

LeRoy students headed to astronomy camp

By Judy Marshall

John Danilson has been interested in astronomy since he was in high school. Because of his interest, two LeRoy students will be attending the Arizona Alumni Association Astronomy Camp for Teens, in Tucson, from June 7-14.

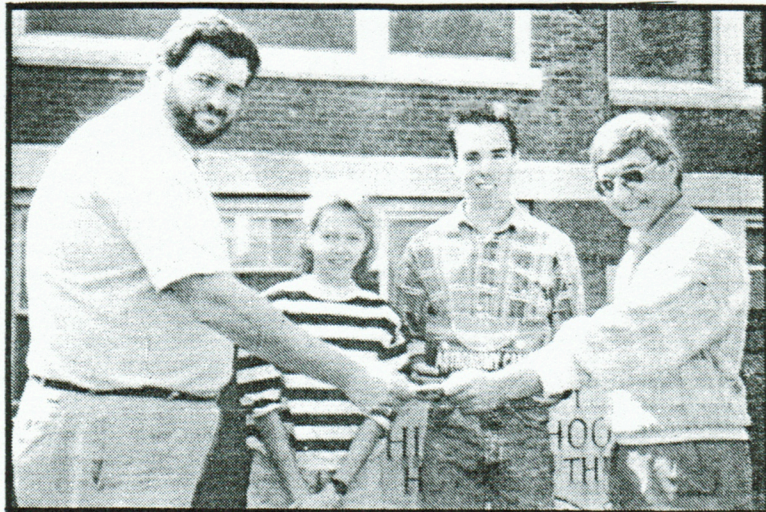
Danilson and his wife, Kathy, will be paying the \$485 tuition for one student which includes lodging, meals, transportation in Tucson and all materials.

Because two students vying for the campership had equally exceptional essays, the school district has decided to award a second tuition-free trip. Attending from LeRoy will be high school freshman Michael Schwarzlose, son of Robert and Marge Schwarzlose and eighth grader Jaime Spratt, daughter of Dave and Debbie Spratt.

Danilson attended the first Astronomy Camp for adults last year. He commented that people from all walks of life were at the adult camp and the LeRoy students will be meeting world-class scientists.

"They have three different camps: the beginning camp for teens where they assume the student knows nothing about astronomy, just has an interest; the advanced camp for teens is geared to the student who has attended the beginning camp, or has a specific interest in astronomy and completed both algebra and geometry; the adult camp is for anyone who has the money, basically."

At the beginner's camp, Schwarzlose and Spratt will



Jon Danilson, right, is shown presenting a check to LeRoy High School principal Terry Milt to pay for astronomy camp for one of the attending students, Jaime Spratt or Michael Schwarzlose. (Photo by Judy Marshall)

spend three nights on the University of Arizona campus, in Tucson, with access to Flandrau Planetarium and campus-based telescopes. They will participate in physics experiments, rocket building and launching projects, and a "behind the scenes" tour of Kitt Peak National Observatory. Students then move to Mt. Lemmon for four nights. Astronomer's hours are kept and observing projects are conducted in teams.

Besides the tours there will be daily lecture topics including comet hunting, stellar evolution, space missions and probes, archeoastronomy and space artistry. Evening observatory activities include astrophotography, photoelectric photometry, spectroscopy and CCD imaging.

Miss Spratt says she became interested in space from reading

her brother's magazines. She visited some planetariums with her family when they vacationed in Florida. Last year she attended a five-day space camp held in Huntsville, Alabama.

Schwarzlose has several unique interests. He says he is looking into an occupation in aeronautical engineering and maybe something with the space program.

Richard Schuler, LeRoy Superintendent of Schools, says, "The second tuition will be funded by local service organizations. Private contributions are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to 'LeRoy Schools' mailed to the district office at 600 East Pine Street and earmarked for the astronomy camp. Any monies received over and above the cost of the tuition will be divided between the students to help defray transportation costs and for other personal expenses."

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ADULTS WHO WENT TO UA ASTRONOMY CAMP PAY FOR KIDS TO GO

TUCSON, ARIZ. -- A first-time-ever astronomy camp for adults taught during April by astronomers from Steward Observatory at The University of Arizona in Tucson was an experience some kids are never going to forget.

That's because grown-ups who went to the camp were so thrilled with the experience that they're funding scholarships for children to attend two UA astronomy camps scheduled June 9 - 16 and June 16 - 23, according to Arizona Alumni Association associate director Joan Morrill. The Arizona Alumni Association sponsors the camps.

One participant in the UA Adult Astronomy Camp wants to pay full astronomy camp tuition for a young member of the Tohono O'Odham nation, Morrill said. Another adult who participated will pay for a student from his part of the country to attend a summer astronomy camp. Others who attended the April camp are simply donating money for scholarships for whoever needs it, Morrill added.

The June 9 - 16 camp is a beginning program open to teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17. Steward Observatory astronomer Donald W. McCarthy Jr. and Pima Community College physics and astronomy professor David Iadevaia will teach them to use four-inch, 16-inch and 21-inch telescopes on the UA campus, the eight-inch Celestron telescopes, and the 40-inch and 60-inch telescopes on Mount Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson. UA astronomy undergraduate and graduate students assist camp instructors in showing kids how to do astronomical photography, astronomical spectroscopy, some basic physics experiments and navigation by the sun and stars. The students are housed in UA residence halls for three nights, and in the astronomers' dormitories on Mount Lemmon for four nights. The camp also includes basic concepts of ecology and geology and lessons in orienteering by sextant, octant and compass.

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The June 16 - 23 camp is an advanced astronomy camp offered to students 17 years of age or under who have a special interest in math, science or astronomy. Advanced students will use the 40-inch and 60-inch telescopes on Mount Lemmon as well as the eight-inch Celestron telescopes. Their program includes some of the activities of the beginning camp, but it also includes such research activities as photometry for studies of variable stars and asteroid orbit determination, for example. Advanced students will also team up on research projects and hear lectures on some current key topics studied by professional astronomers.

A \$485 tuition fee for either camp covers lodging, food, transportation, study materials and admissions fees for field trips during the week.

The Arizona Alumni Association will offer two more astronomy camps for adults this fall, Sept. 27 - 30 and Oct. 26 - 28. Those camps are already half-filled, Morrill said. The cost of the four-day September camp is \$350; the three-day camp in October costs \$275.

For more information, contact Morrill at the Arizona Alumni Association, 1111 N. Cherry, Tucson 85721. Her telephone is (602) 621-5233, or toll-free, 1-800-232-8278.