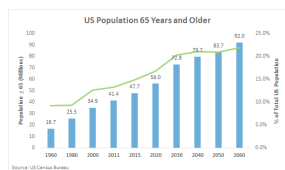# KICP Outreach to Senior Citizens

Daniel Grin

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I. Why Senior Outreach?

✳ By 2030, 20% of US population will be over 65.

✳ ``Use it or lose it" is a clinical fact: Cognitively active seniors have lower dementia rate

US Population 65 Years and Older

✳ Opportunity to leverage KICP's outstanding outreach expertise and volunteer pool with a new audience

✳ Combat social isolation, fight cognitive decline, expose seniors to cutting edge developments in astronomy and cosmology

✳ Reach a new underserved group, seniors already an NSF priority (OLLI center at University of Maine)

II. What is happening in Chicago?

✳ 395,000 individuals aged 60 and higher

✳ Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) branch provides access to peer-led physics/astronomy courses for $500 yearly

- Prohibitive cost for lower and fixed-income seniors
- Presenterless format not ideal for first exposure to new topics
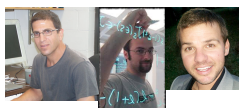
The National Science Foundation

III. How Senior Outreach?

✳ Winter/Spring/Summer 2014 and beyond:

Free classes on astrophysics and cosmology for seniors

✳ Topics that capture the imagination: Life stories of stars, Exoplanets, Astrobiology, Dark Matter, Dark Energy, the Big Bang, Spacetime, Science at the South Pole

✳ Seminar on effective communication with seniors with gerontologist K. Flude

IV. Who?

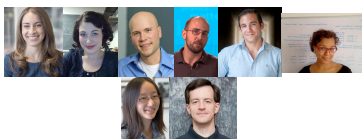✳ Organized by KICP Director of Education and Outreach R. Landsberg and NSF AAPF Fellows D. Grin, D.Watson

✳ Presentations led by KICP/UChicago staff

- Faculty: R. Kron, S. Meyer, D. Fabrycky, Y.Kim, D. Holz, B.Benson

- Postdocs/graduate students: L. Kreidberg, A. Bans, S. Couch, H. Lippincott, M. Chatzopoulos, B. Kamai, T. Lin, S. Hoover

V. Where senior outreach?

✳ Renaissance Court Senior Center [Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago Area Agency on Aging]

✳ Harbor Court condominums

✳ Montgomery Place, Hyde Park

✳ Field trips to Adler planetarium to bookend class in summer 2014

VI. Future

✳ Expand to satellite Senior Centers throughout Chicago

✳ Public Libraries

✳ Village movement presentations

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