

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

MARCH 2009

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Speaker - Monday, March 9, 2009 Dr. Jaymie Matthews

Professor and Mission Scientist, Astronomy
Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Physics &
Astronomy, UBC

“What if Galileo had a space telescope?”

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy, marking 400 years since Galileo first trained a small telescope on a “wandering star” to discover it was not just a twinkling point of light but another world, a discovery that turned the world of astronomical thought upside down.

Dr. Matthews is a leading expert in the field of stellar seismology, literally using the surface vibrations of vibrating stars to probe their hidden interiors and histories. To detect subtle signatures of these ‘ringing’ stars, Dr. Matthews used giant telescopes on remote mountaintops in Hawaii, Chile, Australia and Russia.

Realizing that the best telescopes on Earth could not detect the most subtle oscillations, he decided Canada needed a dedicated telescope in space for this research. Dr. Matthews became Mission Scientist and Principal Investigator for MOST, a Canadian Space Agency project to study **Micro**-variability and **O**scillations of **S**tars. The suitcase sized MOST micro-satellite was launched successfully from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia in June 2003. MOST is now sending data to Earth which Dr. Matthews and his science team are using to tackle questions like: What was the Sun like as a ‘teenager’? How old is the Universe? What are planets around other stars really like?

Next Month Speaker

Monday, April 6

[**Note:** Meeting is on "first Monday" due to the Easter holiday conflict on April 13.]

Bob Boase, Probus Club Member

Based on his lengthy career and experiences in International Development Programs assignments, Bob will share with us his thoughts on:

“Afghanistan: Deep Past and Dark Future”

Last Month Speaker



Dr. André Gerolymatos with Art Eberwein

Dr. Gerolymatos provided historical background to the current state of the India/Pakistan relationship largely rooted in the actions of Great Britain which approached control of the region through the "divide and conquer" strategy, with the Muslims pitted against the Hindus.

Things are changing in the middle east with a shift in the growth of terrorism from Iraq into Afghanistan, and now to Pakistan. Per Mr. Bruce, a specialist in mid-east affairs "All nightmares of the 21st century come together in Pakistan: nuclear power, drug smuggling, military dictatorship and international terrorism."

Pakistan and India both possess nuclear warheads. The recent Pakistan terrorist attack on Mumbai caused many deaths. India came very close to replying with a nuclear attack. Pakistan is much smaller in size and military strength but has well trained guerrilla fighters who attack and retreat behind the border.

Neither Pakistan nor Afghanistan, he stated, is a prospect for conversion to the western vision of democratic states. In his opinion, withdrawal of the western military from Afghanistan, which is already largely ruled by the Taliban, should be accomplished as expediently as prudent.

It is not possible for outside forces to conquer this country by conventional (vs guerrilla) warfare, the proof being in the Russian failure and currently whereby NATO troops control only the major cities and the Taliban the remainder of the country.

How should the West plan for the future? It must learn to live with the Islamic regimes by developing a

deeper understanding of their culture and a more tolerant attitude to their beliefs. A start would be in convincing the western media to portray the Mid-east situation as it is and to avoid the tendency to project what we would like it to be. The growth of Muslim populations in western countries is significant and their sympathies are aroused by the actions of the occupiers in their former countries, leading to the extreme militancy on the part of those more radical.

Iran is emerging as a super power in the Mideast. Russia is supporting Iran's developing position as a payback for their failure in Afghanistan. Although both countries are Muslim they are different sects.

Iraq is most likely to revert to dictatorship once the US leaves, which should happen soon and in stages. The Taliban, although opposed in principle to the drug trade, support production and distribution as the drug provides the money to purchase weapons.

Dr. Gerolymatos just completed his latest book "Dreaming in the Sand: Anglo American Intelligence Operations in the Middle East and their Impact on the Region, 1914-1956" (St Martin's Press, NY) which will be published most likely in the fall of 2009.

February Greeters

Larry Pereria and Ron Bennett



In Memoriam Donation

Management Committee has made a \$500 donation to the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation in remembrance of Probus North Shore Vancouver members who passed on in 2008:

John Beveridge
Robin Bell-Irving
John (Jack) Hutchins
Victor Kloefer
Raymond Preece

Bob Bonus
Geoffrey Burgess
Grant Hetherington
Douglas McArthur

Some Recent New Members



Jeremy Marr

Jeremy was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England and has an MA in Mechanical Sciences from Cambridge University. In 1965, following three years in industry, he moved to Toronto. During his twelve years there he worked as an engineer for Chrysler Canada in their aluminum casting plant and then moved to become Production Manager at the Hepburn Iron Foundry. It was in Toronto that he met and married Gillian.

