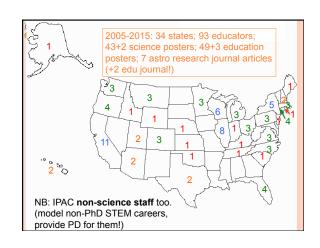


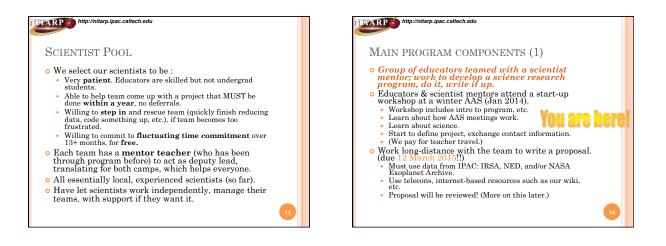
#### MRP http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu INTERPT http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu EDUCATOR POOL ALUMNI POOL... o Historically, we have been aimed at high school • We select our educators to be : classroom educators, and this is still our largest contingent (alumni and participants). Very savvy educators (already capable of involving students in research or research-like experiences). • First expansion was to 7-8th gr (in 2004-2008 era). · Reasonably savvy astronomers before we get to them, o Second expansion was to comm. coll. (2010). but little/no experience in real (astronomy) • Then amateurs (2011). research. • Then museum educators (2012). Willing to commit to fluctuating time commitment • Then 'lurkers' (2013) - other folks not in classrooms, over 13+ months, for **free**. not in museums, but in higher-level positions (we hope both NITARP and their institutions can • National application process. (Due September!) • This year, had ~4x as many applicants as spots. mutually benefit). (2012:4x; 2013:5x; 2014:4.5x) • With the contraction in 2014, we're back to traditional educators (middle & high school).

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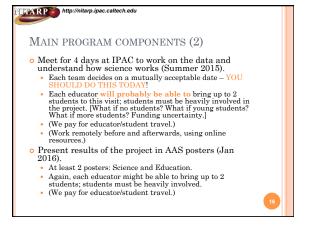
# RECENT PARTICIPANT REACTIONS

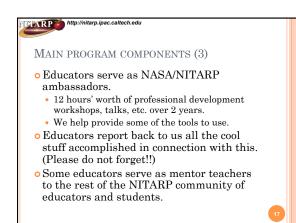
- "I just wanted to let you know that this 38 year veteran teacher believes [NITARP] is one of the greatest types of professional development I have ever done."
- [student:] "I cannot put into words how amazing and priceless the experience was."
- "You and this program (NITARP) have been truly remarkable and has already changed my life forever. I'm just waiting to see what happens next."



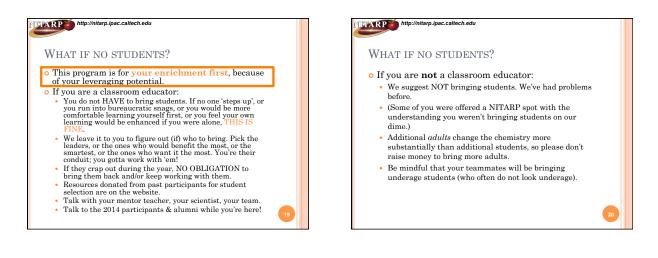












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#### WHAT IF YOUNG STUDENTS?

- We have had middle school educators since the
- In the early years, far fewer teachers brought students at all.
- In the NITARP era, the middle school educators have brought students.
- Students of all ages struggle. High school seniors: "expect to work harder than you ever have in your life", "I thought that scientific research would be complex and complicated, but this exceeds that to a whole new level"; "This was an amazing experience, but is not for the faint of heart".
- From what we have seen, the younger students struggle *far* more. Some give up halfway through.
- Travelling with very young students also an issue.
- Please be aware of all of this, and don't just dismiss it.

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## WHAT IF MORE STUDENTS?

- If you were accepted with the offer of supporting students, we are planning to pay for up to 2 students to come on the summer visit and next year's AAS.
- You can raise your own money to bring up to 2 more.
   We strongly recommend no more than 4 (empirical limit: you spend all your time shepherding rather than learning).
- o The students you bring in the summer need not have to be the same ones you bring to the AAS – though they often are! Recommendation from alumni: should be the same.
- Talk with your mentor teacher, your scientist, your team.
- Talk to the 2014 participants (& alums) while you're here!

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## MORE PEOPLE AT HOME

- Of course, all of you can involve as many folks (of whatever age) as you want at home, to whatever degree makes sense to you, on whatever timescale.
- Think about how you can best leverage your participation, given your resources.
- o Talk with your mentor teacher, scientist, team.
- Talk to the 2014 participants (& alumni) while you're here!





