

The COMMUNICATOR

Challenger Learning Center

FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



222 CHURCH ST. WOODSTOCK, IL 60098 (815) 338-7722

Murals

educate, inspire



What once were the blank walls of Challenger Center for Science & Technology's general purpose room are now vistas of space in the Observation Deck. Thanks to donor Larry O'Connor, owner of Other World Computing, five space murals dominate the room which is used daily by visiting students and regularly for special presentations and events for the center and community. Artist Ken Kupietz, Delevan, Wis.,

created the massive space-themed murals.

The new works complement Kupietz's murals of a nebula and the International Space Station orbiting the Earth created during the original build-out of the center in 2000. The new ones include the solar system, Mars mission, moonscape, spiral galaxy and a close up of an astronaut that looks three-dimensional.

Kupietz said his goal was to "create a visual composition that makes people wonder." Given the reaction of students and teachers, he succeeded.

Maureen Otten, co-flight and curriculum director, said "The students are awed by everything they see. Their first stop in their Edventure Center experience is the solar-system mural where our teachers guide them in discovering the planets and what makes them special."

O'Connor is pleased with the final product. He said "There is great opportunity for great imagination at



Register now for monthly family science nights

Join in the popular family science nights at the Challenger Center. They combine families and science with exploratory fun on the first Friday of the month.

NOV. 5 • FAMILY MISSION – A FLIGHT TO MARS!

Become astronauts for the evening and enjoy Challenger's Mission to Mars program, one of the programs flown by school groups. It fills up fast.

DEC. 3 • EXTREME BATTLE BOTS

Families work together to build the best battling robot. Apply engineering and science skills and be the family that winds up first.

JAN. 7 • FAMILY MISSION – RENDEZVOUS WITH A COMET

Enjoy Challenger's Rendezvous with a Comet program – the most popular program flown by daily school groups. It fills up fast, too.

FEB. 4 • EXTREME BATTLE BOTS

MARCH 4 TELESCOPES AND THE NIGHT SKY

Learn the basics of telescopes and identify objects in the night sky using star charts.

APRIL TBA • MSI NIGHT

Museum of Science and Industry staff will bring interactive activities to Challenger for the fourth year. Flames blazed, frogs were dissected and foam was made in the past. It's new every year. As soon as the date is known, it will be announced on our website www.challengerillinois.org.

MAY 6 • ROCKETRY WITH FOX VALLEY ROCKETEERS

Members of Fox Valley Rocketeers will assist families in building and launching rockets.

Science nights start at 6 p.m., except family missions which start promptly at 5:45 p.m. Participants must be 5 years old or older, and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$12 per person per program and includes Napoli pizza and pop. (Pizza and pop are not served at MSI night.) Preregistration is required. Call 815-338-7722.

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Aurora University expands programs at Woodstock Center

Aurora University – Woodstock Center which is located in the Challenger building, successfully launched its Master of Business Administration weekend leadership concentration program last spring. Already, AU is expanding its academic offerings in McHenry County.

AU is now recruiting students into its Master of Science in Nursing and Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs in collaboration with Centegra Health System.

Carole Peters, admission counselor, said information nights about other academic offerings are planned in November at Challenger. People interested in undergraduate and adult degree-completion programs in business administration or criminal justice are invited to attend the information night **Thursday, Nov. 11**. Anyone interested in pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree is invited to join AU staff **Tuesday, Nov. 16**. Registrations are at 6 p.m. with programs starting at 6:30 p.m.

Jason Harmon, director of enrollment for the Woodstock Center, said the university is designing programs to meet the academic and professional needs of the county.

"People are just very excited about Aurora University being here," said Charie Zanck, Challenger board president. "I would love to eventually see the university with a large, permanent campus in McHenry County."

For information, call 815-337-6051, e-mail WCadmission@aurora.edu or visit www.aurora.edu/woodstock.



Charie Zanck, Challenger board president; Dr. Rebecca Sherrick, Aurora University president, and Steve Otten, Challenger executive director, welcome guests at an open house welcoming Aurora University to Woodstock and McHenry County in May.

Hearty thank yous

Challenger expresses grateful thanks to the following businesses and groups that generously donated to the program:

- Miceli Drapery, Marengo, for 12-by-12-foot drape in the new Observation Deck
- Medela Healthcare USA, McHenry, and Hard Surface Solutions, Lombard, for parking lot repair and painting
- Lake in the Hills Rotary
- Other World Computing, Larry O'Connor, murals

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the Challenger Center, and it's great to see every room there bring you to a different place, a different world, to imagine and inspire."

Kupietz, who is known as The Brush, was assisted by Gabriel Karagianis, Noah Hardt and Erin Seely.

To see the murals, visit www.challengerillinois.org.

Join the Challenger Support Crew

Gifts from Challenger friends help strengthen the center and ensure continued programming for students, teachers, families and the community. We invite you to join this tradition of private support.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Check payable to Challenger Learning Center for Science & Technology
 Please charge my gift to:
 Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ V-Code _____

Print Name _____

Signature _____

AMOUNT OF GIFT:

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000

Other \$ _____

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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