



Speaker Bios



Dr. Alberto Conti

Dr. Alberto Conti is an astrophysicist and the Innovation Manager for Civil Air and Space at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, where he is responsible for scientific and technical advocacy for astronomy, astrophysics, earth science and related fields. Before joining NGAS he served as the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Innovation Scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute, the science operation center for the Hubble Space Telescope, and the future science and mission operation center for JWST. He has been a leader in developing data mining tools for the worldwide astronomical community. He has also been an early proponent of the use of modern data mining and visualization techniques across the astronomical community. Many will recognize him as the co-creator of the Google Sky concept and a team member of Microsoft's Worldwide Telescope. Dr. Conti holds a M.S. from the University of Trieste, and a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University.

Paul Debevec

Chief Visual Officer, USC Institute for Creative Technologies

Paul Debevec is a Research Professor at the University of Southern California and the Associate Director of Graphics Research at USC's Institute for Creative Technologies where he leads the ICT Graphics Laboratory. His work has focused on image-based modeling and rendering techniques beginning with his 1996 Ph.D. thesis at UC Berkeley, with specializations in high dynamic range imaging, reflectance measurement, facial animation, and image-based lighting. He serves as the Vice President of ACM SIGGRAPH and received a Scientific and Engineering Academy Award for his work on the Light Stage facial capture systems used in films such as "Spider-Man 2," "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Avatar," "The Avengers," "Oblivion," and "The Lone Ranger."

Melissa Eccles

Melissa Eccles is an award winning creative Producer. A digital geek armed with an MFA in Film Production from the University of Southern California, Melissa has led the creative and technical crafting of complex projects from the first interactive video experience on YouTube to moving a space shuttle through the streets of Los Angeles. Melissa has conceived and built work for brands like VW, MTV, Nike, Burger King, Microsoft, Adidas, Coke Zero, Toyota, General Mills, American Express, and others. She's equally at home producing documentary series, TV spots, social gaming integrations, immersive experiential/transmedia experiences, and enterprise website sites. Her work has been honored with the Young Director's Award at the Cannes Lions, Cannes Lions of multiple metals, the Webby Awards, Best of Show at the Addy's, Best of Show One Show Pencils, LIAs and a BDA Gold Award. Melissa hopes to continue to push the limits of storytelling beyond the confines of the screen into the physical world.

Chris Edwards

CEO and Creative Director, The Third Floor

After 5 years as a Layout Artist and Character Animator at Walt Disney Feature Animation, Chris joined a team of digital artists at Lucasfilm tasked with previsualizing Star Wars: Episode III from the "third floor" of George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch mansion. In October 2004, Edwards spearheaded the creation of THE THIRD FLOOR, Inc. in Los Angeles, which has become the world's largest international previs company. As CEO and Creative Director, Edwards has helped design many feature films, commercials, and video game cinematics. Theatrical credits include "Avatar," "Alice in Wonderland," "War Horse," "Iron Man 2," "Thor," and "The Avengers." Cinematic credits include "Resident Evil 5," "Lost Planet 2," "Starcraft II" & "Diablo III." Chris Edwards has established a branch of THE THIRD FLOOR in London and Montreal and he is one of the founders of the Previsualization Society, an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the art form of previs. In 2011 Edwards co-founded HYDRA Entertainment to develop original content and produce strong, story-driven franchises.

Jeff Foust

Jeff Foust writes about space policy, commercial space, and related topics. He is editor and publisher of *The Space Review*, a weekly online publication with essays and articles about space policy, commercialization, exploration and related issues. He also publishes *Space Politics*, a space policy blog; *NewSpace Journal*, a commercial space blog; and *Spacetoday.net*, a space news aggregator. He earned a Ph.D. in planetary sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999 and a B.S. with honors in geophysics and planetary science from the California Institute of Technology in 1993.

Paul Gillebaard

Paul Gillebaard is a business owner, high school track coach, and best-selling author. He received his Mechanical Engineering degree from California State University, Fullerton, and has operated his own engineering company since 2002. He lived in the small neighborhood of Nassau Bay, Texas, where many Apollo astronauts resided during the moon shot years. He currently lives in Orange County, California, and is the author of the highly praised novel *Moon Hoax*. Paul has just released his 2014 sequel novel, *Space Hoax*, a suspenseful story of international space intrigue.

