



James Cameron's *Deepsea Challenge 3D* Movie will open in August

The filmmaker who has directed some of the highest grossing films of all time--James Cameron (*Titanic*, *Avatar*)--made an historic Sloan-supported dive in 2012 when he became the first solo diver, and leader of the second manned expedition in history, to reach the deepest point of the ocean, the Mariana Trench. Piloting his custom-built "vertical torpedo"--several of the innovative designs Cameron and his engineering team developed for this craft have since been adopted for use by the US Navy--Cameron conducted the first extensive scientific exploration by a manned vehicle to that region, collecting samples for further research in marine biology and microbiology. Now, Cameron's dive hits the big screen in a Sloan-funded 3D film made in partnership with National Geographic Cinema Ventures--*James Cameron's Deepsea Challenge* will open in [theatres](#) on August 8th. This inspirational film shows the extensive preparation and rigorous engineering that led up to Cameron's history-making expedition. The National Geographic Society is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to provide partial funding for a television documentary, 3D feature film, IMAX film, educational resources, and digital outreach focused on James Cameron's historic dive and scientific expedition to the deepest part of the ocean.



FILM

Virtual Chemistry Set for iPad is "Smoking"



NEW MEDIA

The Chemical Heritage Foundation's [virtual chemistry set](#) for iPad, [ChemCrafter](#), an innovative foray into chemistry and educational gaming supported by the Sloan Foundation, was successfully launched by Apple's AppStore on April 6, 2014. This free digital gaming app lets players build their own labs and conduct experiments mixing elements to create gases, explosions, and new materials while learning basic chemistry principles. The app, geared towards teenagers 12-16 years old, has already been downloaded over 300,000 times in 110 countries. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) says that the Chemical Heritage Foundation came to the idea "lamenting the rarity of chemistry sets with serious, eyebrow-singeing chemicals these

days..." and calls *ChemCrafter* "smoking." The Chemical Heritage Foundation is the recipient of a current one year Sloan grant to create a chemistry set iPad app for free download that recreates the experience of working with a real chemistry set.

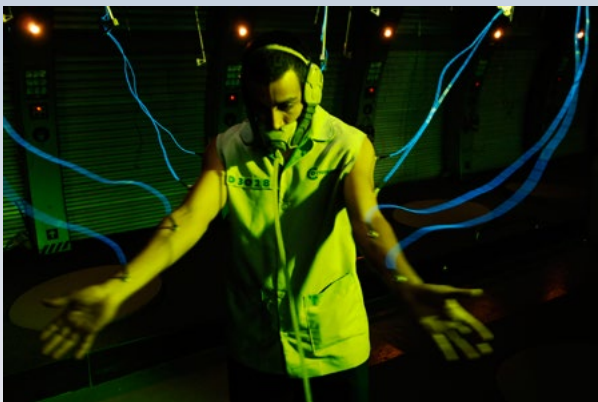
Sloan Awards Three Films \$150,000 at the Tribeca Film Festival



The 2014 Tribeca Film Festival, supported by Sloan since inception, took place in April featuring a suite of Sloan events. The [TFI Sloan Filmmaker Fund](#) is an annual juried prize awarded by a panel of acclaimed scientists and film professionals which this year included actors Jon Slattery (*Mad Men*) and Meg Ryan (*Sleepless in Seattle*), screenwriter Jonathan Nolan (*Memento*), and scientists Heather Berlin (Mt. Sinai) and John Quackenbush (Harvard). The [three films](#) that received a total of \$150,000 in development funding were: *Afronauts*, by Frances Bodomo about the Zambian Space Academy in the 1960s, which Sloan supported first as a short film at NYU and which premiered at

Sundance in 2014; *The Imitation Game* about pioneering British mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing, which stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightly and will premier in the fall; and *Venus in Transit* about two women on a road trip to catch the rare astronomical event of the transit of Venus across the Sun, which was funded by the Sloan film program at USC. The Sloan Works in Progress, staged readings by professional actors, featured these three winning scripts. The 2014 [Sloan Retrospective Screening](#) celebrated the 10th anniversary of Michel Gondry's Academy Award-winning *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and featured a panel of expert scientists, including neuroscientist Daniela Schiller, and top film professionals, including producer Anthony Bregman, moderated by *Science Friday's* Ira Flatow discussing the latest research into modifying the brain's memory pathways--an advance foreshadowed in the film. The Tribeca Film Institute is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to develop science and technology films for production, to showcase classic science and technology movies, and to hold panels and readings at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The Sundance Artist Services Program Releases Third Sloan-Supported Film



The Sundance Institute's Artist Services initiative is releasing twelve new films including Alex Rivera's [Sleep Dealer](#), which won the 2008 Sloan Feature Film Prize. The [Artist Services](#) program is an effort to help Sundance Lab fellows gain distribution by providing them with exclusive opportunities for self-distribution, marketing and financing. *Sleep Dealer* became available May 20th on platforms such as iTunes, Amazon, VUDU, and YouTube. The film joins two other Sloan films--*Primer* and *Obselidia*--whose digital releases have been supported by Artist Services. The Sundance Institute is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support

a science and technology program at Sundance that includes film fellowships, film prizes, and film panels and outreach.

