



A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ASTRONOMY EDUCATION

by STEVEN SANDERS '01

**EASTERN UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO REAP AN
IMPROVED PEDAGOGY AND NOTORIETY SOWN BY
DR. DAVID H. BRADSTREET '76.**

Dr. Bradstreet has been writing planetarium curriculum since 2007 and in order to keep up with technology he knew that an update to the Julia Fowler planetarium was necessary. Funding was secured through several donors and a very generous donation by Conrad Fowler. Thanks to these donations a significant upgrade will be coming in May 2015, making the Julia Fowler planetarium the most sophisticated and highest resolution planetarium in a 20-foot dome in the world. New software (*The Layered Earth*) and hardware (*SciTouch*) will enable a new age of astronomy education at Eastern University, allowing for a more integrated audience experience. The dome will essentially be turned into a smart screen with direct interaction via the patented *SciTouch* laser controller.

In line with Dr. Bradstreet's passion for teaching, 3D binary star models and a program called 'Tides' are being added to the planetarium software suite sold by Spitz, Inc. The new features will allow students all over the world to visualize difficult concepts in hopes for a greater understanding of creation. 'Tides' will also be sold as a desktop program allowing teachers without a planetarium to access the program. The unique 3D binary models have also been incorporated into the latest version of the most widely-used desktop planetarium software in the world, *Starry Night*, written by Simulation Curriculum.

Three recently refereed astronomical publications and the official naming of Asteroid 1990DB = 5826 Bradstreet by the International Astronomical Union have paved the way for a book contract with Zondervan. Dr. Bradstreet's book is scheduled to be published in early 2016. Co-authored by Steve Rabey, the book will take a look at the supposed divide between astronomy and faith in our current Christian epoch and attempt to demonstrate that one can be both an evangelical and a practicing scientist without compromising either.

The future of astronomy education is very bright at Eastern University. Dr. Bradstreet believes in the sciences as a critical part of a liberal arts education and the fruits of his labors are students who leave Eastern University with the ability to critically think about the universe around them and the incomparable Creator and Sustainer who called it good. †