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Internship Experience at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science

Internship Overview

With the support of the Indiana Space Grant Consortium, I (Carlisle Wishard) completed a roughly 170-hour internship at the Evansville Museum in Evansville, Indiana. This internship covered the dates defined in the schedule below and included both traditional business hours during which the museum was open and outreach events that occurred after museum closing. The overseer of this internship was Mitch Luman, the Dorothy and George Eykamp Director of Science Experiences at the Evansville Museum.

During my internship, I received training and experience creating and presenting live planetarium shows using Digistar5, learned about exhibit development and production, attended a virtual meeting of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association, meet with the museum curatorial staff to discuss museum progress, drafted social media posts to promote the museum and planetarium, and conducted outreach activities using the Unistellar eVscope telescope. I also enjoyed many discussions with Mitch Luman about museum curation, content creation, exhibit loans and partnerships with sister organizations, budgeting and capital campaigns, strategic plans, and visitor experiences. I was given free range of the museum after a tour of the entire museum facility, including off site storage, curatorial workspaces, and storage vaults. Lastly, I lead a discussion at a local bar and restaurant about my PhD research as a part of the Evansville Museum's Science with a Twist program.

On a traditional morning at the Evansville Museum, I would arrive at 9AM to begin preparing the museum for visitors. This included cleaning and sanitizing all hands-on science exhibits and the seats of the planetarium. I would walk through the galleries to ensure that none of the exhibits were broken or missing parts, and I would ensure that everything was in place for the arrival of visitors. I spent the next few hours developing my planetarium show for the day as it was likely to change weekly depending on what was visible in the night sky. I would also use this time to work on side projects such as drafting social media posts, updating constellations in Digistar5, or transcribing an interview with Siegfried Weng, the director of the Evansville Museum from 1950-1969. When the museum opened and visitors arrived (11AM on Saturdays, 12PM on Sundays), I would play run the planetarium, playing shows every hour on the hour for visitors. At 2PM, I would present the daily live show which discussed astronomical phenomenon visible in the night sky from Evansville, Indiana.

Many evenings, I would leave the Evansville Museum at 5PM, and return later in the evening to conduct outreach events with local Girl Scouts troops. The Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana purchased a Unistellar eVscope telescope and asked the Evansville Museum to assist them in creating content and programs for their members using the telescope. Mitch Luman and I also traveled to the Camp Koch, the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana's resident camp facility, to conduct a program for local Girl Scouts and their families. This program using the Unistellar eVscope and other telescopes purchased by the Girl Scouts at the advice of the Evansville Museum.

The support of the INSGC allowed me to travel to and stay in Evansville, Indiana throughout the course of my internship. In the fall of 2021, I will begin my 5th year as a PhD student in the

Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences department at Purdue University. My internship at the Evansville Museum confirmed for me that, after graduation, I would like to pursue a career working in planetariums. The confidence this internship gave me is invaluable. Most of all, I learned the importance of informal science education. I gained experience conveying science to an audience of non-scientists and this skill is one that I know will be critical to my future success in the field. Because of my experience at the Evansville Museum, I am excited to enter the world of planetariums after graduation. Thanks to the support of the INSGC, this experience shaped my future career goals and connected me to experts in the field of museums and science education.

Approximate Schedule

If a more exact schedule is necessary, please let me know and I am happy to provide one. The Evansville Museum has a more complete record of my comings and goings.

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| April 17, 2021: | 9AM-5PM, Girl Scouts at the Evansville Museum 8PM-10PM |
| April 18, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| April 24, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| April 25, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| May 1, 2021: | Great Lakes Planetarium Association Conference 9AM-4PM |
| May 8, 2021: | 9AM-5PM, Girl Scouts at the Evansville Museum 8PM-10PM |
| May 9, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| May 15, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| May 16, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| May 19, 2021: | 9AM-5PM, Science With A Twist 6:30PM-7:30PM |
| May 20, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| May 21, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 5, 2021: | 9AM-5PM, Girl Scouts at the Evansville Museum 8PM-10PM |
| June 6, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 12, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 13, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 19, 2021: | 9AM-5PM, Girl Scouts at Camp Koch 7PM-11PM |
| June 20, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 26, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |
| June 27, 2021: | 9AM-5PM |

Videos and Pictures

I have attached a photo to the email of myself behind the controls of the Koch Planetarium at the Evansville Museum. This was where I spent most of my time while working at the museum.

Here is the link to the recording of my live talk for the Evansville Museum's Science With A Twist program. This talk was on cosmic collisions and covered my PhD work.

<https://www.facebook.com/evansvillemuseum/videos/378148893538159/>

Expenses

Please let me know if you require a detailed expense report. I am happy to provide one.