World Science Festival Features Science Programs Around the City

NEW MEDIA



The 2014 [World Science Festival](#), of which Sloan is a founding sponsor, took place in New York from May 28-June 1st. This annual event celebrates science through public events that this year [included](#): a panel on storytelling in science featuring Joyce Carol Oates and Steven Pinker, a walking tour beginning at the Museum of Natural History led by a team of experts on how poison has shaped history--inspired by the Sloan-supported book *Poisoner's Handbook* by Deborah Blum, a workshop at Momofuku on biophysics in the kitchen, a conversation about the origins of the universe, a boat

ride on the Hudson with a geologist, and the annual science street fair in Washington Square Park featuring installations and activities from over 50 organizations. The Museum of the Moving Image also hosted a sold-out screening of the Sloan-supported documentary [Particle Fever](#), about the discovery of the Higgs Boson, with a panel afterwards featuring the scientists and filmmakers who made and starred in the film. The Science Festival Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support programming and dissemination of the World Science Festival.

National Science on Screen Evening a Success

FILM



On March 31st, 2014 the Sloan Foundation and Coolidge Corner Theatre presented the first national [Science on Screen](#) event in which seventeen independent grantee theatres across the country simultaneously held their Science on Screen programs. Coolidge Corner Theatre's [Science on Screen](#) Program, supported by the Foundation, pairs feature films with talks by working scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Sloan has supported the expansion of this program to art house cinemas nationwide--awarding 48 grants to 32 independent cinemas to date--each of which also shows at least one Sloan film per year, providing a unique distribution opportunity for Sloan-funded films.

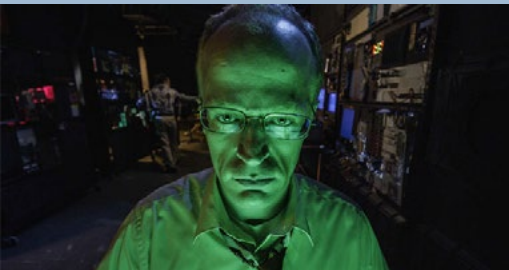
Programs on March 31 included Coolidge's screening of *Paths of Glory* followed by a discussion of violence and human nature with experimental psychologist Steven Pinker, and the Little Theatre in Rochester, NY screening *Another Earth* with a discussion by astrophysicist Adam Frank about parallel universes. [Filmmaker Magazine](#) ran a Q&A with Sloan's Doron Weber about the event and the Foundation's efforts to create a distribution channel for its filmmakers. The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support the theatre's Science on Screen Program and expand its reach to another 40 theatres nationwide

Henry Petroski's Book on Engineering in Daily Life is Published



[*The House with Sixteen Handmade Doors: A Tale of Architectural Choice and Craftsmanship*](#), by civil engineering professor and prolific author Henry Petroski, was published by Norton in May 2014. The book explores the construction, history and design of Petroski's unusual coastal home in Maine. The [*Wall Street Journal*](#) calls Petroski's books a "bracing corrective for anyone who, bedazzled by the glamour of 'pure' science, ignores the achievements of engineers." Henry Petroski is the recipient of a Sloan grant to research and write an illustrated book about the design of a house, including discussion of its environmental, social, and cultural context.

Three Sloan-supported Student Films Selected for Columbia's Film Festival



The 27th Columbia University Film Festival, an annual event which includes several days of screenings, panels and events in New York and LA, selected three Sloan-supported short films to be part of their 2014 lineup. The films were: *Cain*, by Zijan Yan about a Neanderthal interacting with a human child; Jonah Bleicher's *The King's Pawn*, about a former chess prodigy; and *Devil's Work*, by Miguel Silveira about uranium bullets and a young boy obsessed with the circumstances surrounding his father's death. These three

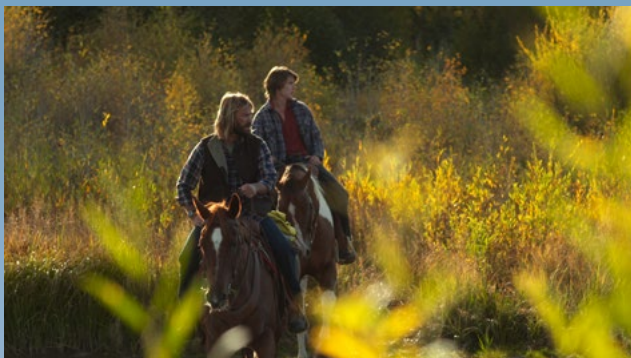
films each received a production grant through Sloan's partnership with Columbia's Film School for integrating science and technology themes and characters into their stories. Columbia University is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to encourage the next generation of filmmakers to write screenplays and produce short films about science and technology.