Rainer Gombos

FX Supervisor Rainer Gombos led a superb team of young visual effects innovators on "COSMOS: A SpaceTime Odyssey," having supervised work on "Game of Thrones," "Fast Five," "Sucker Punch," and "2012." Gombos won the 2012 Emmy® for Outstanding Special Visual Effects for his work on "Game of Thrones," as well as a 2012 VES Award. After studying animation and graphic design in Germany, Gombos launched his career as a freelance visual effects and graphics artist, working on feature films, broadcast television, immersive experiences, video games, and shorts and commercials with industry leaders from Digital Domain and Sony Imageworks to his seven years with Pixomondo, where he built teams as large as 200 to work on CG-heavy films such as "The Red Baron."



Ben Grossmann

Ben Grossmann is an Oscar winning and Emmy Award winning visual effects supervisor, with experience leading complex, never-been-done-before endeavors while supervising teams of more than 800 people worldwide. He most recently supervised visual effects for JJ Abrams' "Star Trek: Into Darkness" at Pixomondo, for which he received a 2014 Oscar nomination. His resume includes Martin Scorsese's "Hugo," Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," "Shutter Island," "Sin City," "The Day After Tomorrow," "Master and Commander" and more. He has also directed and worked on campaigns for major brands like BMW; artists like Radiohead; and other new media projects including the Universal Studios theme park for Harry Potter. Ben is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Visual Effects Society, and is magnetically drawn to the phrase "that's impossible." He is CEO of Magnopus, a visual solutions company.

William T. Harris

William oversees the California Science Center Foundation's Board of Trustees relations, Campaign, annual giving and membership programs, public funding, marketing and communications divisions. He directed a \$165 million campaign that in part created a major new expansion, Ecosystems. The exhibition wing presents an unprecedented blend of live plants and animals, and hands-on science exhibits in 11 immersive environments – unique among science centers in the United States. He is directing a \$250 million campaign to create the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center. The goal of this major expansion is to stimulate critical thinking about the science, mathematics and engineering at the core of pioneering technologies. The Space Shuttle Endeavour will be the feature experience. William serves on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Museums (AAM). William served in Paraguay with the U.S. Peace Corps and is the Science Center's Spanish language spokesperson.

Buzz Hays

Buzz Hays is one of the leading experts in stereoscopic 3D film production, post-production and technology in the motion picture and television industry. Hays founded the award-winning Sony 3D Technology Center based at Sony Pictures in Culver City, CA. His role at Sony Corporation gave him the opportunity to evangelize 3D, and to educate artists, filmmakers, studio executives, corporate executives and the general public on the creation of high-quality 3D and specialty format experiences. His producing experience has led to his key role as a 3D expert in film production, live-broadcast events, as well as consumer and professional electronics design consulting. His expertise and guidance was integral to the rollout of Sony 3DTV in 2010, and his contributions in camera design for 3D has led to successful products in the marketplace both for professionals and consumers. Hays has given presentations, lectures, and speeches at every major industry conference in the world on the subject of 3D. Since the spring of 2010, he has personally taught more than 3,000 film and television industry professionals around the world and given keynotes, lectures and presentations to over 20,000 people since 2007. Hays is the founding Chairman of the International 3D Society.



Patrick Healy

Patrick Healy is a general assignment reporter for NBC4 Southern California. Since coming on board in 1984, Healy has been an iconic figure on the NBC4 weekly newscasts. Known for his journalistic consistency and integrity, Healy is a dominant force in breaking news and reporting issues of consequence. He has covered a number of high-profile court cases, including the criminal trials of Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson, OJ Simpson and the police officers accused of excessive force in the landmark Rodney King case. He was the lead reporter on the Bryan Stow beating case and trial of his attackers, as well as the student molestation case involving former Miramonte teacher Mark Berndt.

Neil Johnson

Neil Johnson is an award winning film and music video director of 25 years. In his career he has made 10 feature films, 500 plus music videos and hundreds of documentaries. He made one of the first digital feature films in the late 90's. Though British born, and now living in the US, he was the youngest full-time paid director at the age of 21 in Australia. Since the age of two Neil has been obsessed with science and space travel. His latest film series, Starship, reflects this sensibility, while maintaining a strong sense of character and adventure. Neil's films are currently available to buy on Blu Ray in USA, Germany, France, UK, Russia, China, Thailand, Australia, Switzerland, India, Bulgari, and the Middle East. Neil has two films in post production, and four films in early pre-production, all Science Fiction films.