Jeremy was involved with rugby, refereeing at senior level for many years. He visited Vancouver for the first time in 1975 when out here for a referee clinic. That visit convinced him and Gillian that Vancouver was where they wanted to live.

In 1977, Jeremy accepted a position with Pacific Press and during his 15-year career rose to Director of Operations. He left Pacific Press to join the Morcan Consulting Group specializing in ISO 9001 quality management systems. He started to retire in 2006 but continues consulting on a part time basis.

Jeremy and Gillian have 2 married sons and one grandchild, all-living on the North Shore. Jeremy plays golf and bridge, and is a member of the North Shore Chorus. He will happily introduce anyone interested in singing to this non-audition community choir.



Ian Dowdeswell

Following service with the Royal Navy, Ian came to Canada from Surrey, England in 1956. He began his working life as a draftsman with Boyles Brothers Diamond Drilling Company, famous for the Ripple Rock project in Seymour Narrows. While with Boyles Brothers, Ian completed the requirements for bachelor and masters degrees in Electrical Engineering at UBC in 1961.

On leaving Boyles Brothers he became an Assistant Engineer with a new Industrial Process Group formed at IBM and charged with designing computer controlled process systems for industry, including mining and pulp and paper manufacturing. IBM decided to exit this specialized activity leaving Ian and a colleague to form Stapelton, Dowdeswell Consultants to continue designing and building real time operating systems for Canadian clients.

In 1973, Ian started a new consulting company in Edmonton called the Alberta Hospital Association Applications in Health Care. In 1977, Ian joined Petro Canada in Calgary designing computer systems for administrative and special applications. This was followed by a similar position with MacMillan Bloedel.

In 1985, BC Tel formed Microtel Pacific Research to undertake computerization of its communication facilities and services to other communications companies, a perfect fit for Ian.

Ian retired in 1995 and continues as a consultant to the Network of Centres of Excellence.



Art Eberwein

President's Report

(Art Eberwein, Past President, acting in place of President Esio)

It was indeed a pleasure for me to stand in for Esio when he was unable to chair the February meeting. As many of you noticed, I enjoyed sharing several of my favourite stories with what I consider to be a great audience.

Attendance was about 175 members, a virtual tie for the largest turnout in our history, and from comments that I received following the meeting you were unanimous that it was one of if not the best meeting they could recall.

Dr. Gerolymatos was, as usual, forthright about the evolving situations in the Middle and Far East. I believe we were all left with a feeling of foreboding, hoping that our world leaders will soon be able to navigate these troubled waters to a more stable condition.

In addition to being an excellent speaker, Dr. Gerolymatos is always well informed, and we will look forward to him speaking to us for the seventh time early next year, hopefully with positive news on the middle East situation.

Ernie Maguire and his Speakers Committee support group continue to bring us topical speakers, and I encourage you to attend in March to witness Dr. Jaymie Matthews take us on an adventure into the mysteries of space.

Our May 11 speaker is Mr. Peter Leitch, President of North Shore Studios (Lions Gate Studios), one of B.C.'s pioneering film and television facility companies and chair of the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C.

Art Eberwein

2009 Committees Support Group

The tasks and challenges of various Management Committees become more onerous as time passes, and more than a Chair alone can handle. We are delighted that our recent call for interested volunteers has recruited additional valued support from club members to share the workload of the committee chairs.

Communications: Chaired by Ron Penhall

Gerry Leonard, Vice-Chair and Editor
Linda Metcalfe, (new) Website master and publisher
Darryl Stodalka, past Website master and publisher

Speakers: Chaired by Ernie Maguire

Gordon Adair, (new) advisory group member
Fraser Grant, advisory group member
Bev Machesney, (new) advisory group member

House, Chaired by Keith Pople

Phil Boase, past Chair

Special Events, Chaired by Malcolm Metcalfe

Linda Metcalfe, (new) advisor and publicist

Membership, Chaired by Bob Birch

Bill Guernsey, (new) supporting member

MEETINGS

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with Special Holidays falling on that day; in addition, our Christmas Luncheon replaces the December meeting.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

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