



The California Science Center is pleased to provide special insights to our Members! Here's what's in this issue of *The Nucleus*:

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**Members, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and continuing to learn. During these challenging times, your vital support enables the California Science Center to continue inspiring science learning in everyone as a trusted educational resource – THANK YOU!**

**MEET DR. PERRY!**



Dr. Perry Roth-Johnson has worked at the California Science Center since 2014, starting as an Exhibit Researcher for Air and Space before becoming Assistant Curator for Aerospace Science in 2018. In this role, he locates artifacts and designs the exhibits that can be used to help guests learn about the science and engineering of flight and spaceflight. A recent major project that Dr. Perry has been leading is the refurbishment of the massive orange space shuttle external tank that sits outside the Samuel Oschin Pavilion, which houses Endeavour. You may have seen Dr. Perry talking about this work in a recent [Stuck at Home Science](#) video [Painting ET with Dr. Perry](#) or heard his narration of Inside Endeavour Tours as part of [Science Beyond the Center](#). The first, [Inside Endeavour: Tour 1](#) gives us a peek inside Endeavour's flight deck, mid-deck and payload bay.

Dr. Perry's love of science was kindled in the first grade. His mom took him to see a planetarium show featuring a robot called Planetron, who could turn into a spaceship at night and visit the stars. This fascination with science and engineering stuck, and as a kid Dr. Perry would take apart old computers and phones to figure out how they worked. His worried parents would ask him if he knew how to put them back together again – he “usually did.” This process is all part of scientific exploration, Dr. Perry says. Science is not about learning lists of dry facts, it is a messy process that involves trying things out, failing, making changes and improving your outcome until you succeed. He encourages parents of young scientists to “get in the mess with your kids” and support their natural curiosity and creative investigations of the world.

Dr. Perry went to University of California, Berkeley for his undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering and earned a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from University of California, Los Angeles. While he enjoyed mastering these subjects, he also had a love of educational outreach. At Berkeley, Dr. Perry co-founded a student group called Building Engineers and Mentors to bring hands-on science and engineering activities to underserved K-8 schools in the local community.



He continued this outreach work while at UCLA and when he graduated he wanted to combine his technical expertise with this passion for education. When the position opened up at the California Science Center, he jumped at the opportunity to fulfill both of these interests at a mission-driven organization.

During the coronavirus lockdown, Dr. Perry has rediscovered his hobby of 3D printing. Not only does he enjoy the scientific process of designing and improving the things he prints, it allows him to help in the fight against COVID-19 – he has printed 90 face shields for front-line health workers so far!

Dr. Perry is very grateful to the Science Center’s Members and donors for making possible all the work that we do here. The California Science Center is just like a science project – we are constantly learning about what works and what doesn’t, and improving the exhibits, programs and online resources to best serve our community. The next major step in that development is the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which will massively increase our ability to reach and inspire future generations of scientists and engineers. Your support can help us to realize that goal and inspire generations of new science enthusiasts with little ‘Planetron moments’ of their own.

In the next issue of *The Nucleus* we will meet the education team behind [Stuck at Home Science](#) for insights into how they are successfully delivering online hands-on and age-appropriate science activities for families through mid-June with new activities released every weekday. If you have missed any of the previous issues of *The Nucleus* you can find them on our [Member News and Events](#) page.



## CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER IN THE NEWS



Watch the Inside the Endeavour VR Tour segment on [KTLA's Morning News](#) with Gayle Anderson from last week, including an interview with Dr. Ken Phillips, Curator for Aerospace Science at the California Science Center.

## SCIENCE BEYOND THE CENTER



Missing your visits to the California Science Center? [Science Beyond the Center](#), a new online portal on our website, will give you special behind-the-scenes access to Science Center exhibits in ways you've never seen before. Take tours through [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) and hear exclusive interviews with astronauts. Meet [Ecosystems](#) animals and keepers up close. Listen to original podcasts on cutting-edge science topics – coming mid-June. Explore amazing images and insights from our curators and find out how exhibits are made. And check out some videos from our traveling exhibitions! New content will be added regularly.

This week we released the first video in a series on marine animal senses. In the episode *Marine Animals and Their Senses: Smell!*, our Aquarist Crystal Gentle explains how lobsters, fish and other ocean animals use their sense of smell to help them detect prey in their watery world. New episodes exploring senses are added on Mondays through mid-July, including *Taste!* on June 1.

Bookmark the [Science Beyond the Center](#) page and check back often to see what's new!

## STUCK AT HOME SCIENCE



**This week in [Stuck at Home Science](#), discover the connections between all life forms.** From getting our hearts pumping to engineering ears, let's see how all living things are alike. Explore the [World of Life](#) Gallery with us from the comfort of your own home! New activities are released every weekday at 10:00 a.m. PST. Bookmark the [Stuck at Home Science](#) page for FREE unlimited access to exciting videos and activity guides that are easy to understand and available in both English and Spanish.

[Stuck at Home Science](#), developed in a collaboration of the California Science Center's content experts, educators and professional development team, is an online series of hands-on and age-appropriate science activities using supplies you can find at home. Activities feature videos and downloadable lessons that support the Next Generation Science Standards Science and Engineering Practices. Each week through mid-June covers a themed content goal – such as rocketry, life science, engineering or ecosystems.

Having fun learning with **Stuck at Home Science**? Send photos of you and your family doing the activities to [member@californiasciencecenter.org](mailto:member@californiasciencecenter.org) for an opportunity to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Nucleus* and on our [Member News & Events](#) page.

USE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT FOR EXCLUSIVE HELLO KITTY® ITEMS



Shop the ExploraStore to purchase California Science Center items online, including Hello Kitty® flies Space Shuttle Endeavour. Members receive 10% off all web orders throughout the month of May and free shipping on all orders \$25 and over now through May 31. Use promo code: **MemberMay10** at checkout.

Shop Now

VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS



Missing the Science Center? Download and use these free virtual backgrounds featuring some of our favorite scenes from the California Science Center during your video conference meetings.

**NEW!** backgrounds this week include an engineer's perspective of the California Science Center's entrance rotunda the Robert H. Lorsch Family Pavilion and an exclusive view inside Space Shuttle Endeavour's payload bay.

Download

## LEGACY FOR SCIENCE LEARNING SOCIETY



The California Science Center is so fortunate to have among its many supporters a special group of generous and forward-thinking donors who share our mission to inspire science learning in everyone. Our Legacy for Science Learning Society includes members of all ages who have expressed their support through a planned gift and now enjoy a special relationship with the Science Center.

We thank these supporters for their commitment to science learning and future generations. To read about some of our Legacy Society donors visit our [website](#).

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING FOR EVERYONE**



During these challenging and uncertain times, your support as a Member is critical to our ability to continue serving our community with free online science learning opportunities. Please renew your Membership today in support of our mission to inspire science learning in everyone.

Renew



If your Membership is not due for renewal and you are in a position to make an additional gift, of any amount, we invite your contribution. Your generous support will help sustain California Science Center as a trusted educational resource while we are temporarily closed to the public. Thank you.

Donate

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For more information on the California Science Center, visit our website at [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org) or call (323) SCIENCE (724-3623). For Membership questions, please contact the Membership Office at [member@californiasciencecenter.org](mailto:member@californiasciencecenter.org) or call (213) 744-7504.

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