Each summer the doors of the Cosmosphere open and a flood of energetic, young minds are immersed in interactive science during a variety of STEM-based learning camps. Last year alone, 958 students participated in Cosmosphere Camps, and while most attend for a few years and move on, some stay connected to the Cosmosphere throughout their educational and career journeys.

Here are a few stories of those alumni campers – what inspired them, why they loved Cosmosphere camp and why they think you should care. We’ll highlight a few alumni with each upcoming newsletter. Stay tuned!

Brand New Goddard’s Lab
It’s blast-tastic!

Newly Renovated Dr. Goddard’s Lab Now Open

In 1966, Patty Carey moved her star projector from its home in the Poultry Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds to the new Science Building on the corner of the Hutchinson Community College campus. Shows continued in that space until 1993, when the capacity of the venue was doubled with the opening of the Walter and Velma Justice Planetarium.

The original domed Planetarium space was remodeled to replicate Dr. Goddard’s Laboratory in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Cosmo Camp Alumni

Where are they now? Part 1

From Flight Controllers to Physics Professor: Our Camp Alumni are Pretty Amazing

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Carly Toder
Camper: 1999
Counselor: 2003
Current Job: Biomedical Flight Controller at Wyle Laboratories

When I was 11-years-old, I saw the movie, Apollo 13. Inspired by the film, I knew at that young age that I wanted a job at NASA. I also knew that landing my dream job meant getting relevant experience. Subsequently, I looked for opportunities where I could supplement what I had already learned about NASA with real-world experience—enter Future Astronaut Training Program (FATP)*.

I attended FATP level one in July 1999, having just completed my freshman year of high school. At that time in my life, and coming from a small town in northern Wisconsin, I was still unsure as to whether or not my dream was realistic.

My most vivid memory of FATP was being EXTREMELY nervous at being selected Commander (CDR) of my team’s mission in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

*FATP was the name of Cosmosphere Camps for several decades.
What are the benefits of becoming a Cosmosphere Member?

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A COSMOSPHERE MEMBER BUT ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES?

Here are a few of the perks:

• Free entrance into the Hall of Space Museum
• Discounts on tickets to shows & special events
• Special “Members Only” premiere screenings of new documentaries
• Discounts in the Cargo Bay Gift Store
• And more...

For more information on becoming a member of the Cosmosphere, or enrolling your child in the Junior Astronaut Club, contact our Membership Coordinator at 620.665.9310 or membership@cosmo.org.

DISCOVER MORE AT COSMO.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

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New Mexico and served as a science demonstration area. Public presentations gave visitors and students new insight into the science that led to modern rocketry.

Fast forward 50 years. The Justice Planetarium underwent a complete renovation and technological upgrade in the spring of 2015 as part of the Cosmosphere’s Revitalization plan and great things were also ahead for Dr. Goddard’s Lab.

Jeff and Rhonda Turner made the gift for the Goddard’s Lab remodel in memory of Jeff’s parents, John and Billie Turner of Wichita. Jeff, former CEO of Spirit AeroSystems, remembered visiting the Planetarium in Hutchinson with his parents. The Turner family and friends had a private dedication event of the John and Billie Turner Goddard’s Lab on November 26th, which would have been John Turner’s 95th birthday. The elder Turner died in March of last year.

“The Cosmosphere is a wonderful place—a treasure for Kansas,” Jeff Turner said. “It offers a chance for visitors, and particularly kids, to connect with the past and understand the promise of the future of space. My Mom and Dad loved to bring family and friends to see the Cosmosphere, and Dr. Goddard’s Lab provides exactly the kind of teaching experience they valued. They would have loved watching their great grandchildren and friends enjoy the show.”

The goal for the space was to highlight the historical significance of the work of Dr. Robert Goddard, considered by many to be one of the fathers of modern rocketry, while creating a space with modern amenities and technology such as video simulcasts for school outreach.

To accomplish the task, the Cosmosphere turned to designer Becca Hardenburger of Salt Creek Interior Design, LLC and Nunns Construction.

“I wanted the viewer experience to be magical from the moment they entered the space. With the new starry sky and luminous moon, it almost feels as if you are sitting out in the New Mexico dessert at night peeking in on Dr. Goddard’s workshop,” she added.

