

Science Teachers Will Learn from the Experts

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UNH News Bureau

EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS:
Those interested in covering the teacher workshop should contact Carmelle Druchniak, UNH News Bureau, 603-862-1462. A list of participating schools follows this release.

DURHAM, N.H. -- Elementary and high school science teachers from around the state will be meeting later this month with world class researchers who could write the very textbooks their students use in class.

The University of New Hampshire is sponsoring a free, one-day workshop on astronomy education for teachers in grades five through 12 Tuesday, Sept. 14, in conjunction with the 5th Compton Symposium on Gamma-Ray Astronomy, scheduled for Sept. 15-17. All available slots are filled for the workshop, to be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, also site of the symposium.

Hosted by UNH and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, the Compton Symposium brings together researchers from around the world, and some of those researchers will be taking part in the planned teacher workshop.

"The purpose of the teacher workshop is to provide New Hampshire educators with valuable ideas and resources for the teaching of astronomical concepts," says Mark McConnell, research associate professor in the UNH Space Science Center, located within the UNH Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space.

In addition, astronomical researchers from both UNH and Dartmouth College will provide participants with an overview of astronomical research taking place within New Hampshire. "This will provide an opportunity to foster connections between local educators and researchers with the goal of forming long-term partnerships," says McConnell.

The workshop is offered through the N.H. Space Grant Consortium.

Part of the workshop will include hands-on activities to acquaint educators with basic concepts in astronomy education and provide them with suitable curriculum materials. Many of these activities will be led by Douglas Duncan of the University of Chicago, national education coordinator of the American Astronomical Society.

In addition to the classroom activities, there will be several short lectures by local researchers designed to provide an overview of the variety of astronomical research taking place in the state of New Hampshire. These will include lecturers from both UNH and Dartmouth College.

The program will include a survey of the electromagnetic spectrum and how it is used in astronomy, including both visible and invisible parts of the spectrum. Gamma ray astronomy, the subject of the associated technical symposium, covers a large segment of the invisible region of the spectrum. Studies of this invisible radiation have provided astronomers with insights into various high-energy phenomena, including gamma ray bursts, black holes, neutrons stars, supernovae, quasars and solar flares.

Event organizers include McConnell; Eleanor Abrams, UNH Department of Education; Martina Arndt, UNH graduate student in physics; Jan Derby, Christa McAuliffe Planetarium; Douglas Duncan, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Chicago; Chris Harper, Pinkerton Academy; Sally Jensen, Holderness Central School; James Ryan, UNH Department of Physics; and Gary Wegner, Dartmouth College Department of Physics and Astronomy.

**Astronomy Education Workshop
Sponsored by UNH Space Science Center
in conjunction with the 5th Compton
Symposium**

September 14, 1999

Participating schools

	Alvirne High School	Hudson
	Bow Memorial School	Bow
	Coe-Brown Northwood Academy	Northwood
	Comprehensive Grammar	Methuen, MA

School	
Conant High School	Jaffrey
Concord High School	Concord
Crisp Elementary School	Nashua
Deerfield Community School	Deerfield
Dover Children's Home	Dover
Dover Middle School	Dover
Ellis School	Fremont
Gilford Middle & High School	Gilford
Goffstown High School	Goffstown
Goshen-Lempster Coop School	East Lempster
Green Acres School	Manchester
Hampton Academy Junior High	Hampton
Harvard Elementary School	Harvard, MA
Holderness Central School	Holderness
Josiah Bartlett Elementary School	Bartlett
Keene Middle School	Keene
Kimball School	Concord
Lancaster Middle School	Lancaster
Lebanon Junior High	Lebanon
Maple Street School	Contoocook
Mastricola Middle School	Merrimack
Miles River Middle School	South Hamilton, MA
Outreach Center	Plymouth
Oyster River High School	Durham
Pennichuck Junior High	Nashua
Pinkerton Academy	Derry
Rochester Middle School	Rochester

	Rundlett Middle School	Concord
	Sacred Heart School	Hampton
	Salem High School	Salem
	Sant Bani School	Sanbornton
	Sunapee Middle High School	Sunapee
	Whitefield School	Whitefield
	Wilkins Elementary School	Amherst
	Woodsville High School	Woodsville

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