



Ma. Antonieta García U.

Gemini South's *Viaje al Universo 2012*

In August, Gemini scientists joined colleagues from various Chilean observatories to celebrate the second annual Viaje al Universo — Gemini South's new (and growing) local outreach program.

Late in August a convergence of inspiring activities kept Gemini's goal of sharing the wonders of the universe alive and well in Chile.

The event sparking all of this activity, Gemini South's *Viaje al Universo*, is now in its third year in the greater La Serena/Coquimbo area. Its legacy is growing each year with students, parents, educators, and anyone who wants to learn more about the universe.

Students from Colegio San José in La Serena wait in line to enter and enjoy a StarLab planetarium show.



David Yenerall from the NASA Endeavour Program assists a group of enthusiastic parents building water rockets at Claudio Arrau School in Coquimbo.

The 2012 edition of Viaje al Universo continued expanding in new directions with fresh partnerships and events, such as an evening at the Cerro Mayu Public Observatory and the expansion of a partnership with the local government as well as local schools.

Several Gemini scientists, along with colleagues from other observatories in Chile, found time to volunteer in the program and share their passion in local classrooms. "Each year we discover just how talented

and inspirational our staff can be," says the author, Antonieta García, who manages the program each year from the Gemini Public Information Office in La Serena. "We are always looking for staff who want to share their passion and expertise with our local students and public," she continued. "And it doesn't have to be scientists; anybody can participate if they have something to share with learners of all ages."

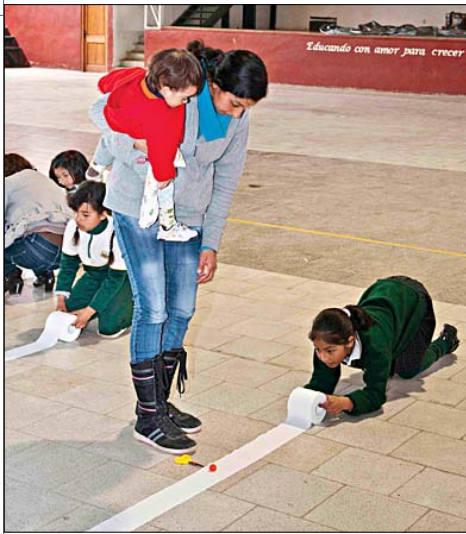
Already plans are developing for the 2013 iteration of this popular and high-impact program. For now enjoy the images here and consider joining us by contacting Antonieta García at: agarcia@gemini.edu



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Students and teachers from Colegio San José in La Serena didn't mind getting wet on a cold winter day as long as they got to their turn to launch their rockets.





(Top left): Participants of all ages took part in FamilyAstro activities at Colegio Christ school.

(Top right): The Viaje al Universo team after a long day at Paihuano High School.



Nancy Levenson, Deputy Director and Head of Science, explains daily work at Gemini to a group of students at Christ School.



David Yenerall leads students in rocket launches in one of the most popular activities of the Viaje al Universo program.