



Dr. Douglas Duncan is an astronomer at the University of Colorado. From 2002-2018 he directed Fiske Planetarium, leading it to be the most advanced planetarium in the US. Duncan earned degrees at Caltech and the Univ. of California Santa Cruz. He was part of the project that first found sunspot cycles on other stars. Subsequently he joined the staff of the Hubble Space Telescope. In 1992 he accepted a joint appointment at the University of Chicago and the Adler Planetarium, beginning a trend of modernization of planetariums which has spread to New York, Denver, Los Angeles, and now Boulder Colorado. He has more than 50 refereed publications that have been cited over 7,000 times.

Duncan is well known as a popularizer of astronomy. From 1997-2002 he did science commentary on the Chicago Public Radio station WBEZ and he is now heard on the Colorado Public Radio program “Colorado Matters.” He has appeared on television programs such as the History Channel and BBC Horizon. In 2011 he received the prestigious Richard Emmons award presented to the “Outstanding University Astronomy Teacher in the US.” He has a grant from NASA to produce and nationally distribute 360 degree (“Full-dome”) planetarium features highlighting NASA’s varied missions.

Dr. Duncan has served as National Education Coordinator for the American Astronomical Society, representing the 7000 professional astronomers in the US and leading efforts for better teaching and public communication for astronomers throughout the country. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the Smithsonian, and National Geographic. His most recent work is on the correlation between student texting and grades. It shows that 70% of university students text during class, and their grades are 4-5% lower!



The supersonic Concorde eclipse chase!

Dr. Duncan leads educational trips throughout the world to watch total eclipses of the sun and to see the northern lights. In 2017, for the best US Total Eclipse in 40 years, helped arrange for 7000 libraries to have 2.1 million pairs of safe eclipse watching glasses.



In 1991 Duncan travelled to the North Pole and was elected to The Explorer’s Club of New York City.

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