

OPENING

NAVAL HILL PLANETARIUM

established by the UFS
in partnership with
DST, DETEA, MMM
and
private and corporate donors

1 • 11 • 2013

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



THE DREAM

. . . of having a planetarium in central South Africa goes back many years – it was not an easy dream to realise because of the expense involved. Over the past 10 years, the University of the Free State (UFS) built a relationship with the National Department of Science and Technology (DST) to further activities at the Boyden Observatory Science Centre and upgrade the site ... but the establishment of a planetarium at Boyden remained a dream. Today DST is on board as a partner in founding the planetarium in the old lamont-Hussey telescope building on Naval Hill.

It was thanks to the foresight of the Free State Department Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, (DETEA) that the UFS secured the grant to convert the old telescope building on Naval Hill into a planetarium. The donation from DETEA paved the way for all other contributions. DETEA also assisted in finalising the Concession Agreement between the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM) and the UFS for the Lamon-Hussey Observatory site. Furthermore due to the commitment of the MMM to upgrade the infrastructure of Naval Hill, the planetarium is located in a wonderful and safe context. The involvement of all these partners has been invaluable in establishing the planetarium.

The UFS has been immensely encouraged by the support of other organisations, locally and internationally, namely, the Old Mutual Foundation, Sun International through Windmill Corporate Social Investment, the Hermann Ohlthaver Trust, the Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust, the Raubex Group, the University of Michigan and the American Museum of Natural History.

Today, the UFS is on a platform together with all tiers of government and with the private sector to further tourism, education and economic development in the region. We are honoured to be in this position and we accept the responsibility of operating the planetarium with the greatest respect towards all who have contributed.

FOUNDING PARTNERS & DONORS STIGTINGSVENNOTE EN DONATEURS



- American Museum of Natural History
- Hermann Ohlthaver Trust
- Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
- Old Mutual Foundation
- Raubex Group
- University of Michigan: Department of Astronomy
- Windmill CSI (Sun International)

PROGRAMME

1 November 2013

Programme Director

Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector, University of the Free State

10:15–10:45 **Registration and refreshments**

10:45 **Welcome and background of project**

Chancellor, UFS: Dr Khotso Mokhele

Message & introduction of Premier

MEC, Free State DETEA: Mr Mosebenzi Zwane

Message of support

Premier, Free State Province: Mr Ace Magashule

Perspective: future of project

Vice-Rector, UFS: Prof Nicky Morgan

Keynote address

Minister, Department of Science and Technology:
Mr Derek Hanekom

Demonstration: Digital Universe and DigitalSky2

Sky-Skan

Introduction of Prof Patrick Seitzer

Prof Matie Hoffman, UFS

Presentation: Space Junk

Prof Patrick Seitzer, University of Michigan

12:30 **Word of thanks**

Deputy Mayor, MMM: Councillor Constance Rampai

Media photos and interviews

Guests drive to Oliewenhuis Art Museum

13:00 **Lunch at Oliewenhuis**

Hosts Prof Neil Heideman,
Dean, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UFS
and Mrs Estelle Heideman

PROGRAM

1 November 2013

Programdirekteur

Dr Choice Makhetha, Viserektor, Universiteit van die Vrystaat

10:15–10:45 **Registrasie en verversings**

10:45 **Verwelkoming en agtergrond van projek**

Kanselier, UV: Dr Khotso Mokhele

Boodskap en voorstelling van Premier

LUR, Vrystaat DETEA: Mnr Mosebenzi Zwane

Ondersteuningsboodskap

Premier van die Vrystaat: Mnr Ace Magashule

Toekomsperspektief

Viserektor, UV: Prof Nicky Morgan

Gasspreker

Minister, Departement van Wetenskap en Tegnologie:
Mnr Derek Hanekom

Demonstrasie: Digital Universe & DigitalSky2

Sky-Skan

Bekendstelling van Prof Patrick Seitzer

Prof Matie Hoffman, UV

Voordrag: Space Junk

Prof Patrick Seitzer, *University of Michigan*

12:30 **Bedanking**

Onderburgermeester, MMM: Raadslid Constance Rampai

Mediafoto's en onderhoude

Gaste ry na Oliewenhuis-kunsmuseum

13:00 **Middagete by Oliewenhuis**

Gasheer Prof Neil Heideman,
en -vrou Dekaan, Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe, UV
en mev Estelle Heideman

October 8, 2013

Professor JD Jansen
Rector and Vice-Chancellor
University of the Free State
P.O. Box 339
Bloemfontein 9300
Free State
South Africa

Dear Professor Jansen:

I send my warmest regards on the dedication of the Naval Hill Planetarium. We are delighted to see the former University of Michigan Lamont-Hussey Observatory being transformed into the first digital planetarium in sub-Saharan Africa. During the Observatory's use as a research facility, University of Michigan astronomers travelled to South Africa to study starlight entering the Observatory from the cosmos. Now a digital planetarium will provide the starlight from inside the Observatory, and bring the excitement of modern astronomy and other sciences to a very broad audience.

We offer our congratulations to everyone involved in this achievement, and look forward to exploring additional collaborative efforts with South Africa, particularly in the areas of science, engineering, and math.

In the meantime, congratulations on this momentous and special occasion.

Sincerely,



Mary Sue Coleman
President

MSC:cln

September 25, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

One of the most compelling reasons for the American Museum of Natural History to have joined the SALT consortium more than five years ago was to enable us to contribute to science outreach and education in South Africa. AMNH pledged, at the time, that if a digital planetarium were built in this country, then we would supply, free of charge, the content. I am delighted that this has finally happened, here in Bloemfontein.

Analog spaceshows provide lovely, simulated views of the night skies from different places on Earth. Digital shows, like the one you are about to see, allow astronomers to transport you out into the solar system, to the stars, nearby galaxies, and distant reaches of the Universe. Each AMNH digital spaceshow requires the efforts of over 50 people working for 2 years. Astrophysicists are involved at every step to make sure that audiences see the latest in astrophysical research.

Every star that you see in each spaceshow is seen, in 3 dimensional space, where it really is. What you're about to see is not a cartoon or "made up"; this is the real structure of our universe.

Despite all the great science, we should never forget that the stars and the night sky are beautiful. If it's clear this evening, or later this week, remember the spaceshow you're about to see. But please also take a few minutes to enjoy the free spectacle that nature provides - the stars - overhead, every night.

I wish this Planetarium great success, and much viewing pleasure to all who visit it.

With very best wishes,

Michael Shara

Curator of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History
New York City
and
Chairman of the Board of the Southern Africa Large Telescope

American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024



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