

the 1st and 2nd years of the Future Astronaut training Program at the Kansas Cosmo-sphere Space Museum and a VIP visit to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Anna is an active observer. She owns a 13" Coultter Dobsonian telescope and has been awarded the League's Messier certificate. A unique aspect of this is that she is the only one of her club members who has sketched all of the Messier objects.

Anna was selected to assist Dr. Guy Worthey from Washington State University with a project involving the study of planetary migration. She has also been involved in the Science Olympiad, Science Bowl and Young Women's Summer Science Program as well as numerous other activities.

Her goal is to pursue studies in the field of astrophysics in college.

Second Place: Alan Aversa

This year's second place Horkheimer winner has been active in his local club, the Rose City Astronomers. He is a regular participant in its Astrophysics and Cosmology Special Interest Group. One of the more noteworthy contributions to this group was his research entitled "Galaxy Simulations" which explored the observations of galaxies in radio and optical light performed in the twentieth century.

As part of his project, Alan revisited the Harlow Shapley and Heber Curtis debate regarding whether observed fuzzy "spiral nebulae," which are now known as galaxies, exist either in our Milky Way or beyond it.

He is a 2004 graduate of Jesuit High School in Portland Oregon. In addition to his many volunteer activities with his own club, he has also volunteered at the annual Oregon Star Party for the past several years. *

2004 Astronomical League Award

The 2004 Astronomical League Award has been won by John F. Martin, V, of the Springfield Telescope Makers in Springfield, Vermont. This is the highest award given each year by the Astronomical League, a federation of nearly 300 astronomical societies with 20,000 members.

John joins a distinguished list of other outstanding award-winning amateur astronomers such as Walter Scott Houston, Clyde Tombaugh, and Leslie Peltier. John's support of amateur astronomy over the last few decades has been far beyond the call of duty.

In the words of a past president of the Springfield Telescope Makers, Maryann Arrien, "Without his dedication, the historic Stellafane Convention, the oldest and largest gathering of amateurs and professionals, probably would not exist today. This is not just because John Martin works all year round maintaining the convention grounds and improving the facilities, but he gives his heart to astronomy. When the Stellafane convention lost its leased land to a Christmas tree farm back in the mid 1980s, John was extremely generous in

helping to buy about 33 acres of adjoining land so that the convention could go on. It was a huge personal sacrifice that worked out very well in the end."

The impact of his accomplishments has had far-reaching positive impacts on astronomy at the national and international level. For example, he continued to perfect the observing site now known as Stellafane East, and he designed and built the McGregor Observatory, housing the world's largest operational



John F. Martin, V, winner of the 2004 Astronomical League Award, describes a telescope project for Stellafane. Photo courtesy of Maryann Arrien, past president of the Springfield Telescope Makers.

Schupmann telescope with a mount built by him and optics by other members of the Springfield Telescope Makers.

Over the years John helped to maintain the Russell Porter Turret Telescope and the Stellafane pink clubhouse, now a national historical landmark. He was President of the

Springfield Telescope Makers for nearly six years during a critical period in Stellafane's history.

Stellafane frequently hosts about 2,500 astronomers visiting from all over the world. This is clearly one of the largest conventions of amateur astronomers. It has been held continuously since the mid-1920s. When the site was in danger of potential light pollution by a new prison to be built only four miles away, John attended town hearings and design meetings and even flew aerial reconnaissance of another prison in Vermont to gather data for the purposes of mitigating light pollution. His efforts contributed significantly to the design and construction of one of the least intrusively lit prisons in

the world. The lighting design provided security, but did not destroy the night skies.

As an amateur telescope maker over the years he helped many folks make their own mirrors, and he was the driving force behind the creation of the Royal Rooftop Observatory at the highest point in Pakistan, in the mountains of Chitral. He gave them a 12-inch mirror, which he personally made, and helped mount it as a

Dobsonian. It was flown overseas and installed. It is used by the local amateur astronomers in

some of the darkest skies on Earth at 9,000 feet elevation in the Himalayan Mountains.

John F. Martin, V, epitomizes the spirit of amateur astronomy. Through him, the tradition of Stellafane and the Spirit of Russell Poster continue to excite everyone to the wonders of the universe. *