Abstract: This conference aims to improve how we learn through integrative project and discovery-based methods. My talk highlights areas in my experience as a scientist, and most recently working for our national space agency, NASA, where we work in teams with a “discovery-based” mindset. When you demonstrate broad curiosity, you become open to different viewpoints and ways to approach and manage situations. Sometimes working only from “what you have been trained to do” or “what you know” is not enough, especially when the rules may be changing. Increasing our openness in our learning, and sharing what we know, can lead to a more diverse and innovative community, solving problems in new ways, overcoming resistance to new ideas, and hopefully creating a dynamic and faring-forward society. Let us not kill curiosity, at any age, in any situation. Let us remind ourselves, at any time, in any circumstance, to continue to learn, to mentor, to stimulate, to engage and reconnect with that “open sense of possibility.”
The Curiosity Effect

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The Fall of Man... by Lucas Cranach the Elder
The Flight of Daedalus and Icarus ... by Roger Brown
Pandora... by John William Waterhouse
“Notice all the computations, theoretical scribblings, and lab equipment, Norm. ... Yes, curiosity killed these cats.”
“If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently.”

--Bill Watterson
Part 1

START WITH WANTING TO KNOW MORE
NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador Program

http://www.seti.org/aaa
http://www.seti.org/sofia

Cycle 4 (Oct 2016) AAAs from Massachusetts, Maine, & California

Cycle 5/6 2017-18 AAA Program Applications are closed
Next Applications due in 2018
NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador Program

http://www.seti.org/aaa
http://www.seti.org/sofia

Cycle 5/6 2017-18 AAA Program Applications are closed
Next Applications due in 2018
"How might I actually do this?"

"What am I missing?"

"Who can I find to learn more about this?"
Avoid the trap

MUCH FEAR I SENSE IN YOU
“Ask courageous questions. Do not be satisfied with superficial answers.”
– Carl Sagan

“Learn as much as you can at every moment. You never know when it can come in handy.”
– my father-in-law, Rev Jeff Smith
Part 2
GET COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE
It was 2006....
The LCROSS Mission Concept

1. Launches stacked with LRO June 18, 2009

2. After Lunar swing-by, enter a 4 month cruise around Earth

3. October 9, 2009, target the Centaur Upper Stage and position S-S/C to fly 4 minutes behind

4. S-S/C observes impact, ejecta cloud and resulting crater, making measurements until impacting itself
Mission Primary Objective:
To test whether or not water ice deposits exist on the Moon.

Avoid the trap
“We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” – Walt Disney
Part 3

COMMUNICATING CURIOSITY
Be a thinker-er

Be a seeker

Be a curious catalyst
“Curiosity is an everlasting flame that burns in everyone’s mind. It makes me get out of bed in the morning and wonder what surprises life will throw at me that day. Curiosity is such a powerful force. Without it, we wouldn’t be who we are today.”

– Clara Ma, at age 12, won the Mars Science Laboratory naming contest
The Curiosity Effect

http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/
The_Second_Star_to_the_Right_(Peter_Pan)

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References