

THE EXHIBIT

The Newsletter of UL Lafayette Science Museum



Letter from the Director

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



Greetings from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. It's been a busy start of the year. We are hosting school field trips, teaching university classes at the museum, and creating new exhibits! Field trips are filling up, so book yours today. One of my favorite things about the museum is providing new exhibits for our visitors. We are currently working on three new exhibits to open over the next couple of months. The first will be a new fossil exhibit, created by students in the School of Geosciences, highlighting our local fossils finds. Another is in works with students

from the Department of History. Keep an eye out for our opening dates!

I am also excited to announce that we are developing a volunteer program. Be sure to read more about it in the newsletter and sign up if you're interested. It's a great way to support your museum.

As always, we have a variety of opportunities for businesses and individuals to provide financial support so that we can continue to expand and enrich our programming and exhibits. For more information about how you can play a pivotal role to the museum and its mission, please contact me by [email](#) or call 337-482-0678.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, Museum Director



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
— AT —
**LAFAYETTE
SCIENCE
MUSEUM**

A UNIVERSITY AND LCG PARTNERSHIP

Become a Museum Volunteer

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM'S MISSION THROUGH OUR DOCENT PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce the launch of the UL Lafayette Science Museum volunteer docent program. This program will help us fulfill our mission of providing educational science experiences for visitors of all ages.

As a volunteer docent, you will support the museum and give back to the community by interacting with museum visitors and field trip students answering questions and giving directions to help visitors make the most of their time at museum. Volunteers also will have opportunities to help lead activities for school groups and during our STEM Saturdays program.

We will hold our first volunteer training on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. at UL Lafayette Science Museum located at 433 Jefferson Street in downtown Lafayette.

To sign up as a museum volunteer, complete our [Volunteer Form](#). Contact us with questions by calling the museum at 337-291-5544 or visit lafayettesciencemuseum.org.





Documentary Date Night

SCIENCE FILMS IN THE MUSEUM

Through a generous sponsorship by Aqueos, we are able to continue Documentary Date Night! At this fun event, we'll show a documentary film in the museum. Bring a date, bring a friend or just yourself for an evening at the museum. Attendance for the educational film screening is free and will be followed by a discussion led by UL faculty.

On Thursday, March 28, at 7pm, we will screen the documentary “Jane,” the story of Jane Goodall, whose chimpanzee research challenged male-dominated scientific consensus and revolutionized understanding of the natural world. The film is made from 100 hours of never-before-seen footage archived for more than 50 years and set to a rich orchestral score by Philip Glass. “Jane” offers an unprecedented portrait of a trailblazer who defied the odds to become one of the world's most admired conservationists.

The film screening is free, donations are accepted and concessions will be for sale (cash only) at the event. Doors open at 6:30pm and the film starts at 7pm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STEM SATURDAY: HANDS-ON CHEMISTRY - MAR 9

FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY - MAR 16

DOCUMENTARY DATE NIGHT: JANE - MAR 28

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING: APRIL 8

STEM SATURDAY: BIOLOGY - APRIL 13

EARLY CLOSURE - APRIL 26 AT 12:30PM

CLOSED - APRIL 27-28

A white calendar icon with a grid of dates, set against a blue circular background.

Solar Eclipse on April 8

JOIN OUR TELESCOPE VIEWING EVENT AT THE MUSEUM BEGINNING AT NOON

A Solar Eclipse will be visible in Acadiana on Mon., April 8, 2024. Parts of North America will be in the path of totality for this total solar eclipse. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk.

Although Lafayette is not in the path of totality, it will still be an impressive celestial event to observe. In Acadiana, we will see the moon cover 87% of the sun. To learn more, catch the Solar Eclipse program in the planetarium in March and April ahead of the event.

Museum staff and partners will hold a telescope viewing event on the day of the eclipse. The eclipse begins at 12:26pm and reaches maximum at 1:46pm and ends at 3:06pm. Telescopes with safe solar filters and viewing options will be set up along with pinhole viewers, and eclipse glasses will be available.

Remember, NEVER look directly at the sun. To see the eclipse, only use certified eclipse glasses, safe solar filters, or solar viewer.

For a free, printable thumbtack hole viewer template and instructions, visit the [Acadiana Sky](#) website to download.



In the Planetarium

MARCH & APRIL SCHEDULE

The universe awaits in our state-of-the-art, all-digital, full-dome planetarium! For the general public, we offer a weekday planetarium show Friday at 4 p.m. and weekend shows beginning with a Saturday morning children's program at 11:15 a.m. Public programs continue Saturday and Sunday at 1:30, 2:45 and 4 p.m. Other weekday timeslots are reserved for planetarium shows for field trip groups.

MARCH	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.		Rusty Rocket	
1:30 p.m.		Eclipse!	Eclipse!
2:45 p.m.		We Choose Space	We Choose Space
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight	Phantom of the Universe	Phantom of the Universe
APRIL	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11:15 a.m.		Earth, Moon & Sun	
1:30 p.m.		2 Small Pieces of Glass	2 Small Pieces of Glass
2:45 p.m.		The Sky Tonight	The Sky Tonight
4:00 p.m.	The Sky Tonight	Eclipse! (through April 7)/Stars	Eclipse! (through April 7)/Stars

**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 based on staff availability.*

STEM Saturdays: Chemistry & Biology

Join us Sat., March 9 for STEM Saturday: Hands-on Chemistry. UL chemistry students will conduct a series of hands-on experiments sure to ignite a passion for chemistry, fostering a deeper understanding of the fascinating world of molecules, polymers, and reactions.

Then on Sat., April 13, join the UL Biology Society for STEM Saturday: Backyard Biology. Learn about local pollinators and flowers and how to make your yard a bug paradise. Then take home seeds to start your own butterfly garden.

STEM Saturdays are made possible through a grant from Halliburton and offer extra hands-on, educational activities related to a science topic. Extra activities are included with regular museum admission.



Museum Spotlight: More than Exhibits

SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES FOSSIL REPOSITORY CONTAINS NEARLY 150,000 SPECIMENS

Did you know that the UL School of Geosciences maintains a repository of fossil specimens at the UL Lafayette Science Museum? In addition to what you see on display in the exhibits and prep lab, the fossil repository houses nearly 150,000 fossil specimens!

The repository is like a library of fossils and is located on the third floor of the museum. The room is temperature and humidity controlled to preserve our unique and irreplaceable specimens. Faculty, students (both undergraduate and graduate), and volunteers collect fossils during field expeditions, prepare and stabilize the specimens in the vertebrate paleontology lab (you can sometimes see them working behind the large window on the first floor), and conduct research on these specimens in the repository.

UL Lafayette Science Museum's repository is an important part of the museum and university!



Curiosity Corner

Solve the Magic Squares

The sum of each row, column & diagonal must be the same.

		8
9		1
	7	

	9	
3		
8		6

		6
3		7
		2

		4
		3
6		8

	7	
9		1
4		

		2
1		
8	3	

Find the Answer Key on the next page.

About Magic Square Puzzles



Working on magic square puzzles builds mental math skills. To solve the puzzle, make sure each row, column and diagonal add up to the same sum.

These puzzles encourage flexibility in thinking about numbers and how they combine with other numbers.

In solving these puzzles you will begin to see patterns in how numbers fit together.

Solve the Magic Squares - Answer Key

4	3	8
9	5	1
2	7	6

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

2	9	4
7	5	3
6	1	8

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

6	7	2
1	5	9
8	3	4