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# FUNDING

- o It's a mess.
- No, really, it's a mess.
- Lots of uncertainty.
- We generally end up getting through one trip at a time. I got everyone here, and paid for the people we promised to pay for.
- Machinations at our end may mean that students >16 are HIGHLY preferred for the Summer visit.
  We will start to deal with the Summer visits in
- the Spring. (Similarly, will deal with AAS travel in late summer.)
- We won't let you book travel if we can't pay for it.

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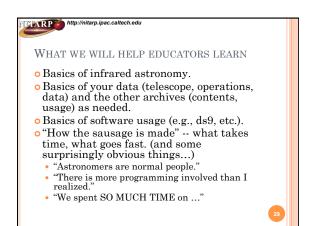
#### MENTOR TEACHER CONCEPT

- Now have ~100 educators who have been through the program, and almost uniformly they want to do more; they don't want to stop after just 1.5-2 years!
- "First year" educators are the brand new ones (first AAS, first IPAC visit, learning the ropes).
- "Second year" educators start with their second AAS, (conduct workshops, work with students, etc.).
- "Third year" and later educators = alumni. Some join new teams as mentors. Some are involved in follow-up research of their original project using other telescopes. Some are involved in the proposal review. (I also bundle 2<sup>nd</sup> yr into 'alumni'.)

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## WHAT WE EXPECT EDUCATORS TO KNOW

- How to work your computers. How to install software on your laptops.
- The basics of modern astronomy (what is a magnitude, what is a color-magnitude diagram, what is a FITS file).
- How to turn around and use research experiences in the classroom (or equiv).
- (If you feel you are weak on any of these, talk to your team for help -- someone on your team knows, or try other teams, or alumni!)



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#### WHAT SOFTWARE WILL WE USE?

- It varies from team to team.
- Projects have ranged over 6 orders of magnitude in wavelength UV to submm.
- Astronomers tend to use a wide variety of tools they use whatever works fastest to accomplish the task at hand, and this will vary from person to person. (→)
- Some of you may be doing photometry, maybe using APT and/or ds9 (NITARP tutorials on these if you want to get started). Some of you may be using Excel (many online tutorials, books, etc. on Excel!)...
- Some of you may need other tools.
- In any case, you'll learn as you go.





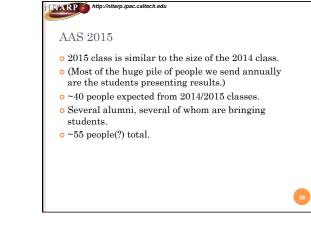












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#### WORKING REMOTELY

- Much of the time you spend on this project will be working remotely. First big task: Work remotely to write proposal. (Proposals due March 12.)
   Have you worked across time zones before?
- We have a wiki on which people can share information -
- We have a wiki on which people can share information text, discussions, instructions, examples, images, files. (Other long-distance collaboration tools blocked by schools!)
  School email breaks often attachments vanish or entire mail vanishes. (Fall back to gmail [et al.] if any problems.)
  We strongly encourage regular telecons, via Skype or tollfree number (or G+ hangouts; join.me also has nice screensharing though no audio unless you pay). If you don't do this, team often dysfunctional. SET UP A REGULAR TIME TODAY. Really. We mean it.
  Last veer evaluation suggested 1 telecon per month he edu
- Last year, evaluation suggested 1 telecon per month be edu only, no sci open questions, reflection, teaching each other, talking about how it fits in class. I think we should try this!

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## WORKING IN PERSON: VISITING IPAC

- o 4-day IPAC visit (Pasadena, CA).
- Very very busy 4 days!
- 0.5 day usually is a JPL tour.
- If you want to do more (SOFIA? Mt. Wilson?), you have to do it, pay for it, beyond our 4 days.
- Historically 3 days; offered 4<sup>th</sup> in 2011 as
- "training wheels" e.g., you guys work without scientist in the building but also not far away, modeling what you will do at home. This seemed to work really well.
- o (Yes, we do take advice!)

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# TRAVEL ANXIETIES

- Much of your most exciting participation in this is travel.
- I think this is cool!
- o But this seems to cause the most angst, phone calls, stress, etc.
- The faster you turn in receipts, the faster you get your
- I consolidated EVERYTHING, all the most frequently asked questions, helpful advice, etc. into a multi-page travel advice document. (You got a version customized to you at the beginning of this process, and will get another one customized to each of your next trips.)
- PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE read and follow those instructions

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# RESOURCES

- A LOT of material already developed (wiki, tutorials). You will probably want to develop more, but look at what exists before developing new from scratch.
- o Material you develop for working remotely (Spring, Fall) will likely be different than what you develop for the Summer.
- We welcome any more material that you develop that you would like to share.

