

# THE EXHIBIT

*The Newsletter of UL Lafayette Science Museum*



## Letter from the Director

DR. JENNIFER E. HARGRAVE, UL LAFAYETTE SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES



Happy New Year and Greetings from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. It's been an exciting year as we've partnered with Lafayette Consolidated Government to reopen the museum. This partnership has given new life to the museum and reinvigorated our exhibits, field trips, and special events.

With help from the UL College of Sciences, we've created new exhibits such as "Natural Born Killers of the Mesozoic," "Mighty Math," "The Physics of Energy, Color, & Sound," and "Earth from Space: Satellite Imagery of Louisiana's Deltas."

We began hosting school field trips from across the state; it is such a welcome sound to hear excited children in the museum again! In addition, we launched our Halliburton-sponsored STEM Saturdays program, which offers extra hands-on activities for museum visitors on the second Saturday of each month.

We are so thankful for our community friends and members. We appreciate your support bringing back this vital component to Lafayette. Together we can continue to provide informative and interactive experiences in the STEM fields to our students and community, provide innovative research opportunities, and preserve current and future museum collections for use in exhibits, classrooms, and scientific research.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



## Field Trips at UL Lafayette Science Museum

PLAN AN EDUCATIONAL DAY FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

UL Lafayette Science Museum is excited to welcome students of all ages back for educational field trips at the museum. We offer self-guided tours and planetarium shows for all grade-levels.

Affordable rates for students, teachers and chaperones, bus parking and lunchrooms make UL Lafayette Science Museum an ideal place for students to expand their knowledge and understanding of science with engaging and interactive experiences.

Our current exhibits will engage students in the fields of geology, paleontology, meteorology, biology, entomology, ornithology, technology, astronomy, physics, mathematics, and more. We take science off the page and aim to bring it to life.

Field trips are currently offered on Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. To complete a field-trip request form, visit [www.lafayettesciencemuseum.org/field-trips](http://www.lafayettesciencemuseum.org/field-trips). Field trips must be requested at least 3 weeks in advance.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**STEM SATURDAY :  
PHYSICS &  
LIGHTNING - JAN 14**

**STEM SATURDAY:  
CHEMISTRY IN  
ACTION - FEB 11**

**PARROT PARTY WITH  
SCHOOLHOUSE  
SAFARI: MAR 11**





## About STEM Saturdays

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES EVERY SECOND SATURDAY

Every second Saturday, UL Lafayette Science Museum hosts STEM Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors are invited to join us for additional hands-on activities related to STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

STEM Saturdays are made possible by a grant from Halliburton and are included with regular museum admission.

Faculty and students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, College of Sciences present science-themed activities that are hands-on and geared to all ages.

So far, visitors have learned about pinch force, fossils, dinosaur tracks and snowflakes. Upcoming STEM Saturday events in January and February will be presented by the departments of physics and chemistry.

On January 14, visitors will learn about electricity, magnetism, and lightning as physics faculty and students demonstrate how lightning is produced. On February 11, get ready for "Chemistry in Action" with chemistry faculty and students as they introduce visitors to exciting chemical reactions.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

*BECOME A MEMBER TODAY*

**UL EMPLOYEE: \$45** (1 ADULT)

**INDIVIDUAL: \$65** (1 ADULT, 1 GUEST)

**DUAL: \$85** (2 ADULTS, 2 GUESTS)

**FAMILY: \$115** (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN)

**FAMILY FLEX: \$150** (2 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN, 4 GUESTS)

**PREMIUM: +\$50** (2 GUESTS, 10% STORE DISCOUNT, PRIORITY EVENT REGISTRATION)

MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE MUSEUM STORE.





## Events at the Museum

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

UL Lafayette Science Museum now offers event rentals in our historic building in the heart of walkable downtown Lafayette. Available for corporate events, meetings, workshops, fundraisers and even birthday parties, book your event with us today!

Rental spaces include an auditorium with seating capacity for 125 and two classroom spaces adjoined by a moveable wall that seat 35 each or 70 combined.

Rooms are equipped with projectors, screens and/or monitors. Tables and chairs, white boards, a podium and microphones are available. Meeting rooms have access to a kitchenette or in room sinks and prep areas. Catering options are available through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

To book your event at UL Lafayette Science Museum, complete the Contact Us form online at <https://lafayettesciencemuseum.org/contact-us/>.

A member of our team will contact you to discuss your event needs and reserve your date and space.

## SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

**MAKE A DONATION TODAY!**

We rely the support of members, donors, corporate sponsors, partners, and volunteers to sustain our mission to provide informative and interactive experiences in STEM fields to the community, K-12 and University students, provide innovative research opportunities, and preserve current and future museum collections for use in exhibits, classrooms, and scientific research. Your donation helps to support our educational mission and outreach as well as the creation of new exhibits.

To give, visit our donation site, <https://givebutter.com/ULLafayette-Science-Museum>

Thank you for your generosity and support of science education.

# Meet Gracie Babineaux

## PLANETARIUM GUIDE

We interviewed Gracie Babineaux, a UL Student Worker and planetarium guide. She is a first year PhD student at UL Lafayette in the Earth and Energy Sciences program. Her focus is on deep-sea methane (cold) seepage sites.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself?**

I'm from southern Vermilion Parish (Forked Island) and I've been playing Cajun accordion and fiddle for 15 years with my sister, Julie, in the Babineaux Sisters Band.

### **After graduation, what's next?**

I'm hoping to continue in academia/ research. My ultimate goal is to work aboard an ocean research vessel.

