

SCIENCE EDUCATION

Hearing eclipses: Making astronomy events accessible to visually-impaired students.

WILSON GONZALEZ-ESPADA (1)*, LAURA PARKER (2), ADAM STOCKHAUSEN (2), WANDA DIAZ-MERCED (3), ALLYSON BIERYLA (4), ROBERT HART (5), DANIEL DAVIS (6).

(1) Department of Mathematics and Physics, College of Science, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351.

(2) Science Department, Kentucky School for the Blind, Louisville, KY 40206.

(3) Office of Astronomy for Development, International Astronomical Union, South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town, 7925.

(4) Dept. of Astronomy, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

(5) Dept. of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

(6) Natural Sciences Lecture Demonstrations, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Most visual events that can be captured electronically can be converted into numbers, and numbers can be converted into sounds. Instead of seeing different colors in a graph or light intensities in a computer simulation, sonification techniques produce changes in pitch, volume, rhythm and tone that can be used for data analysis and education outreach. The purpose of this talk is to share an astronomical sonification outreach project associated with the 21 August total solar eclipse.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

Challenges and coping strategies of Chinese exchange students attending a university in Eastern Kentucky: A case study

WILSON GONZALEZ-ESPADA (1)*, JUN PENG (2), SHANSHAN LI (2).

(1) Department of Mathematics and Physics, College of Science, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351.

(2) Xingjian College of Science and Liberal Arts, Guangxi University, Nanning, Guangxi, P.R. China.

Each year, thousands of college students participate in student exchange experiences with international universities. Study abroad programs allow students to immerse themselves in a sociocultural context different from their own, usually in a language that is not the students' first-language. However, when there are significant differences in culture between home and the host country, exchange students might deal with cultural, psychological, linguistic, and academic challenges during their transition period. The purpose of this study was to use a case study methodology and semi-structured interviews to describe the student exchange experiences and coping strategies of nine Chinese students during their time at Morehead State University.