



News from the Connecticut Science Center

Lush Butterfly Encounter welcomes visitors

DNA, Butterflies, and Aliens – Oh My!

From unlocking the tiniest secrets hiding within DNA to exploring the wondrous expanse of the universe, fall at the Connecticut Science Center offers new exhibitions and experiences for families, educators, and students.

Personalized medicine, family ancestry, and human genome sequencing have steadily risen to the top of public scientific interest. The Science Center's new Genomics Laboratory allows visitors to delve into these fascinating and timely topics through hands-on exploration. Participants can catalog their unique personality traits and investigate butterfly traits in the lab. Butterfly traits come to life in the recently unveiled Butterfly Encounter, a permanent space that immerses visitors in a lush, tropical

environment and hosts more than forty butterfly species during their metamorphoses and release into the exhibit.

The new 3D movie for fall, *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*, celebrates inspiring stories of human ingenuity behind exciting inventions, structures, and other engineering marvels and shows the determination that drives engineers to create a safer, more sustainable future.



Now playing in the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Science Theater

While the humans in *Dream Big* aim to solve earthly engineering challenges, others among us gaze to the stars and ask, "Are we alone?" The newest traveling exhibit, *Alien Worlds and Androids*, explores this question as it draws connections between alien-like matter found on Earth and new technologies in the ongoing search for life beyond our planet. Visitors may even spy robotic technology made famous in films such as *Iron Man*, *Star Wars*, and *The Terminator* series.

Butterfly Encounter is presented by Mark & Luanne Paley and Roger & Sondra Beit and supported by the SBM Charitable Foundation. *Genomics Laboratory* is supported by Axinn. *Alien Worlds & Androids* Media Sponsor: XFINITY. ■



Iron Man on display in *Alien Worlds & Androids*



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Make a tax-deductible gift in support of STEM Education at the Connecticut Science Center.

November 28

Sci-Fi Feature Flick: *Aliens & Chris Pratt*

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
Screening

November 30, 5-9PM

WINTER VACATION EXPLORATION CAMPS

December 27-26

A Day in the Life of Reservations

As students stream off their school buses and into Science Center exhibit galleries for curriculum-aligned field trips, the Reservations team rests assured that their diligent, behind-the-scenes efforts are about to provide truly transformative experiences for the Science Center's young visitors.

Each day, these multitasking team members work tirelessly with the Visitor Services team to plan and execute not just field trips, but birthday parties, traveling programs, and more. By a typical afternoon, Reservations Center Coordinators have confirmed many diverse bookings for different kinds of groups, including students, adult tours, and family groups. Think of the Reservations team as the air traffic controllers behind the Science Center's vast array of STEM education adventures. ■



*Reservations Coordinators
David Hernandez and Caity Leamy*



*Kim Kelly tends to the new
Butterfly Encounter*

Taking Flight with Kim Kelly

Welcome Kim Kelly, the Connecticut Science Center's new Horticulturalist and Manager of the Butterfly Encounter exhibit. Kelly oversees the continuous development of Butterfly Encounter, as well as the team that cares for the 40-plus species of butterflies and more than 30 species of plants in this tropical habitat.

Kelly's background in botany and environmental science, coupled with her passion for informal education, made her a natural fit in this multi-dimensional role. Prior to joining the Science Center, she worked as Horticultural Director at the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and as the Master Gardener Coordinator at UCONN.

Along with the team, Kelly aims to "create classrooms, whether indoors or out, that provide fun, experiential education opportunities for youth and adults." The exciting new butterfly habitat will help Kelly craft an interdisciplinary and immersive Science Center experience. ■

Genomics Education Lab Opens to the Public

The field of genomics is rapidly increasing our knowledge and understanding of the human body, disease, and health-related issues. Genomics represents a scientific frontier that is increasingly intersecting with individuals and families at the most personal level, with the potential to shape the future. Connecticut and the northeast stand on the forefront of this scientific and technological revolution.

However, research gains in genomics are far out-pacing public awareness and knowledge of the field, and the percentage of students who are interested in and prepared for careers in these areas remains low. The Connecticut Science Center endeavors to fill this gap with the development of a new, permanent genomics and health education lab space within The Picture@ Health Exhibit Gallery.

A recent investment by law firm AXINN in the Science Center's new Genomics Lab has paved the way for program development and delivery in this exciting new space. Visitors are now able explore genetics education concepts such as physical characteristics and inherited traits, genetic adaptations, and more. Plans for DNA extractions, health-related offerings, and programs exploring global energy and environmental challenges using microscopes, chemistry, and polymers are now in the planning phases. Additional programs for Students and Educators will be developed over the next 3 years.

Additional support for genomics program development comes from Ensign-Bickford Industries and The Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation. ■



Visitors explore their "YOUUnique" traits in the Genomics Lab.



**Connecticut
Science Center**

Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

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

For additional information, contact John Bourdeaux, Vice President of Advancement, at (860) 520-2131 or jboudeaux@CTScienceCenter.org.

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Special thanks to The Cheryl Chase & Stuart Bear Family Foundation for their support of a new Genomics exhibit now in development.