council with a plan to accomplish this formidable task. This plan includes a recommendation that IPS hire a consultant to do the majority of the work required.

The consultant would analyze organizational models similar to IPS (ASTC, ASP, IMERSA, ECSITE, etc.) in developing potential IPS models. These models will help IPS Council think through its goals, objectives, and mission statement; evaluate its core principles; use as a reference source to seek funding; and possibly discover new opportunities and directions. The models will incorporate the fundamentals of IPS, its products and services, a financial plan, marketing strategy, and recommendations for what the future of IPS might look like.

Additionally, Vision 2020 Team recommended a draft for the new IPS website design.

The deadline for this next level, the first draft of the recommended organizational models and website, is June 18, 2016 at the IPS Council Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The IPS Council is committed to delivering on our promise to you through the Vision 2020 Initiative.

I also want to be sure to alert you to the fact that our
(Continues on page 21)

(Mentoring, continued from page 8)

"The national traveling exhibit Mission to Mars was ultimately seen by several million visitors in North America and Asia and garnered several design awards. I could not have designed and developed that 6,000 square foot space exhibit without the combination of planetary astronomy training, exhibit design, program presentation, and many other skills that Dale helped me develop, and, just as important, the self-confidence he instilled in me.

"My progression of projects at Lowell Observatory, NASA, and now at Kitt Peak National Observatory were enabled by the close mentoring, constructive criticism, interdisciplinary approaches, and door opening that Dale Smith provided. I can never adequately thank or repay him, or the other faculty in the Physics & Astronomy Department, for all the special attention and opportunities.

"Although my positions have been different from Dale's faculty position, I try very hard to pay forward to students and young staff whenever I can. I would not have had the incredible wealth of experiences in my career path without the kind of mentoring provided by Dale Smith and I would like to think I have opened some doors and positively impacted the paths of young people.

"I am keenly aware that many universities do not take into account for pay or promotion Dale's mentoring activities that so benefited me. In this sense, Dale would have been better served focusing on paper publication and professional activities, rather than mentoring me and students who came along after me.

"His work with me was, in this narrow bureaucratic view, a needless overload. I know that it stemmed from a generous heart and a willingness to help future generations."

Adam Leis speaks next

Adam Leis, one of Dale's most recent mentees, graduated from BGSU with a bachelor in Fine Arts, focusing on digital art, and a minor in Astronomy. He's been actively involved with the Great Lakes Planetarium Association developing their website and assisting in

many other ways. He recently presented a paper at the 2015 GLPA Conference titled "Scientific Humility."

Dale introduced Adam to the GLPA community as a freshman at Bowling Green and encouraged him to participate. "I continued attending the conferences, networking, and enjoying the people," states Adam. "I felt a part of the community. Dale encouraged me to present papers, which I did each year."

"I am thankful to have recognized early on that Dale was investing a lot in me and 2 other students. Most people invest in themselves only, but not Dale. I value and appreciate our discussions and gleaned a lot of wisdom from him.

"Dale taught me something that I will use all my life. In one discussion I made a statement to Dale about something I heard. He was quiet and very thoughtful for a time. He replied, 'Do you believe it because you have investigated it, or do you believe because you want to believe it?' Before I make statements, that question comes to mind."

Adam is a young man with a long list of accomplishments ahead of him. I am guessing from Dale's patterns, he will continue pouring into Adam's life as Adam continues giving back to the planetarium community and paying forward what he has learned.

Dale, Bill, Adam, and others like them are worthy of our lives. Invest yourself in another. The rewards simply multiply. ☆

(President, continued from page 6)

V2020 team will be presenting a panel session at IPS2016 regarding the collected membership feedback, the need for professional development, and recommended next steps. This should prove to be very exciting!

I am honored to be a part of this collaboration with our Vision 2020 team and our IPS Council. I encourage you to participate in this adventure by running for office, or working closely with your Affiliate Representative.

Thank you for your trust in us. We look forward to seeing you in Warsaw!

We're in this together! ☆

(Revolve, continued from page 13)

ing venues for musical and theatrical performances.

The riverside boulevards are teeming with life and the city has many inviting art galleries, theatres, and cinemas. Warsaw lies at the heart of Europe. Berlin, Prague, and Budapest are just hours away by train, and all of Europe's capitals and most beautiful cities are well-connected by a network of inexpensive and convenient air connections.

We have Copernicus!

China has its ancient astronomy, Egypt the Library of Alexandria. What do we have? Copernicus! We would like to give you a closer look at our patron, the outstanding astronomer who "halted the sun and set the Earth moving," by taking you on an excursion to the city of Toruń, where he was born.

We likewise want to show you other corners of our beautiful country. You may opt to go to the northern city of Gdańsk, the original home of the "Solidarity" movement, a mass outpouring that was crucial in bringing down communism in Central and Eastern Europe.

And no list of attractions would be complete without a visit to the old royal city of Cracow, which users of the website Travel&Leisure (www.travelandleisure.com) voted one of the 10 most interesting places in the world to visit!

But irrespective of whether you decide to visit the Copernicus museum in his hometown, enjoy a coffee amidst the old Hanseatic streets of Gdańsk, visit the 14th century Wawel Castle in Cracow, or admire the amazing sights of the nearby, truly unique salt mine at Wieliczka, there is one thing we do know for certain.

Poland will definitely captivate you. You will find the country full of diversity, amazing architecture, enchanting culture, history and art, and find the Poles full of passion, enthusiasm and courage. Come see for yourself why Poland is famous for its hospitality!

Main Market Square in Cracow

This year's IPS conference will be a moment of special significance for us. Not only does it include such a wide range of attractions and provide such a conducive space for fruitful meetings and encounters, but it also comes precisely on the fifth anniversary of when the Heavens of Copernicus planetarium first opened. There could be no better way to spend such a birthday than surrounded by excellent friends from around the world! We plan for IPS 2016 to be a joyous event for the whole community of planetarians. We are really looking forward to seeing you in Warsaw!

Detailed information and news about the conference are available on the website: www.ips2016.org. ☆

PARTYcles

