

Biographies of Galaxy Forum 2021 Speakers

“The Webb Telescope: An Observatory beyond the Moon”

In April of 2016, Dr. Scott Acton took a 1-year leave of absence from his work at Ball Aerospace with the James Webb Space Telescope and bicycled roughly 10,000 miles across the USA and 10 other countries, to promote the telescope, giving over 75 lectures. This is his first presentation in Kansas.

Acton began his science career with a series of internships at the Lockheed Palo Alto Research Labs (LPARL), where he would eventually sign on as a full-time employee. At LPARL, Scott developed an “Adaptive Optics” system for use in solar astronomy. This work was the first unclassified demonstration of real-time atmospheric correction.

Acton earned a PhD in Physics from Texas Tech University in 1989. He later spent a year as a post doc at the Keipenheuer-Institut für Sonnenphysik in Freiburg, Germany. Following the post doc, Acton became the Adaptive Optics Engineer at the W. M. Keck Observatories in Hawaii, building and commissioning AO systems for both of the Keck Telescopes. Scott has worked on JWST since 1998, joining Ball Aerospace in 2001. He is currently the Wavefront Sensing and Control Scientist for the project.



“Space Radiation and Astrophysics”

Wichita State University physics professor Nick Solomey earned his PhD. In physics from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1992. His research is in the area of experimental particle and astroparticle physics. He is the principal investigator of a new NASA project Neutrino Solar Orbiting Laboratory which aims to travel within a distance of 7 radii from the Sun to study its core. Since 2018, he has been a NASA Innovation Advanced Concept Fellow.

In the past he worked extensively on quark flavor physics by rare decays of hadrons, CP violation with Kaons, the study of nuclear states of matter and hadronic interaction physics. He was the co-spokesman of the Fermilab E907 experiment and continues as editor of the Conference series on Hyperon, Charm and Beauty Hadrons, and has over 200 referred articles in physics research. He is author of a book for the public, “The Elusive Neutrino: a subatomic detective story”.

“Plucky Perseverance: on the job”



Sarah Lamm is an aspiring planetary scientist! Currently a master student at Kansas State University, she graduated with my bachelors from Kansas State University in Chemistry, Geology, and Geography. She has worked with data from the ChemCam instrument on the Curiosity Rover from June 2016 to August 2019. Also, there have been three internships at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and one at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She has presented her research at the 2020 GSA Annual Meeting, 48th & 49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conferences. Lamm is a strong advocate for outreach in rural communities. She was named K-State's 2020 Student Science Communications Award Winner and a Mars Generation's 2019 24 Under 24 Leaders and Innovators in STEAM and Space. Lamm is also a NASA Solar System Ambassador.

Kansas Interstellar University Initiative Update

Steve Durst, board member and co-founder of AAKF, has focused on space news and exploration for over 40 years. His Space Age Publishing Company, with offices in California and Hawaii, publishes *Lunar Enterprise Daily* and *Space Calendar Weekly*. He also supports ventures like Stanford on the Moon and the International Lunar Observatory Association. His appreciation for Kansas, inspired by the state motto, inspires him in the long-term mission of promoting space sciences in Kansas.



Sat. Aug. 21 at 1-3 p.m. At the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson

Event is FREE. To attend, register to contact@adastra-ks.org To watch virtually go to our Ad Astra Kansas Foundation facebook page



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