

2016 Galaxy Forum Presenter Bios

“Kepler: A Search for Habitable Planets”

Penny Warren worked on the Kepler mission as a Principle Engineer for Ball Aerospace & Technologies, Corp., the Colorado aerospace company that built the Kepler instrument and spacecraft for NASA. She is currently the Area Manager for Ball’s Detector Engineering group, the people who designed, built, and tested the focal plane array in the Kepler photometer. Penny also works as a technical contributor for Ball’s electro-optical instruments. Penny received a B.S. degree from Kansas State University in physics in 1987, a M.S. from Purdue University in physics in 1990, and a Ph.D. from Purdue in the field of experimental high energy nuclear physics in 1996. She joined Ball in 2002 after working as a Research Scientist for the Optical Sciences Branch of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. and, prior to that, as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Purdue. A Kansan from Winfield, she now lives in Boulder, CO with her husband and daughter.

“ Planetary Voyages 2016: NASA at Mars, Jupiter, and Pluto”

Caleb Gimar is currently a Space Science Educator at the Cosmosphere. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Physics at WSU, and will be attending KU for graduate study. He has participated in two summer research internships at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

"Out of Darkness--into the Light"

After a year of darkness the Lake Afton Public Observatory is reopening. Closed since last summer, learn about the efforts to reopen the 35-year landmark, its upcoming grand reopening, new dynamics, educational opportunities and future plans. Presentation by **Fred Gassert**, Chairman, Lake Afton Observatory and member of the Kansas Astronomical Observers Astronomy Club, which has been a driving force in this new chapter at Lake Afton.

“Space Academy for Educators”

Jeanette Bosch was raised in northwest Kansas in a farming community and graduated from Jennings High School and then Kansas State University, where she earned a BS in Physical Education and a MS in Physical Education/Biomechanics. During the ensuing years, she taught PE and science, and earned educational endorsements in general science, chemistry and math. Along with pursuing educational opportunities, she added a husband and three daughters to the family. While raising a busy family, she was active in Girl Scouts, FCCLA, and substitute teaching. Since 2009, Jeanette has served as the middle school math and science teacher at Christ the King Catholic School in Wichita, Kansas.