# MARP http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu POSTER AUTHORSHIP

- You need to write up your results for the AAS, both science and education.
- o For the science, an educator should be the lead author. We try to encourage teachers rather than students to lead this. Could be mentor teacher, need not be.
- o For the education, an educator is expected to be the lead author, and include the whole team as appropriate.
- o If merited, your scientist will lead a paper for a refereed astronomy journal. Few posters turn into articles! (Not just NITARP, worldwide...)

# MRP http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu

#### POSTER CONTENT

- One of the big things you should do at this meeting is look at posters in preparation for your own.
- Science poster contents are relatively well-defined, but bear little resemblance to a science fair poster.
- Science is what you're here for, and are (probably) where you should focus most of your effort. o Education posters are much less well-defined. Does
- not have to be education research! (Probably should not be!)
- (Since 2005: "What are we supposed to put in the education poster?" It is poorly defined .. by definition. Nearly anything works. Try to make it your own, e.g., not an overview of what NITARP is.)

#### MRP http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu

#### 12 HOURS OF 'SHARING'

- Generally can't stop you from sharing ©, but closing the loop is hard.
- You know about our 12 hour PD obligation going in, and had to write up tentative plans as part of your application.
- But, we know your plans will change in a year, and thus we are very flexible in what we 'accept' - basically, want you to share the experience:
  - Workshops/Lectures (school, local, regional, national)
  - · Articles (you write, or are interviewed for)
  - Anything else ...

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# 'FINISHING' UP THE PROJECT

- o This is open-ended by design (it's real science!), and 'success' is measured differently for each team.
- o (Formal assessment was tried for the first time in 2013)
- o Not every project will find what you thought going in. (Still successful.)
- Not every project will result in a journal article. (Still successful.)
- o Some projects will open more questions than answers. (Still successful.) Are there follow-up observations that would help?
- o Can you do a similar analysis on your own of a different kind of object or region?

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# HOW NOT TO DO SCIENCE

- o Several people in the past have suggested one of these:
  - Why not assign one task per school team? Then the intensive work for that team would be <<year.
  - · Why not just let each person do just what their strength is?
- o Cold War encryption worked this way. Each team had no idea what the other teams had done to the numbers
- We will NOT be doing that. This is not a relay! My goal is to make sure that you UNDERSTAND each step, and can reproduce at LEAST some of it on your own afterwards. Toolkit building!

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# YOU CAN NEVER BE 'PREPARED' FOR THIS

- The original incarnation of the program had the AAS, proposal in Feb, then NOTHING until Summer visit, then VERY LITTLE until AAS. Teachers: Please, can we do more work in the Fall, before the AAS? So, more work in Fall.
- Teachers: Please, can we do more work before the visit? So, more work before the visit.
- Teachers: Please, can we do more work in the Spring? So, more work in Spring.
- Teachers: Please, can we do more work in the previous Fall, before teams start? <luisa and varoujan crushed under anvils>
- Teachers: give us video training! So, Tutorials. • 2013 Evaluation : we don't feel prepared! Give us more prep work!
- Yes. I know. You can't do the program before you do the program. You WILL FEEL unprepared. It will not be 'comfortable.'

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# FEELING OVERWHELMED??

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- At some point in this process, you will probably feel overwhelmed. Maybe you already feel like you're in the deep end of the pool.
- o This will ebb and flow over the course of the meeting and the year, I g
- o Talk to your mentor teacher. Talk to your scientist. Talk to
- Everyone brings different strengths and weaknesses to your team. You're all in this together!
- I have a "major milestones" document for you with a summary of, well, milestones through the next 12 months.
- o If it doesn't feel like you or your team is "on track" talk about it! Talk to your mentor teacher, me, or Varoujan. Maybe you need a nudge back on track. Maybe your team really actually does need to do something different than the 'standard path.'



# http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu IT'S OK TO FEEL DUMB (1)

•Advice from 2013 teacher:

"Teachers need to maybe be reminded that it is OK if they don't have any idea what they are doing at times and that they are not expected to be experts in the field. They do need to be able to admit when they are confused, be open to feed back from other team members, and have time to commit to the study."



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- o Scientists spend their careers feeling dumb. We are trying to figure out how things work, and fail often. Feeling dumb is part of our job description.
- o Moreover, your mentor scientists work at Caltech.
- We are NOT the big fish in a small pond, and we are used to this. (I mean, we're holding our own, but ...)
- You may very well be a big fish in your pond. You are most likely not a big fish in this pond. This may take some adjustment.