Christopher Jones

Christopher Jones is a Minnesota-based comic book artist currently providing artwork for the FutureDude Entertainment science-fiction comic series *Parallel Man*—set for release in 2014. Christopher's recent work includes penciling and inking DC Comics' *Young Justice*, based on the hit Cartoon Network animated TV series. He was also the regular penciler on *The Batman Strikes* for its entire 50-issue run. Other DC Comics credits include *Batman '66*, *Justice League Adventures*, *Batman & Robin*, *Day of Judgment* and the cult series *Young Heroes in Love*. Christopher's work for Marvel Comics includes *Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes* and *Marvel Superhero Squad*. His other comics include the comic book adaptation of *Re-Animator*, *Gargoyles: Bad Guys*, *Kolchak: Fever Pitch*, and he is also the co-creator of *Dr. Blink Superhero Shrink* with writer/cartoonist John Kovalic. Christopher was also a co-founder of CONvergence, the world's largest fan-run science fiction convention.

David Knight

CEO, The Terbine Project; Space & Media Track Chair

David is an entrepreneur involved in computing and space technology. Most recently he became a film producer, heading a multi-year effort to document the final phases of the Space Shuttle program, culminating with the journey of Endeavour to Los Angeles. A 'mini-film' produced by Knight chronicling Endeavour's final journey can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/jg3ocxyJVsg>. With Endeavour ensconced at the California Science Center, David is now building a technology company involving microsatellites and UAVs, and continues to invest in high-tech and entertainment related startups. He is among the original members of the XPRIZE, which saw SpaceShipOne achieve the first private spaceflight, and plans to fly on Virgin Galactic. With a background in applied physics, David is committed to bringing science education to youth of all ages. He is a Trustee of the California Science Center Foundation and various other STEM-focused non-profits.



Speaker Bios

Russ Koble

Russ Koble is the brand communications manager for Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), USA, Inc. He is responsible for enhancing Toyota's image and increasing brand awareness. He is also responsible for providing sales support through advertisements, media, point-of-sale, partnerships and relationship marketing. Prior to his current role, Koble was the advertising and planning manager for trucks and SUVs where he led the initiative to tow the space shuttle in partnership with the California Science Center. Koble also helped develop Toyota's new tagline "Let's Go Places." Koble has held numerous other positions at TMS including product education manager for trucks and SUVs where he managed the launch the 2007 Tundra to more than 35,000 sales associates. Koble also held the role as retail education manager from 2003 to 2005. For three years, Koble worked for the Kansas City Region office as a parts and service consultant and district service and parts manager. Koble started his career with Toyota in 1996 at Minot Toyota as a service advisor. A graduate of Minot State University in Minot, N.D., Koble has a Bachelor of Science in marketing and management. In 2013, Koble won the Cannes Golden Lions award for the Tundra Endeavour advertising campaign.

Emily Lakdawalla

Senior Editor and Planetary Evangelist

Emily Lakdawalla is a Senior Editor at the Planetary Society, book author, and a passionate advocate for the exploration of all of the worlds of our solar system. Through blogs, photos, videos, podcasts, print articles, Twitter, and any other medium she can put her hand to, Emily shares the adventure of space exploration with the world. Emily holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology from Amherst College and a Master of Science degree in planetary geology from Brown University. She came to The Planetary Society in 2001 to oversee a portion of the Society's Red Rover Goes to Mars project, an education and public outreach program on the Mars Exploration Rover mission funded by LEGO. She has been writing and editing the Planetary Society Blog since 2005, reporting on space news, explaining planetary science, and sharing beautiful space photos. She appears weekly on the Society's Planetary Radio podcast, answering listener questions or rounding up the latest space news from the blog. Emily has been an Administrator of the forum UnmannedSpaceflight.com since 2005, supporting a worldwide community of amateur space image processors. She is also a contributing editor to *Sky & Telescope* magazine. Emily can be found on Twitter, Facebook, Google+, Pinterest, Tumblr, and wherever else she finds people who are equally passionate about space images.

Eric Leven

Visual Effects Supervisor

Tippett Studio visual effects supervisor Eric Leven originally planned on becoming an astronaut, and even enrolled in the aerospace engineering program at Penn State. With a lifelong love of movies, though, Eric changed his major to film. His family of photographers and math teachers helped him realize that VFX was the perfect marriage of art and science. Eric joined Tippett Studio in 1996 as a technical director on "Starship Troopers" and quickly advanced, becoming a Visual Effects Supervisor in 2004. Eric brings intelligent and efficient design to his VFX work. Challenged with the supervision of "Cloverfield" and several high profile commercials, Eric strives to maintain high-budget quality on all projects, including those with tighter purses. Eric's additional VFX Supervisor credits include "Starship Troopers 2," "Season of the Witch," and four "Twilight" films (New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn 1 & 2). In his spare time, Eric enjoys kite surfing. His personal live-action films have screened at festivals across the country.



