

Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene

Project Development Team

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OHIO UNIVERSITY

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR



Al Cote, M.Ed., is the Program Coordinator of the SE Ohio Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. Email: cote@ohio.edu

Al is fascinated by the world around him. Did you ever wonder how a snake climbs a tree or what causes the wind, or why the sky turns red at dusk? Seeking answers to these types of questions has lead Al to a love of science. One of Al's goals as an educator is to instill in students this sense of wonder and inquiry. Reflecting on his experience in the production of **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene**, Al remarked on how much he didn't know about astronomy. He hopes students and teachers share this reaction and proclaim, "Wow, I didn't know that!"

FACULTY/STAFF ADVISORS



Dr. Mark Lucas is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Email: lucasm@ohio.edu

A nuclear experimentalist by training, Mark coordinates the Algebra-based Introductory Physics sequence, and manages the LON-CAPA Course Delivery System used by the Department. Mark was introduced to professional development work as part of the OSCI 5 writing team, and has since participated as a District Director in the Science Education Council of Ohio (SECO), as well as working with a number of professional development programs. He also coordinates a variety of outreach events for the department. Through his work on **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene**, both behind the scenes and in front of the camera, Mark has gained an appreciation for the amount of work that goes into preparing a set of resources of this nature. His hope is that this teaching/learning resource will provide the science and humor needed to help springboard students into a deeper study of waves and astronomy. And remember, "We learn science by doing science."



Dr. Mangala Sharma has been a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio University, a member of the Astrophysical Institute, and a Faculty Fellow at the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. She is currently working at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Mangala led the development of the "Planet Panorama," scale model Solar System traveling exhibit used in **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene**. Besides teaching undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in astronomy, astrobiology, physical science and education research, Mangala has been performing research on galaxy groups and intergalactic light using optical telescopes at the MDM Observatory, Arizona. Mangala built a community of Ohio University STEM faculty and researchers to do public outreach programs; obtained a NASA grant to do astronomy programs for elementary and middle school students, as well as adults at the public library. She also co-led the "Stretching the Rainbow" program: An immersive experience in multi-wavelength astronomy for high school teachers in Appalachian Ohio.

In a 2006 interview with OU's Outlook e-newsletter, Mangala reflected on her love of astronomy. She said, "I am curious about the whole universe. I think this is what makes us human – our curiosity. I think a day is wasted if I don't learn something new. Kids are great! Kids have completely open minds. We need to ignite their interest when they're really young."

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SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES



Andrea Maria Anderson is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. She teaches Chemistry and Biology at Athens High School in The Plains, Ohio, and is an occasional instructor at Ohio University. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Michigan and her Masters of Art in Teaching with Dr. Jane Butler Kahle at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Through her work with accomplished professionals, while participating in the cutting-edge development of multimedia teaching tools, Andrea feels she grew professionally and personally. As a result of this experience she feels she has participated in something important. The most inspiring aspect of the **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene** project for Andrea was the opportunity to glimpse into the budding careers of the young, talented professionals who wrote the scripts, directed the production and acted in the scenes.

Andrea anticipates that **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene** will be an entertaining, content rich, educational resource. The student videos will capture students' attention while introducing key content. The teacher resources will empower teachers to follow-up with robust, highly effective teaching strategies to ensure and track student achievement. Email: andreamariaanderson@gmail.com



Dan Hendershott is a passionate educator of six years and is currently teaching mathematics at Alexander High School in Albany, Ohio. He holds both a Bachelors degree in engineering and a Masters degree in education from Ohio University. His hobbies include baseball, golf, and chess. He believes that the successful integration of science, mathematics, and technology is critical to the futures of our students, and that **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene** will be an excellent resource to help teachers and students achieve this goal. Email: dhendershott@alexanderschools.org



Mary Ann Hopple graduated from Ohio University with a B.S. in Education. She also has a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. Her teaching experience has ranged from grade 2 to grade 12, but she has spent the majority of her teaching career teaching seventh grade science at Athens Middle School. One of her teaching goals is to have her students understand how science impacts their lives everyday. Even though she likes all of the characters in the Spaced Out series, her favorite character is Captain Obvious, because each one of us sometimes needs a "Captain Obvious" to help us recognize things that are not always apparent to us. Email: mary.ann.hopple@gmail.com



Keith Palmer has been teaching physical science and biology at Vinton County High School since 2001. Prior to that he worked in the mining industry for twenty-seven years in various engineering and supervisory positions. His background in industry lends itself well to leading students to practical applications to science in their everyday lives. In regards to the **Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene** video series Keith has the following comment: "When I was a new teacher I struggled to find good, interactive resources to share with my students. This project has a wealth of information for teachers to share with their students and it includes assessments to evaluate their learning progress. It was truly a pleasure to interact with the knowledgeable, scholarly people who collaborated on this project." Email: jpalmer4@columbus.rr.com