AFI Seminar Features Ann Druyan of *COSMOS*



The American Film Institute, one of six leading film schools supported by Sloan as part of its nationwide film program, held its annual Sloan seminar in May 2014 featuring *COSMOS: A Spacetime Odyssey* writer, executive producer, and director Ann Druyan, who also co-wrote the first *Cosmos* with her partner Carl Sagan over 30 years ago. The seminar is open to all film fellows and features an experienced film professional who has engaged with science and technology in their work. The American Film Institute is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant for screenwriting and production of science and technology films by top film students.

Student Feature Film *Druid Peak* Wins at Festivals



Marni Zelnick's debut feature, [Druid Peak](#), which received the \$100,000 first feature film prize through Sloan's program at NYU, has been making rounds and winning awards at festivals around the country. After premiering at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival in September 2014, where the film was a finalist in the Best Theatrical category, *Druid Peak* won the Special Jury Award at the Providence Children's Festival, Best Feature Film at the Omaha Film Festival, and Best Feature Film Audience Award at both the Annapolis Film Festival and the Florida Film Festival. The film is a coming of age story about a troubled boy who finds his place tracking wolves as part of the wolf reintroduction program in Yellowstone National Park.

Sloan Films Coming to a Theatre Near You



The Sloan Foundation's Film Program, made up of multiple program partners giving support to films at various stages of development, has several notable projects making headway in 2014. Both [Experimentier](#), starring Peter Saarsgard as Stanley Milgram, and [The Man Who Knew Infinity](#), starring Dev Patel as the famous Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, are slated to shoot over the summer. [Basmati Blues](#), a Bollywood-style musical about genetically modified rice starring Brie Larson, as well as [Imitation Game](#), starring Benedict Cumberbatch as the mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing, and a documentary about the avant-garde opera [Einstein on the Beach](#), are all in post-production and will premiere in fall 2014.

BAM's RadioLoveFest Features Sloan-Supported WNYC Programs



From June 4-8, 2014 the Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "[RadioLoveFest](#)" featuring live events produced by WNYC's popular radio broadcasts. The Sloan-supported programs that will be featured include *Studio 360* where host Kurt Anderson will be joined by musician Andrew Bird, novelist Jennifer Egan, comedian Hari Kondabolu, and musical improv accompanist Joel Esher; and *Radiolab*, where science reporters and hosts Rob Krulwich and Jad Abumrad will open the festival with a multimedia interactive show. New York Public Radio is the recipient of two current three-year Sloan grants: for production and enhanced distribution of *Radiolab*, an innovative popular science-themed radio show, via multiple platforms; and for the production and distribution of science and technology coverage on *Studio 360*, an award-winning arts and culture show.

Wikipedia Names a New Executive Director



The Wikimedia Foundation, which Sloan has been supporting since 2008, has named a [new Executive Director](#). [Lila Tretikov](#) is a Russian-born software engineer who was previously the Chief Product Officer at SugarCRM, one of the top customer relationship management applications that is open-source and cloud-based. Lila had an earlier career working in telecom and has a background in product development. Wikipedia is the fifth largest web site in the world and the largest encyclopedia in human history, with 30 million articles in 287 languages written collaboratively by 80,000 volunteers and available free

to anyone around the world. The Wikimedia Foundation is the recipient of a Sloan grant to develop Wikimedia's organizational capacity and improve the quality of its flagship Wikipedia along with ancillary educational services.

The Digital Public Library of America Celebrates One Year



The thriving Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), of which Sloan is a founding sponsor and which aims to be the nation's online repository for all knowledge, keeping it free and open for the public, commemorated its [one-year anniversary](#) in April 2014. To celebrate, the DPLA [announced](#) six new partnerships with major archives including the US Government Printing Office, the J. Paul Getty Trust, and the California Digital Library. Since its April 2013 launch the number of

contributing institutions has more than doubled to over 1,300 in all 50 states and the DPLA's collection has almost tripled to seven million items. In its first year, the DPLA has also garnered close to 10 million API visits. The one-year anniversary received positive coverage in several publications including *The New York Times*. In the [New York Review of Books](#), Harvard librarian Robert Darnton claims that the "DPLA will go beyond its basic mission of making the cultural heritage of America available to all Americans. It will provide opportunities for them to interact with the material and to develop materials of their own. It will empower librarians and reinforce public libraries everywhere, not only in the United States ...Ten years from now, the DPLA's first year of activity may look like the beginning of an international library system." The DPLA is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to launch the DPLA as an independent, national organization and to support its executive director and two staff to begin operation and scale up.

PROGRAM TEAM

Vice President, Programs: Doron Weber

Program Associate: Sonia Epstein

Program Assistant: Delia DiBiasi