Speaker Bios

Rick Loverd

Program director, Science & Entertainment Exchange, National Academy of Sciences
Rick Loverd is the director of The Science & Entertainment Exchange, a program of the National Academy of Sciences. The program's mission is to connect scientists, engineers and doctors with Hollywood writers, producers, directors and actors with the view of helping to ensure accurate portrayal of science in film, on television and in other entertainment outlets. Launched in November 2008, the Exchange has helped filmmakers on about 700 films and television programs, including "Iron Man 2," "Thor," "Tron: Legacy," "The Avengers," "Star Trek: Into the Darkness," "Lost," "Fringe," "Green Lantern," "Castle," "Bourne: Legacy," "The Good Wife" and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." In addition to his work with The Exchange, Rick also has eight years of entertainment industry experience including positions on the television series "Friday Night Lights" on NBC and "Boston Public" on FOX, and at talent agency Creative Artists Agency

Tariq Malik

Tariq Malik is the managing editor of Space.com, the online news publication dedicated to the latest news in space exploration, technology, astronomy and innovation. He joined TechMediaNetwork's Space.com team in 2001 as a staff writer, and later editor, covering human spaceflight, exploration and space science. He became Space.com's Managing Editor in 2009. Before joining Space.com, Tariq was a staff reporter for The Los Angeles Times. He has journalism degrees from the University of Southern California and New York University.

Geoff Mark

Geoff Mark is a successful Visual Effects Supervisor and Director, with screen credits on over two dozen feature films and over 100 hours of network or basic cable TV shows as well as dozens of independent, low-budget films. Some of his titles include: "Sharknado", "Serenity", "Battlestar Galactica", "Red Tails", "Spiderman 3", "The Simpsons", "Triggers", and "Babylon 5". Mr. Mark served as Managing Director of Mad Genius Software, LTD, a video game developer he co-founded. While there, he raised \$2,000,000 in seed capital for product development and marketing. In his spare time, Mr. Mark proudly volunteers for the Civil Air Patrol, rank of Captain, where he aids in search and rescue missions. He also served NASA on the Space Shuttle Landing and Recovery team.

Bjørn Mayer

Visual Effects Supervisor | Pixomondo Los Angeles

After completing his degree at the Filmacademy Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2001, Bjørn gained experience in the field of visual effects by working for several companies throughout Europe. He specialized in German and international television movies and feature films as well as commercials and music videos before joining Pixomondo in 2006. His most recent project is overall visual effects supervisor for Joseph Kosinski's latest film "Oblivion" for Universal. In addition to supervising Pixomondo's 460 shots of "Oblivion", Bjørn accompanied pre-production and principal photography in Hawaii, California, New York City, Iceland and Louisiana. Prior to this Bjørn worked for Pixomondo supervising 570 air battle, train destruction and destroyer explosion shots for George Lucas' film, "Red Tails". Bjørn has also worked as a visual effects supervisor with Pixomondo on several feature films including "The Hunger Games", "The Rite", "A Nightmare on Elm Street", "The Last Airbender", "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief", "Star Tours: The Adventures Continue" and "Ninja Assassin". He was on-set supervisor for "Fast Five"



and digital environments supervisor for "The Red Baron". His experience in television movies includes visual effects supervision on "The Bridge" and "Die Sturmflut". In addition to his work at Pixomondo, Bjørn is a lecturer at the Institute of Animation, Visual Effects and Digital Postproduction in Ludwigsburg and an external examiner at Stuttgart Media University. Bjørn is originally from Germany but currently lives in Los Angeles.

Jeffrey Morris

Jeffrey Morris aka FutureDude is a Minneapolis-based writer, film director and production designer. He founded FutureDude Entertainment as a vehicle to unify his interests in science, education, and the arts. In the past decade, Jeffrey created Alpha Prime—a space science curriculum that won an award from the National Science Teachers Association. He also helped bring Hollywood—style storytelling to education and public outreach for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA's Master Teachers Program, the International Space University, and Lockheed Martin. Jeffrey currently serves as a member of the New Horizons Message Initiative and is set to provide art direction for aspects of that project. His previous publications include the illustrated screenplay Slingshot that featured a foreword by astronaut Buzz Aldrin and Venus: Daedalus One—which engineer/ author Homer Hickam called "prodigious!" Additionally, he is the holder of a technology patent for the futuristic Apple iOS calendar app Timesphere.

