



Dudley Observatory
 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 201
 Schenectady, NY 12308
 518-382-7583
 Janie Schwab, Executive Director



Details & updates at www.dudleyobservatory.org

CALENDAR

Oral History Open House

October 11, 2006
 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 Dudley Observatory

Girl Scout Star Parties

October 13, 2006
 January 19, 2007
 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Five Rivers, Delmar NY
 To register your troop, call The Girl Scouts at 518-489-8110 or www.girlscoutshvpsc.org

Dudley Observations
 Editorial Staff
 Kauthar B. Umar,
 Writer/Editor/Designer



Roy Anderson Interview

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Rising Star interns, **Lizzie Dawson**, **Andrea** and **Devin Fortman** and **Eric Turner** for volunteering in the SUMMER STARS program at The Schenectady Museum. Your participation was greatly appreciated. Thanks for representing Dudley with such pride and competence.

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According to **Becca Stern**, it wasn't Patashnick's scientific feats that made him exceptional, but more so how he overcame childhood disadvantages to become a success.

Former Dudley board member, Roy Anderson, a pioneer in mobile communications, also told a fascinating story that exposed student, **Jacob Abolafia** to a different time period and gave purpose to the project.

"It [the interview] was a rare opportunity for a child of the Internet age to...reflect upon a time when short-wave radio was the most high tech of pursuits, the heavens were still distant and seemly unreachable and a computer with less processing power than iPod took up a floor of ground space," wrote Abolafia.



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Dudley Welcomes New President

We are delighted to welcome **Harvey Patashnick** to the Dudley Observatory as the new President of the Board of Trustees. As Dudley's 22nd president Patashnick is introducing plans to return the 150-year-old organization to a prominent role in the area.

"Dudley Observatory is a cultural and scientific treasure of the Capital Region and it deserves widespread recognition and support within the local area and beyond," said Patashnick.



"Harvey Patashnick's energy, enthusiasm, and expertise will be valuable in launching Dudley into its future as a center for science education," said **Janie Schwab**, Dudley Executive Director.

Patashnick's appointment as President comes with an exciting marketing plan to reintroduce Dudley to the national business and political communities, and a strong desire to pique the interests of budding scientists.

"I see Dudley's new goal as expanding its astronomy programs in science and technology education to inspire a new generation of science and technology leadership."

It's these new goals that are sure to launch Dudley back into its proper place as a shining star.

Former president, CEO and co-founder of Rupprecht & Patashnick Co., Inc., Patashnick has a rich astronomy background which includes comet research supported through NASA grants. An asteroid was named after Patashnick in recognition of his mentoring of two high school finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search, using the backyard observatory that he built. Patashnick also holds numerous patents and has authored scientific papers on subjects ranging from environmental monitoring to astronomy.

Gala Plans: Changes met with excitement!

Dudley Gala
 to be held in
 2007

In order to have the most spectacular and memorable celebration, the gala will be postponed until next year.

More exciting changes are in our near future, and we would like to combine the

celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Observatory with that of our upcoming announcements.

A dedicated group led by **Susan Birkhead** and **Mary Kosky** has been working hard on planning the celebration of Dudley's 150th anniversary, and it's truly amazing how much has been accomplished. The combined party will be worth the wait.

Dudley Observatory Making Headlines !!!

Over the past few months, the Dudley Observatory has been embracing the paparazzi and making appearances in newspapers throughout the Capital District.

At a time when planets are being redefined and all eyes are on the space shuttle Atlantis, Dudley has been sought after by the local media to provide scientific analysis as well as updates on the numerous changes in the organizations near future.



What began with a front page article in *The Daily Gazette* in July has spiraled into numerous requests for quotes from *Times Union* and *The Troy Record* just to name a few.

"As we celebrate our milestones and new initiatives we are elated that the local media is recognizing how important Dudley is to the local community and to astronomy education," said Executive Director Janie Schwab.

Dudley's appearances in the media are just the first steps in preparing the Capital District for the upcoming 150 inauguration celebration, that's sure to be a blast.

Pluto, A Planet No More?

After years of debate, astronomers attending the International Astronomical Union, IAU, meeting in Prague voted to eliminate Pluto as a planet and created a whirlwind of controversy.