The lab space reopened for shows in late October, but Hardenburger and the crew from Nunns worked for three additional weeks on finishing touches.

“While we were limited on space, I wanted to make the exhibit look more historically correct, trying to give the feeling of that original Los Alamos lab and artifact it with items he may have actually had in his workshop,” Hardenburger said. “With the historic backdrop in place, we also wanted to bring new technology and use finishes that would make more sense for the experiments that would be performed there.”

“I wanted to give special credit to Todd and Zach from All American Electric who engineered the blast screen and edge lit elements and spent all night placing the fiber optic stars one by one in the night sky,” Hardenburger said. “They brought the magic to the space.”

**UPDATES INCLUDED IN THE DR. GODDARD LAB RENOVATION:**

- All lighting, including color changing LED lights overhead and blue lighting under the benches -- adding more layers of ambiance to the space
- Scorch resistant materials -- as fire is an important component of the show
- Retractable blast screen
- Midnight blue textured wall covering
- Fiber optic “Starry” sky
- Luminous moon
- IP cameras
- New sound system
- New AV
- Fully automated presentation sequencing
- Wall graphics depicting Goddard’s mathematic equations
- New flooring with a lunarscape pattern

**DR. GODDARD’S LAB SHOWTIMES**

Monday–Saturday: 12 pm & 3 pm
Sunday: 2 pm & 3 pm
Thank you to all who helped celebrate the vision of Cosmosphere Founder, Patty Carey! See you August 26, 2017!
space shuttle Falcon. I had no confidence the mission would succeed.

At FATP we would occasionally watch NASA TV. I remember that STS-93 was underway and Eileen Collins was making history as the first female shuttle commander. I had met astronaut Sally Ride earlier. I realized if these women could make it to NASA, as an astronaut, my dream was not so unrealistic. Watching her and participating in all the activities during FATP I left camp confident and even more focused on making my dream a reality. I even had a relatively flawless mission in Falcon as commander.

I finished high school and started college at Purdue University, intent on majoring in Electrical Engineering. Upon finishing my freshman year, I returned to the Cosmosphere in the summer of 2003 as a counselor. I wanted to give back and help others gain the confidence that FATP had given me.

After leaving FATP, I started my first co-op rotation at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. I returned for a second rotation and during that time I met a flight surgeon who encouraged me to change my major to Biomedical Engineering. Subsequently, I transferred to the University of Minnesota. After graduation, I landed a job at Wyle as a Biomedical Flight Controller. Currently, I work in Mission Control and support the equipment that keeps our astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) happy and healthy. In Mission Control there is no typical day. Sometimes my work involves routine things like planning the crew’s timelines or answering questions from the astronauts about our activities. Other times the crew needs to know where to find things on ISS, or I send commands to turn the treadmill on or off. Between routines I can also be called upon to spring into action if the exercise equipment has failed, medical equipment can’t be found, or worst case, an emergency arises. Having flexibility and the ability to redirect my focus, all the while staying calm, are skills that I learned at FATP.

One of my favorite jobs at Johnson Space Center is serving as a trainer for new flight controllers. In this role I help develop simulation scenarios. As a FATP counselor, I helped create scenarios for the campers’ simulators. I also learned mission operations and how to make complex information comprehensible for all ages. At FATP, I learned how to change scenarios at a moment’s notice because trainees chose to go down a different path than I had planned, all of which is just as relevant to a new flight control team as it was to FATP campers.

When applying for my job at Wyle, I was asked if I had any experience with Mission Control and Operations. I proudly said I was a camp counselor and explained that camp taught me creativity, flexibility, and teamwork—qualities I would need every day as a trainer and flight controller.

For anyone thinking of pursuing a STEM career, my number one piece of advice is to take advantage of every opportunity—camps, internships, etc.—all of which will provide you with invaluable experience. I would also encourage them to always believe in themselves. I am a girl from the Midwest who went from training campers to becoming a fully certified flight controller in Mission Control and training other flight controllers in ISS space simulators. With dedication and hard work any dream can become a reality.

Advice to students thinking about STEM/Cosmosphere Camp:

Do it! I would say that STEM degrees are incredibly rewarding and lead to great jobs (you don’t have to stay in academia/research). There are so many interesting questions and problems to solve, and we need good people working on them!

