

**2013 DUG Annual Meeting
Digistar Users Group
Ho Tung Visualization Lab
Colgate University**
<http://www.colgate.edu/vislab/>



Esteemed Colleagues,

On behalf of Colgate University, please accept our request to host the 2013 Digistar Users Group (DUG). Our proposed dates would be later summer of 2013, either late July or early August.

Colgate University is a nationally recognized liberal arts college with a tradition of academic excellence forged in 1819. Colgate is located in Hamilton, NY approximately 50 miles southeast of Syracuse. The University is a perfect location for the Digistar Users Group for a number of reasons outlined here. Chief among them is the facility Colgate can offer, namely the **Ho Tung Visualization Lab** (Vis Lab) housed within the new \$56 million **Ho Science Center**.

State of the Art Facility - Colgate's Vis Lab is a recent addition to the campus, boasting a new fifty-four seat, ten meter dome, equipped with a Digistar 4 center mounted JVC projection system complete with a Bowen LED lighting cove system and audio system. The seats recline fully to maximize comfort and field of vision during the viewing experience. To meet additional conference needs, Colgate offers the full capability of the Ho Science Center, equipped with state of the art technology including wireless access, plasma TVs, and large screen projectors and workstations. Also conveniently located in the Science Center are ample and varied meeting spaces, computer labs, and classrooms that can be utilized for break-out sessions and training courses.

Additional Technical Training - A unique benefit of hosting DUG at Colgate is the opportunity for additional training not readily available elsewhere. Colgate offers planetarium and 3D shows at the Vis Lab, but also teaches students about fundamentals of producing 3D animations. Students and staff have produced modules for classes ranging from Astronomy to Geology to Literary Classics. Due to this successful training experience and magnificent facility, similar training can be offered to DUG participants. Potential training topics include traditional E&S training, advanced 3D animation training, 3dsMax, Maya, After Effects, Photoshop, and post-production training (rendering & render farm setup).

Prominent Guest Speaker - Distinguished Colgate faculty member, Anthony Aveni would be available to speak. Professor Aveni helped develop the field of Archaeoastronomy and now is considered one of the founders of Mesoamerican Archaeoastronomy, in particular for his research in the astronomical history of the Maya Indians of ancient Mexico. He is a lecturer, speaker, and editor/author of more than two dozen books on ancient astronomy. Professor Aveni is an advocate and frequent user of the Vis Lab. Our association with Professor Aveni led to the development of a course for the dome called Astronomy in Culture.

Availability and Affordability of Lodging - Several reasonable guest lodging options are available near Colgate. A suggested primary location is The White Eagle Conference Center for under \$100 a night. The White Eagle is located on the shores of the beautiful 235-acre Lake Moraine, offering spacious cabins along the scenic lakefront, as well as traditional hotel rooms. Guests have access to the Center's lounge and entertainment room, offering several activities and diversions.

Additional Attractions Nearby - Beautiful Hamilton, NY is just an hour outside the Adirondacks, the largest National Park in the United States, and only 4 hours from Niagara Falls to the west and New York City to the Southeast. Within about an hour's drive is also the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Following the conference, attendees could enjoy these nearby attractions. As DUG hosts, we would be happy to facilitate arrangements for our guests.

Colgate University and the Ho Science Center Administration and staff would consider it an honor to host the 2013 Digistar Users Group conference. We humbly request your consideration as a DUG site and look forward to collaborating with you on this exciting endeavor.

Joe Eakin
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DUG President- Elect
Colgate University

David Terrazas
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