"The IAU has failed us on this one!" said **Steven Russo**, Planetarium Manager of the Suits-Bueche Planetarium at the Schenectady Museum. "As far as my planetarium is concerned, we will educate the public on this irresponsible decision and STILL voice our opinion that there are NINE planets, of which Pluto is one of them."

According to the new definition Pluto, discovered in 1930, does not dominate its neighborhood and is therefore consid-

ered a dwarf planet. Recent discoveries of additional, round, icy objects in Pluto's realm have led some astronomers to agree that Pluto should never have been categorized as a planet.

Mike Brown, planetary scientist at Cal Tech points out "For teaching this is a very interesting moment. I think you can describe science much better now, by explaining why Pluto was once thought to be a planet and why it isn't now. I'm actually very excited."

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- Mike Brown

Stories of Astronomy, Earth & Space

Today, stories about space and science are making headlines throughout the world.

In the Capital District, students from the Advanced Placement Chemistry class at Bethlehem Central High School, have joined the trend with an oral history project highlighting the life stories and accomplishments of **Betty Sonnenborn**, **Harvey Patashnick** and **Roy Anderson**.

After reading Bernard Jaffe's classic, *Crucible: the Story of Chemistry*, and conducting these interviews, the students said that they gained a greater appreciation

for science as a creative human endeavor.

"Mrs. Sonnenborn's desire to make a difference in the world is truly unique", writes BCHS student **Mary Davis**. "Betty Sonnenborn intrigued me not as a scientist, but as a determined and courageous woman who has made incredible contributions to society as a whole."

Dudley's new President Harvey Patashnick's interview allowed students to learn about his scientific contributions to the science community and the Capital District.

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COME ON IN & CHECK IT OUT

Now on display at The Dudley Observatory: "Charting the Stars", the *New York Archives* magazine cover story about Dudley's reign during the 19th century.

In "Charting the Stars," Boston based science writer **Elizabeth Dougherty** includes photographs of Dudley's early buildings, etchings of the finest astronomy equipment of the 19th century, and information on computers, human and otherwise. "From 1900 to 1940, Dudley Observatory employed more female computers-eighty by the project's completion- than any other astronomical institution," wrote Dougherty.

Not only does the article expose fascinating details about Dudley's history, it delves into Dudley's current educational mission, which has been its shining glory over the past 30 years. Want to know more?

Visit us or call to view the summer 2006 issue of *New York Archives*.

Reflections: Stories of Astronomy, Earth and Space, is now on display at the Dudley Observatory. Drop by to see the results of oral history interviews with **Harvey Patashnick**, **Betty Sonnenborn** and **Roy Anderson**.

Join us on October 11th, at the **Oral History Open House** and you can meet these legends in person. Stop by and read the students reflective essays, listen to their recorded interviews and view amazing displays.

With detailed text and photographs of students brainstorming and conducting interviews, these displays are a can't miss. Pay us a visit and see for yourself.

The Czech Republic Comes to Dudley

Summer time means astronomy camp and warm nights for star gazing. This summer, **Eva Luhanova**, a college senior from the University of Economics in Prague, continued the tradition of a student from the Czech Republic becoming a permanent fixture in our summer memories

Luhanova chose a Dudley internship as her first introduction to the U.S. and though unsure of what to expect, this small town girl said she was pleasantly surprised by what she discovered.

"Everything is big here; cars, shops, portions of food," said Luhanova. "The outstanding scientists that I work with are really committed to this small, sophisticated organization and keeping its history alive."

Luhanova, a history buff, said that she wanted to improve her English and spent her time at Dudley working on letters to corporate sponsors, developing marketing strategies and creating brochures that highlight Dudley's history and future plans.

During her internship, Luhanova utilized skills learned as a Tourism & Regional Development major. While preparing for Dudley's big move and its 150 Anniversary Gala,

Luhanova was outspoken about aspects of the organization that need to be highlighted and how it should be presented to the public.

"Eva has lots of wonderful ideas," said Dudley Executive Director Janie Schwab. "She knows what people are looking for when they visit us in person, inquire about us online, or read a brochure."

Participating at such a pivotal time in Dudley's history is most memorable for Luhanova. While her other classmates had fast food or clerical internships, Luhanova said that she felt blessed to have been able to be apart of something real.

"I really learned a lot, I think," said Luhanova. "Out of all the possible jobs in the U.S., I think this is the best one that I could have had."

Thanks, Eva. We'll miss you!



KauntharUmar©2006

Eva Luhanova