Now there are lots of jobs that are involved in space and exploration that you wouldn’t even think of (all ranges of engineering, accountants, press, etc.).

Addie Dove
Camper: 1997
Counselor: 2004 & 2006
Current Job: Assistant Professor in the Physics Department at University of Central Florida

Did experiences at the Cosmosphere influence your career choices?:

Most of what I do today doesn’t directly relate to what we did at space camp, but they’re still related. I study planetary science, and do research that relates to exploration, so I like to think that my knowledge of the history of spaceflight and some of what we teach/learn at camp is relevant. Also, I’ve flown on the vomit comet a few times, so maybe all that astronaut training was useful. Also, I live in Florida now, so it’s great to see launches all the time and still keeps me excited about rockets.

“I am a girl from the Midwest who went from training campers to becoming a fully certified flight controller in Mission Control and training other flight controllers in ISS space simulators. With dedication and hard work any dream can become a reality.”

– Carly Toder
Cosmosphere Camps alumnus

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Now there are lots of jobs that are involved in space and exploration that you wouldn’t even think of (all ranges of engineering, accountants, press, etc.).
Kayla LaFrance
Camper: 2000 & 2001
Current Job: Flight Controller for the International Space Station at Johnson Space Center

Did experiences at the Cosmosphere influence your career choices?
I have known for a long time that I wanted to work in Mission Control, and I attribute my time at space camps as the source of that love. Who doesn’t love sitting in the shuttle? I loved it enough that I wanted to learn more about how Mission Control supports mission. I was inspired to read about the history and the early beginnings of Mission Control and the stories of its heroes from Chris Kraft to Gene Kranz, John Aaron to Ginger Kerrick. The more I read, I was able to be a part of it at the Cosmosphere, the more I knew that I wanted to be there. Now I get to support astronauts from the Mission Control. I love my job.

Lessons Learned:
The idea of ‘Failure is not an option’ really only relates to manned space flight missions because loss of life is something we never want to deal with. But failing a math class will not be the end. I hate to see kids give up on their dreams before they even start because they think it will be ‘too hard.’ Hard is okay if you are willing to work. I was the first person from my family to go to college and get degrees. I failed Calc 1 two times. It was not until the 3rd attempt things clicked and I passed. I worked extra hours to pay for tutors. I wanted to work here so I found a way, even through failure. That is why I get uncomfortable when I meet new people and they assume ‘Oh you work for NASA, you must be smart.’ I am just the same as everyone else.

Favorite Memories:
I met Clayton Anderson while the Level 2 group was touring Johnson Space Center. It was amazing to meet someone that I had looked up to for so long.

Advice to students thinking about STEM/Cosmosphere Camp:
Go for it and don’t let anyone or anything tell you that you can’t. You do not have to be the best at math or science if you love it and you are willing to put the work in. Be willing to fail – failure will not be the end of the world, not if you pick yourself up and try again. If you keep trying it will open up new opportunities to learn and to grow.

If I can make it from my small hometown to the Cosmosphere, from there to working every day in the space industry, then you can do it too. You can work alongside me and several other FATP/ Cos alumni.

Tell us YOUR story!
We’d love to hear from you!
Email your camp story to campalumni@cosmo.org
Cosmosphere Scouting programs are at an all time high!
Discover more at cosmo.org/scouts
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Family and friends of long-time Cosmosphere supporter Wink Friesen celebrate his life and legacy at the opening of the “Wink Friesen Our Universe Gallery” in December.

“Our family is excited to be involved in another wonderful enhancement to the Cosmosphere. We are so grateful to be able to honor Wink Friesen, a husband, father, grandfather, and friend of so many, in a way that fits so perfectly with his professional achievements. I’m sure he would be proud to have his name on this exhibit.”

– Daniel Friesen

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FROM THE COSMOSPHERE’S INBOX...

No request, just a note of thanks.
My wife and I visited last Friday. Both of us are Aero Engineers. I can not tell you how impressed we both were with your facility. The thing that set you apart from other museums was in how you showed the parallel developments in the Space Race. I’m familiar with most of the story, but seeing it all the way you presented it was different. It changes the context somewhat. The facility and the presentations were exceptional. Also major thanks to your staff. You’ve got a terrific museum and it’s clear that your people enjoy sharing it with guests.

