

Stephen J. Shawl was educated at the University of California at Berkeley in the early 1960s and the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his Ph.D. in 1972. Research interests have involved the study of the fundamental properties of globular star clusters, the presence of gas and dust in these clusters, and cool variable stars whose light is sometimes polarized. He has been teaching all levels of undergraduate astronomy since that time. Because of that found interest in teaching, he has attended numerous Chautauqua short courses and other workshops for college teachers. As an extension of that interest, he has been the principal investigator for an astronomy workshop for junior high and middle school science teachers. He has been a member of the Education Advisory Board of the American Astronomical Society and has served as the Chairman of their Working Group on Astronomy Education. (Shawl@ku.edu)

Keith Ashman received a B.Sc. in astrophysics and a Ph.D. in theoretical cosmology from Queen Mary College, University of London. In 1989 he moved to the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, MD as part of the European Space Agency contingent working on the Hubble project. After a NATO fellowship held at the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics in Toronto, he held positions at the University of Kansas and Baker University, KS before joining the physics faculty at the University of Missouri—Kansas City in 2002. His main research interests include the formation and evolution of globular clusters and globular cluster systems, galaxy formation and evolution, and merging galaxies. He is co-author of the graduate text “Globular Cluster Systems” and co-editor of “After the Science Wars.” (Ashmank@umkc.edu)

Beth Hufnagel began her working career as an accountant after having earned an undergraduate degree in 1976 in accounting at Drexel University. At age thirty-two she decided to switch careers to astronomy. After undergraduate work in mathematics and physics at Columbia University, she received her Ph.D. in 1995 from the University of California, Santa Cruz in astronomy and astrophysics. She has been teaching adults since the late 1970’s in subjects ranging from auditing to statistics to astronomy. Her astronomy research included a search for supernova progenitors, active galactic nuclei, star clusters, and the evolution of the Milky Way. Her current research field is astronomy education, and she has been exploring the astronomy understanding of undergraduates taking a course for non-majors since 1996. Products include the Astronomy Diagnostic Test, the first survey designed for undergraduates with measured reliability and validity, and modules for on-line astronomy courses. (Hufnagel@comcast.net)

R. Robert Robbins studied mathematics at Yale University and received his doctorate in astronomy from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966. He spent a year as a McDonald Observatory Fellow and a year at the University of Houston before joining the faculty at the University of Texas. His research interests have been in the fields of gaseous nebulae, atomic physics, and the transfer of radiation through gaseous media. In recent years his research interests turned towards archaeoastronomy and ethnoastronomy—in particular, studying the astronomy we can find in the structures and folklore of the indigenous cultures of Middle America and the American Southwest. He has received a variety of awards for excellence in teaching at the University of Texas and has served on a variety of national and international committees concerned with astronomy education. He has taught a variety of Chautauqua courses for college teachers, the most recent ones dealing with Mayan astronomy. He has now retired. [rrr@astro.as.utexas.edu]

William H. Jefferys was educated at Wesleyan University and Yale University, receiving the Ph.D. degree from Yale in 1965. He has taught at Wesleyan University and at the University of Texas and is currently the Harlan J. Smith Centennial Professor Emeritus in Astronomy at the University of Texas at Austin. His main research interests are in the fields of dynamical astronomy (the study of motions of planets, stars, and galaxies), astrometry (the measurement of the positions, orbits, and distances of celestial objects) and statistics. Since 1977 he has been the Astrometry Science Team Leader for the Hubble Space Telescope project. He has taught widely, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as teaching several National Science Foundation Chautauqua courses on teaching techniques to in-service teachers at both the high school and college levels. He believes strongly in the “hands on” approach to teaching that gives students a direct experience of what it is like to make, analyze, and understand scientific observations. [Bill@Clyde.as.utexas.edu]