### **What's your favorite exhibit?**

I might be a bit biased, but my favorite is the planetarium! I think it's a powerful in not only getting people interested in the stars, planets, and space exploration, but it's also an incredible interactive educational tool. Plus, it's pretty cool.

### **What is your earliest memory of the museum?**

I never got the opportunity to go to the museum when I was younger. So, my first visit to the museum was helping catalogue fish bones with Dr. Martin and even as a 22-year-old, I felt like a kid in a candy store.

### **What's something people may not know about the museum?**

I'm not sure that a lot of people know that we have a working paleontology lab! We have a team of scientists and volunteers that are always working on fossils, and we have some really awesome discoveries that were found in Louisiana.



### **What's your favorite scientific fun fact?**

The atmospheres in Neptune, Uranus, and Saturn have such extreme pressure that they can crystallize carbon atoms and turn them into diamonds!

### **Why is a science museum in Lafayette important?**

It gives our community a place where there are a number of exhibits that span a wide range of scientific disciplines. Visitors learn so many new things AND younger kids get interested in science! Besides the library (which is also a wonderful resource), where else can you go to learn about geology, physics, biology, paleontology, cosmology, etc. all in one place?

### **How is the University inspiring people of all ages through the museum?**

By working in conjunction with the museum, UL is removing the barrier between itself and the public. By having different departments within the College of Sciences curate exhibits, UL is integrating the university into the Lafayette community. It provides a space for UL to say "Hey! This is what our researchers are working on! This is what YOU can do at UL!"

*Continued, Page 6*

Gracie Babineaux, Continued

### What's the best thing you've heard from a museum patron?

One of my favorite things is when young girls come into the museum and have a million questions. Shortly after starting in the planetarium, a little girl came up to me after the “Sky Tonight” show, dragging her parent along because they were NOT going quickly enough. She had so many questions about star formation. I talked to her for about 20 minutes. Before leaving, she turned back and said, “I’ve never learned so much from one place and I can’t wait to come back.” She said it with so much wonder and excitement, and that's the main reason I love working at the museum.

Visit Gracie in the planetarium where shows run from Friday afternoon through the weekend. Follow our Facebook page for regularly scheduled shows.

---

## In the Planetarium

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

A new slate of shows is now on view under our state-of-the-art, all-digital, full-dome planetarium. Planetarium shows run every Friday at 4 p.m. and throughout the weekend. Saturday morning features a special children's program at 11:15 a.m. Public programs continue Saturday and Sunday at 1:30, 2:45 and 4 p.m.

<b>JANUARY</b>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
11:15 a.m.		The Little Star	
1:30 p.m.		Moons: Worlds of Mystery	Moons: Worlds of Mystery
2:45 p.m.		The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*	The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*	Cosmic Journey	Cosmic Journey

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
11:15 a.m.		The Little Star	
1:30 p.m.		Cosmic Journey	Cosmic Journey
2:45 p.m.		The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*	The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight/Rusty Rocket*	Moons: Worlds of Mystery	Moons: Worlds of Mystery

*\*As we work to grow our planetarium team, our live planetarium show "The Sky Tonight" or an alternate special children's program will be shown on Friday at 4 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday at 2:45 p.m. based on staff availability.*

# Apollo Model Rescue Mission

A FIRST LOOK AT A NEW SPACECRAFT MODEL IN OUR COLLECTION

In late October, two dedicated museum volunteers, retired planetarium curator Dave Hostetter and technician Paul McCasland drove to Kingsport, TN on a mission to preserve a special part of science history. Their quest involved a truck, a trailer, and 1600 miles round trip. They returned with models of three parts of NASA's Apollo Spacecraft: The Lunar Module and the Command and Service Modules, all of which were set to be discarded if they were not claimed.

These models are part of a set with the Gemini model that currently hangs from the lobby ceiling at UL Lafayette Science Museum. Together with Gemini, the models will serve to illustrate NASA engineering, which made possible the first successful piloted moon landings and allowed the first astronauts to walk on the moon.

The lunar lander was designed to take astronauts from lunar orbit to the surface of the moon, with six successful piloted landings between July 1969 and December 1972. The Lunar Module went through several design changes from its inception in 1962 to the ones that actually landed on the moon. The model acquired by the Museum appears to be based on the 1963 version. The Apollo models and the accompanying Gemini were built around then, and spent time on display at planetariums in Bradenton, FL, and Kingsport, TN.

The foil-covered base was used as a landing and launch platform. The Ascent Stage above that served as home for two astronauts. The third crew member stayed in the Command Module in orbit around the moon. The Lunar Module model is built at 1/4 scale. Actual landers stood at 23 feet and weighed 17 – 18 tons at launch.

The models are now being cleaned and refurbished with the goal of having them ready for display sometime in Spring 2023. We are excited to share this sneak peek with our museum patrons and will continue to share information about the process of restoring and displaying these models.



# Kids' Curiosity Corner

Find the words that come from our exhibits!

M	N	O	I	P	R	O	C	S
Q	D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R
R	N	K	Q	P	M	P	F	G
E	M	I	N	E	R	A	L	Z
H	X	P	L	A	N	E	T	E
T	X	O	D	A	N	R	O	T
A	L	U	T	N	A	R	A	T
E	S	T	A	R	Z	G	E	A
W	F	F	O	S	S	I	L	D

Find the words

CAMEL  
DINOSAUR  
FOSSIL  
MINERAL  
PLANET  
SCORPION  
STAR  
TARANTULA  
TORNADO  
WEATHER