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- IT'S OK TO FEEL DUMB (3)
- Feeling dumb is part of our job description.
- No, really.
- This is a *state of being* for scientists.
- o "I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there." -**Richard Feynman**

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The importance of stupidity in scientific resea	arch
Martin A. Schwartz	
Department of Microbiology, UVA Health System, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22908, USA ⊦mai: maschwartz@virginia.edu	
locaphild A Antil 2008 Summal of Call Sciences 121, 177 f Published by The Company of Biologists 2008 br: 01 249/jic.003490	
recently saw an old friend for the first time in many years. We ad been Ph.D. students at the same time, both studying science,	
although in different areas. She later dropped out of graduate school,	
went to Harvard Law School and is now a senior lawyer for a major	
environmental organization. At some point, the conversation turned	
o why she had left graduate school. To my utter astonishment, she aid it was because it made her feel stupid. After a couple of years	
of feeling stupid every day, she was ready to do something else.	
I had thought of her as one of the brightest people I knew and	
her subsequent career supports that view. What she said bothered	
ne. I kept thinking about it; sometime the next day, it hit me. Science	
nakes me feel stupid too. It's just that I've gotten used to it. So used to it, in fact, that I actively seek out new opportunities to feel	
tupid. I wouldn't know what to do without that feeling. I even	
hink it's supposed to be this way. Let me explain.	
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# IT'S OK TO FEEL DUMB (4)

•We are ALL here to help each other understand. Make all of us slow down until you get it. We need to promise each other that we will reach across the gulf to you. But you need to reach back.

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## ASK QUESTIONS

- Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions.
- This is the number one thing that people tell us they wish they knew going in, & advice they would give to the new people.
- Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions.
- Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions.
- ${\scriptstyle o}$  Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions.
- *There are no dumb questions*. I may look at you incredulously for an instant, you may catch me quietly putting my head in my hands, but, honestly, I would MUCH rather you ask now than be still confused in 6 months.

# http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu

## WEBSITES

- o<u>http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu/</u>
- o<u>http://coolwiki.ipac.caltech.edu/</u>
- First one is "public face" and will have a profile for each of you by Tuesday.
- Second is working area you will have accounts as soon as I can. In both cases, I need team names to finish this process.
- We will post talks from today when we get a chance (also "soon").
- There is a 'resources' for participants' area on the NITARP site that includes all sorts of good stuff. (policies, procedures)

## http://nitarp.ipac.caltech.edu

# RETURNING TO THE PRESENT...(1)

- The rest of today has two big blocks of time to
- work with your team. • TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM
- Rearrange things if you have to, e.g., don't pick up registration materials until after 5 if you need to.
- START THE HEAVY USE OF EMAIL NOW. Get the communication channels lubricated. After today, you should be able to 'hear' each other's voice in your head as you read emails. Make sure you are not in anyone's spam filter. Go get a gmail account if you need to.

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# RETURNING TO THE PRESENT...(2)

- Plan to meet later in the meeting.
- Plan to attend oral sessions relevant to your science.
- Plan to look for NITARP posters and talk to the 2014 folks.
- Plan to look for posters relevant to your science.
- Plan to look for what makes a good poster (& presentation) and what doesn't, because you have to do this in 12 months!

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# RETURNING TO THE PRESENT...(3)

- We found, from past years, that the one thing that educators wanted us to do was help them get good press (literal and virtual) at home.
- Towards that end, we collected media and administrative contacts from you.
- We will put out a press release TUESDAY with a few words advertising this class and the prior class's results.
- If you gave us no contacts, it's up to you to relay the release.



# http://mitarp.ipac.caltech.edu SOCIAL MEDIA Tweet away! Follow Wil Wheaton's law (see here if you need to look it up: http://www.ikinedia.org/wiki/Wil Wheaton) NITARP hashtag is #nitarp AAS hashtag is #aas225 (AAS and AAS media office have useful feeds to follow. Some presentations may ask: no tweets) There is a Facebook NITARP group – let me

- know if you are not a member, and/or add your students if you want.
- (Interested in blogging for us? See me...)

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# LIST OF SPECIFIC TASKS FOR TODAY

- (Interspersed with listening to the rest of the talks here.)
- Mark 12 March 15 on your calendar as the NITARP proposal deadline.
- Get started learning about your science.
- Pick a summer visit date (or window for dates) so people don't double-book.
- Pick a time/day/frequency for a regular telecon.
- Pick a team name (so I can get you on the wiki and main website).
- Plan a time tomorrow and/or later this week to meet again to keep working.
- Get a group picture! © How about now?