As an engineer, I know that the way you get people interested in science is to light a flame somehow. Your contributions to STEM education will pay off for many years to come.

Bill and Susan Hunt
Cincinnati, OH

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*Donor list contains donations that were received as of print time, December 31, 2016.

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**JUSTICE PLANETARIUM CHAIRS**

TAKE A SEAT! Take one of the plush chairs in the Justice Planetarium and make it your own with a dedicated name plate. Get yours for $350.

American Packaging Corporation
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**JUSTICE PLANETARIUM WALL OF STARS**

PREVERSE YOUR MEMORIES IN THE STARS. Honor friends, family and loved ones with a personal or corporate tribute on the Justice Planetarium's Wall of Stars. Prices are $200 (6” star), $500 (12”), $1,000 (18”) or $2,000 (24”).

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- Dr. Ed Berger
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- Ryan and Becky Christner
- LeAnn Cox
- Bradley Dunn
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- Carter and Tracey File
- Janet and Dennis Fischer
- Mort Foxe (By Helene Kain)
- LeRoy Galliardt
- Carlos and Lisa Garcia
- Caleb Gimer
- Chad and Lisa Gericke
- Thomas Glazner
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- Tom and Becky Holcomb

**SHUTTLE TILES**

HITCH A RIDE ON OUR SPACE SHUTTLE! Our “Ride the Shuttle” program places your name on the space shuttle Endeavour replica in our Grand Lobby. Tiles are $35 each.

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- Patricia L Snyder
- Bill Stuart
- John and Tina Thomas
- Karen Walden-Forrest
- Samantha Wallace

Email donate@cosmo.org to find out how your contribution can make a lasting difference.

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Longtime Supporters
Linda and Frank Chandler were long-time supporters of the Cosmosphere in addition to being Charter Members. They have contributed to capital and annual campaigns, participated in yearly fundraising events and are legacy donors. Since Frank’s passing in 2015, Linda still continues to support the mission. We spoke to her about why the Cosmosphere was, and still is, important to the Chandler family.

Q: What connection led to your support of the Cosmosphere?
A: “Frank and I grew to love the Cosmosphere while he served on the board. We were impressed with what the organization did for our community, and for Kansas, and inspired by what it could become.”

Q: You have generously decided to include the Cosmosphere in your planned giving. Why?
A: “When we put our estate together, we drew up a Charitable Remainder Trust which will benefit the Cosmosphere for years after we are both gone. It was a tax benefit for us, and we were able to give to a non-profit which means so much to us, to Hutchinson and to Kansas.”

Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man’s desire to understand.
– Neil Armstrong, First Man to walk on the Moon

Dillon’s Community Rewards Program

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5. Select the Cosmosphere and click on “Enroll”
Former Flight Director Makes a Visit

Gerry Griffin, former Mission Control Flight Director stops in to speak to Fort Riley soldiers

Gerry Griffin, one of the NASA flight directors who helped get the Apollo 13 crew back safely to Earth, spoke to the group of 65 Fort Riley soldiers recently during a “staff ride” retreat at the Cosmosphere. Col. David Gardner of the division said he had the idea for the group to visit the Cosmosphere as a professional development and teambuilding activity.

“I think there are a lot of lessons we can learn from the space program in the military,” Gardner said.

To help bring Griffin’s story of Apollo 13 to life, two items from the Cosmosphere collection, which aren’t currently on display, were brought out: a replica of the round air scrubber from the lunar module and an actual, but non flown, square air scrubber like the one in the command module.

Griffin said socks and duct tape were used to save the real Apollo 13 astronauts, when the crew had to use the lunar module as a “lifeboat” during the return to Earth.

Griffin said he thinks a lot about the future of the space program, and that we need to send a manned mission to Mars. While Apollo 17 was on its way back from the moon in 1972, he thought the space program had the momentum to send a manned mission to Mars.

“I remember sitting in the control room...and we were talking about Mars,” said Griffin. “We said, ‘Well, that won’t take us more than 20 years.’

Griffin doesn’t see Mars as the endpoint, either. He thinks humanity needs to progress toward, colonizing planets around other stars.

“This planet may not last forever,” he said.
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