Ian O'Neill

A self-described space geek, Ian is the Space Producer for Discovery News. In this role, he combines his expertise in solar physics and manned space flight with his passion for investigating the inner workings of our universe to offer in-depth coverage of space science and exploration for DiscoveryNews.com. Ian is based in Los Angeles, California. His academic accomplishments include: University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Ph.D. in Solar Physics); The University Centre on Svalbard, Norway (Masters in Ionospheric/agnetospheric Physics and Radar Diagnostics); University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Masters in Planetary and Space Physics). Dr. O'Neil worked in the Solar Physics group in Aberystwyth under Dr. Xing Li; carried out computer modeling of the solar corona; wrote thesis "Quiescent Coronal Loops Heated by Turbulence."

Steve Preeg

Animation Director and Character Technology Architect, Digital Domain

Steve Preeg has helped bring some of the world's most memorable digital characters to life. He received an Academy Award® for his work creating the aged likeness of Brad Pitt for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." As the animation director for "TRON: Legacy," he led the development of the CG likeness of Jeff Bridges. He also acted as the lead creative behind the virtual likeness of Tupac Shakur for the Coachella Festival. Steve has created digital characters for movies including "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," "LoTR: The Return of the King" and "King Kong." He has also worked on "Flags of Our Fathers," "I, Robot" and served as the Animation Supervisor on "Oblivion." Steve is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Rod Pyle

Author/Producer/Educator

Rod Pyle is author of multiple best-selling books on space exploration and innovation for Smithsonian, McGraw-Hill, HarperCollins, Prometheus/Random House and Carlton. His *Destination Mars* was heralded as “The best recent overview of Mars missions” by the Washington Post, and was selected for Scientific American’s book of the month club. Rod has produced and directed numerous documentaries for The History Channel and Discovery Communications, including “Modern Marvels: Apollo 11” and “Mars: 100 Years of Discovery.” He also worked in visual effects for “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine” and “Battlestar Galactica.” Rod writes for Space.com, LiveScience, Huffington Post, NBCNews Online and the Daily Telegraph. He is a graduate of Stanford University and the Art Center College of Design. Rod authored the executive leadership series for NASA/The Conference Board entitled “The Apollo Leadership Program,” which he taught to C-suite executives from organizations such as Ebay, Conoco-Philips and The Federal Reserve. His recent book, *Innovation the NASA Way* (McGraw-Hill Business) continues exploring these concepts. *Curiosity*, his newest book from Prometheus/Random House, will hit the shelves in July.

David Raiklen

Producer/composer/songwriter/host/crowdfunder

David began studying keyboard and composing at age 5. He studied composition at USC and Cal Arts. Among his mentors are Oscar winner John Williams and Pulitzer Prize winner Mel Powell. He's scored hundreds of films, television shows, video games, musicals and live events, including for most of the major studios and many independents, winning multiple awards including a American Music Center Grant, three Telly Awards and the Park City Audience Choice Award and Gold Medal, and a Platinum Remi. David is also host of SciFi Soundtrack, appearing on the Hugo winning Star Ship Sofa series. He's a frequent lecture at colleges including UCLA, USC, Emperor's College, and CalArts. He is currently producing on the sensational new science fiction series Space Command, setting a funding record for a scripted non-sequel on Kickstarter plus composing the epic score. He's also scoring a documentary on the Laker's 33 game winning streak, featuring Jerry Buss, Kobe Bryant and Phil Jackson. He is also producing and composing for Blood Kiss, a tale of Golden Age Hollywood with vampires, featuring Neil Gaiman's acting debut. David was recently interviewed on Entertainment Weekly and ABC News about his work.

David J. Ruck

Ruck began “I Want to be an Astronaut” as his thesis film at American University in Washington, DC. Starting out as a space skeptic, he was inspired to make this documentary after hearing Neil deGrasse Tyson speak about the NASA budget, comparing it to other budgetary priorities. “I knew that at one time NASA inspired kids to pursue STEM fields. Astronauts used to be household names. Without a vibrant human spaceflight program, I wondered if at that critical phase in their development we were still capturing the imaginations of young people, inspiring them to pursue these high-tech fields. “The film premiered on the International Space Station in March 2014. Ruck hopes that both public and private space efforts can utilize the film to promote STEM education, highlight the role the space program has played in our quality of life on this earth, and how we need to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers.



