

Transit of Venus & Visions of the Universe

The last transit of Venus is our lifetime occurred June 5th, 2012. Under Chuck Bueter's guidance, Michiana became a hub of activity leading up to and during the transit.

JINA partnered with QuarkNet to host a coloring contest based on the stained glass window in Hoole, England commemorating the first observed transit by Jeremiah Horrocks in 1639. Students in the Art 2 Science after-school programs were joined by children at Science Alive and a family night at Chick-fil-A to color transparencies for the contest.

JINA partnered with the University of Notre Dame Physics Department to supply 6,000 solar shades to members of the South Bend Community and host a viewing of the transit on campus. Graduate students set up telescopes with solar filters, faculty led discussions of why the transit was important, and live feeds were projected in a lecture hall. The Digital Visualization Theater (DVT) had a special show and live feeds prepared in case of cloudy weather.

"Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery," is presented by the Space Telescope Science Institute, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and the American Library Association, through funding from NASA. Visions of the Universe was a traveling exhibition to mark the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. The panels were loaned to JINA for 7 weeks, ending in June with the transit. They were displayed at 18 locations where approximately 2800 people viewed the exhibit. Locations included Astrofest at Union Station, the New Carlisle Public Library, and the Transit of Venus event at Jordan Hall of Science, University of Notre Dame.



(above) One winner from the ToV coloring contest co-sponsored by QuarkNet (below) Members of the South Bend community look through telescopes to view the transit of Venus



(left) Visions of the Universe panels were taken to Art 2 Science after-school programs where students used the text to complete a crossword puzzle. (right) Panels on display in Jordan Hall of Science



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