

GALAXY FORUM KANSAS

presenters

STEVE DURST



Steve Durst is editor and publisher at Space Age Publishing Company, which operates offices in California (1976) and Hawaii (1988), publishes Lunar Enterprise Daily and Space Calendar Weekly, and supports the Stanford on the Moon and Ad Astra Kansas initiatives. Steve's work as director of the Hawaii Island-based International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA) aims to engage the resources of major spacefaring powers China, India, Europe, Russia, Japan, Canada, the USA and others towards ILO South Pole realization, Galaxy Center first-light imaging, and Human Follow-On operations. The ILOA has the goal of establishing a permanent astrophysical observatory and lunar commercial communications system on the Moon in the next decade. The ILOA collaborates with Odyssey Moon LLC, the first entrant in the \$30 million Google Lunar X-Prize international competition to safely land a robot on the Moon and send images and data back to Earth. Steve moved to California in 1961 from New York (b. 1943) to attend university, and earned degrees from Stanford in European and American history.

MIKE FORD



Having previously been a NASA Solar System Educator, Ford is currently one of ten NASA GLAST (Gamma-ray large area space telescope) educators. The Fermi-GLAST is a powerful space observatory which enable scientists to learn about the high-energy universe. An educator for 22 years, 15 of them at Holton High School, Ford changed the entire curriculum of his classes to focus on the area of earth/space science. He taught Earth and Space Science, Space Science and Advanced Space Science. Among the awards he has received are the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Grant (2000)—which went to building a robotic observatory on the Holton High campus, the Milken Family Fellowship Award for Science Education (2001), and the Air Force Association Kansas Educator of the Year Award (2006). Ford graduated in 1979 from Washburn College, Topeka; received his teacher's certification in 1983, his MS in geosciences from Mississippi State University in 2000. Other programs he has been involved in include POPS (University of California-Berkeley) and Galileo Fellowship Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

KANSAS ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVERS



The Kansas Astronomical Observers (KAO) astronomy club, located in Wichita, is a member of the national Astronomical League and of the NASA Night Sky Network. The KAO exists to "educate the public about and explore the night sky, and enjoy the wonderment that lies therein." Members give presentations at science museums, observatories and classrooms, host observation nights and activities for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy. Besides a presentation at the Galaxy Forum Aug. 22, the KAO will be sharing its expertise at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center's Starry Night observation event to be held August 21. The KAO's home observatory is Lake Afton Observatory, Goddard.

JOEL WALKER



Joel Walker began his work with the Cosmosphere in 1999 as a space science educator and later served as lead instructor for the Cosmosphere Academy and as Director of Education. Walker currently is Vice President of Education, overseeing all aspects of the education department, front desk and IMAX operations. Before joining the Cosmosphere, Walker began his career in 1997 as a teacher for McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, Alabama, and the same year received the school's Teacher of the Year award. Walker received his bachelor's from Baker University and went on to study Marine Science at the University of South Alabama, with an emphasis in microbial communities in the Gulf of Mexico—he is a published author on the subject.