Speaker Bios

Dorion Sagan

Dorion Sagan is an award-winning science writer, lecturer, and theorist. He is sole, co-author, or editor of twenty-nine books translated into thirteen languages including, *Lynn Margulis: The Life and Legacy of a Scientific Rebel* and *Cosmic Apprentice: Dispatches from the Edges of Science*. His co-authored *What is Life?* was called “A masterpiece of science writing” by Orion magazine, and included on a list of “Mind-Altering Masterpieces” by Utne Reader. He has been anthologized in scientific collections such as those edited by Richard Dawkins and E.O. Wilson. He also has received the Educational Press Association of America Excellence in Educational Journalism Award, and a Bookbinders Guild of New York Award for Best Nonfiction Hardcover. Sagan has written articles, essays, and book reviews for many publications including The New York Times, The Skeptical Inquirer, Wired, BioScience, Smithsonian Magazine, Natural History, The Sciences, Salon, and others.

Ted Schilowitz

Ted Schilowitz is Futurist at 20th Century Fox Studios, CinemaVangelist for Barco, and President of Silverdraft, maker of Devil and Demon Supercomputers. He is also a co-founder of revolutionary camera maker RED Digital Cinema. At Fox he works directly with the chief studio executives of Production & Post on the constantly evolving art and science of digital moviemaking. At AJA Video, Ted helped create High Definition Video capture cards for Apple Computer, and the revolutionary IO box, a co-developed product with Apple. Ted is also co founder of the G-Tech product line of advanced hard drive storage products.

Rand Simberg

Author, *Safe is Not an Option*

Mr. Simberg has dual Bachelor's degrees in engineering science and applied mathematics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Masters degree in Technical Management from West Coast University in Los Angeles, California. He has over two decades of experience in project management and systems engineering in the aerospace and information technology industries. He was a supervisor of systems engineering, and a project manager for advanced space programs at Rockwell International, in Downey, California for several years. Since leaving Rockwell in 1993, he has been an entrepreneur and independent consultant in the information technology and commercial space industries, including lobbying and the development of federal policy position papers, some of which have resulted in legislation. In addition to publishing several policy papers and opinion pieces, he has been the editor of a book on lobbying for space-related causes.



Speaker Bios

Daren Ulmer

President and Chief Creative Officer, Mousetrappe

For over 25 years, Daren Ulmer has been a key contributor to the experiential attractions and entertainment industry. A premier creative director, industry leader, and media artist, Daren founded the design and production studio, Mousetrappe, to provide high-level artistic development and pioneering design work. Daren is the left and right brain for the company— managing to handle both the creative and technical disciplines for complex projects. Known for expert innovations worldwide, Daren and his Mousetrappe team continually improve the way attractions advance story, enhance space, and create audience connection. Mousetrappe has an industry-wide reputation as the innovative leader in design, media production, and mapped projection. The go-to design and production studio for the biggest names in entertainment, Mousetrappe has contributed its audience-immersing magic for such major brands as Disney, Universal, Harry Potter, and Space Shuttle AtlantisSM.

Guy Webster

JPL Public Affairs Officer for Missions to Mars

Guy Webster has worked in the news office of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in Pasadena, Calif., since 2000, mostly on the Mars beat. He covered science, technology, energy, agriculture and other reporting beats for the Arizona Republic and other Arizona daily newspapers for 16 years, with a year out for the mid-career Knight Science Journalism Fellowship program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Earlier, he wrote news for weekly papers in Nebraska and Massachusetts, for the Associated Press in Arizona and for the University of Arizona. His journalism degree is from the University of Minnesota. He has co-authored peer-reviewed research publications in biochemistry and pharmacology and won state newspaper organization prizes for photography and reporting. His journalism endeavors commenced with an underground newspaper in high school in the 1960s with a collaborator who became his life partner, the artist Katie Crown.

Marc Scott Zicree

Marc Scott Zicree has written for virtually every major network & studio, including “Star Trek –The Next Generation,” “Deep Space Nine,” “Friday The 13th – The Series,” “Babylon 5,” “Smurfs,” “He-Man,” “Superfriends,” “Real Ghostbusters, and “Sliders.” Nominations include Humanitas Prize, Hugo, Nebula & American Book awards and he’s won the TV Guide Award, Rondo Award, Saturn Award & 2104 Writers Guild Diversity Award. Bestsellers include *The Twilight Zone Companion*, *Magic Time trilogy* and Guillermo Del Toro’s *Cabinet Of Curiosities*.



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