

I worked for more than 30 years in engineering and science—as a Caltech professor, as a university dean of natural sciences and mathematics at California State University, Long Beach, and most recently as manager of the Educational Affairs Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. From my perspective, it is wonderful to see how artists are helping to communicate the mystery and beauty arising from our national space program.

The art showcased in Crouch's article is wonderful, but I submit that in addition to inspiring artists, NASA's photographs have truly expanded humankind's perception of the universe and of ourselves. Here are some examples:

► *Earthrise* (1968) is a fascinating image taken by astronaut William Anders from *Apollo 8*, the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Moon.

► Photos sent back from various probes, from *Pioneer 10* (1973) to Cassini-Huygens (2004–), are remarkable images of the strangeness and beauty of the outer solar system.

► Close-up pictures of Mars have been captured by several spacecraft.

► The images sent back from the dozens of space telescopes, in many wavebands, have increased our vision beyond anything we could have imagined.

In addition to inherently beautiful images, the information collected by the various spacecraft has led to a much deeper understanding of the universe and has been communicated through thousands of journal articles.

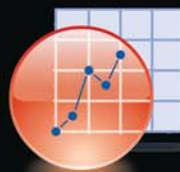
When it comes to communicating the beauty of some of the abstract concepts of science, one should be aware of Paul Bartlett Ré. He has a deep and broad understanding of science and has been producing remarkable art for the past 40 years.

Several of his works can be found at <http://www.paulre.org/index.html> and in his book, *The Dance of the Pencil* (1992).

Fred Shair
(fredshair@mac.com)
Altadena, California

Correction

January 2012, pages 24 and 25—Congressional Fellow Makenzie Lystrup was sponsored by the American Institute of Physics and the Acoustical Society of America. Sarah Case, State Department Fellow, was sponsored by AIP and the American Astronomical Society. ■



ORIGIN® 8.6

Data Analysis and Graphing Software

Powerful. Flexible. Easy to Use.

“Overall OriginPro preserves its leading status as the most functional and comprehensive data analysis and graphing software on the market. Although other software programs are available, few are as easy to use, accessible, and high-end when it comes to performing rigorous data analysis or producing publication-quality graphs.”

Keith J. Stevenson

Journal of American Chemical Society, March 2011

“In a nutshell, Origin, the base version, and OriginPro, with extended functionality, provide point-and-click control over every element of a plot. Additionally, users can create multiple types of richly formatted plots, perform data analysis and then embed both graphs and results into dynamically updated report templates for efficient re-use of effort.”

Vince Adams

Desktop Engineering, July 2011

Compatible with Windows® 7.
Native 64-bit version available.
Learn more at www.OriginLab.com

OriginLab®

OriginLab Corporation
One Roundhouse Plaza
Northampton, MA 01060 USA

USA: (800) 969-7720
FAX: (413) 585-0126
EMAIL: sales@originlab.com
WEB: www.originlab.com

