

News from the Connecticut Science Center

Observational Astrophysicist Jedidah Isler speaking at a Women in Science program in 2016.

Challenging Perspectives

Is time travel possible?... Can I become a molecular gastronomist in my own kitchen?... Is traditional mathematics still relevant?

The joy of inquiry, innovation, and discovery extends well into adulthood. The Connecticut Science Center, the region's foremost STEM learning destination, convenes leading scientists to quench this thirst for knowledge among adult visitors. Through lectures, workshops, and panel discussions, participants engage with experts and other adults in the exploration of our ever-changing world through the lens of science.

"Museums as sites of adult learning are stimulating and offer a place where ideas originating from the media or peers can be tested, confirmed, or modified. Museums also help visitors reformulate old pieces of understanding that have lost relevance or meaning."

Robin S. Grenier, PhD
Associate Professor of Adult Learning
at UCONN

Attendees of the Science Center's groundbreaking adult programs can expect to rub shoulders with the likes of Observational Astrophysicist Jedidah Isler, recently named a National Geographic 2016 Emerging Explorer; revolutionary Protein Sciences CEO Manon Cox; and former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, to name a few. From architecture to quantum physics to artificial intelligence and more, current issues explored by industry and academic powerhouses provide a backdrop for lively, sometimes controversial discussions about new developments and future directions in STEM fields. These experientially rich lifelong learning offerings not only deliver an opportunity for adults to network with like-minded participants in personal, professional, and family circles, but also foster conversations and challenge perspectives.

2017 adult offerings now in development include experiences with author of the new book *Where Are the Women Architects?* and University of Buffalo architectural historian Despina Stratigakos; as well as a special workshop with Chef Scottish Francis of Fox's TV series *MasterChef*. ■



The Connecticut Science Center inspires lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

New Traveling Exhibit: Engineering Earth

Opens January 28, 2017

Adult Program: Where are the Women Architects?

with Despina Stratigakos
March 23, 2017 | 6PM

STEM Achievement Awards Breakfast

April 25, 2017 | 7:30AM

Chrissy and William Horgan: For the Love of Science

It was love at first sight: Chrissy was a physician's assistant, and William, a doctor on rotation. They are a couple with a passion for pediatric care and making a difference in people's lives. This passion permeates everything Chrissy and William do.

When you visit the Science Center, it is not uncommon to see Chrissy here. She is an enthusiastic Visionaries Society Member, a committed volunteer on the Green Gala Committee, and even a chaperone for her own children's school field trips. Chrissy and William have underwritten five field trips for New London County elementary school classes each year for the past two years.

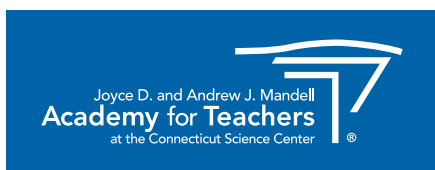
For the Horgans, supporting the Connecticut Science Center's work and mission continues their deep-rooted love for helping children in any way possible. They see the Science Center not only as a destination for their family but also as a valuable resource for children and families statewide; providing crucial exposure to STEM resources that children and teachers in Connecticut would not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. ■



ABOVE: Chrissy & William Horgan with Science Center CEO Matt Fleury and students from S.B. Bulter Elementary School.



LEFT: Chrissy & William Horgan get ready to step out to The Green Gala.



Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

The Connecticut Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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NGSS Know How

Two students have cups of soapy water with straws. Their goal: to blow bubbles. One cup works, and one doesn't. Why? This mystery launches an investigation in *Chemical Reactions*, the newest Connecticut Science Center Discovery Center laboratory program.



ABOVE: Students explore real world phenomena in NGSS aligned programs.

Discovery Center programs allow students on field trips to participate in fun, hands-on classroom experiences with Science Center STEM Educators. *Chemical Reactions* is among the first of these programs to be aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), standards aimed at changing what, and most importantly, how teachers teach science.

Back to the soapy water: before the lesson even begins, students are presented with a puzzle—why does one cup bubble and not the other? This exercise sets the stage

for the program by anchoring students' investigation in a real phenomenon. As class concludes, STEM Educators facilitate additional discussion relating the lesson to the real world. And that's a critical shift in NGSS: making sure that science instruction prepares students not just to know about science, but to *do* the science that will shape our world. [Learn why the second cup didn't bubble at CTScienceCenter.org/Bubbles.](http://CTScienceCenter.org/Bubbles) ■

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