

Presents

PLEASE NOTE: Our meeting in April will be on April 7th, Earlier than normal.
Thanks



HOUSTON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Presents

**"Space Exploration in the 21st
Century"**

by

David Alexander

April 7, 2016

679th

Meeting of the Houston Philosophical Society

ABSTRACT

In this talk we will explore the status of space exploration in the 21st century and how it is changing to encompass broader participation and engagement. We are witnessing a gradual transition from large-

scale, government-led exploration to a more versatile and agile approach as private enterprises become increasingly involved. We will discuss NASA's Journey to Mars, the Houston Spaceport and the increasing democratization of space

SPEAKER'S BIO



David Alexander is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, where his primary area of research is solar physics. He also serves as the Director of the Rice Space Institute following his appointment to this position in March 2012. As Director, he is responsible for the mission and direction required to develop and achieve the goals and objectives of the institute.

He received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2004 and was appointed a Kavli Frontiers Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences in 2006. He is author of "The Sun" part of the Greenwood Press "Guide to the Universe" Series. Dr. Alexander is a past Chair of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomy Society, former Chair of the Solar, Heliospheric and Interplanetary Environment (SHINE) program and the inaugural Chair of the Mauna Loa Solar Observatory Users' Committee. He has served on many national and professional committees including the NASA Advisory Council's Heliophysics Subcommittee, the NASA Solar Heliospheric Management and Operations Working Group (SH-MOWG), ESA/NASA Solar Orbiter Payload Committee and the Science Advisory Board of the High Altitude Observatory Coronal Solar Magnetism Observatory.

Dr. Alexander joined the faculty at Rice in 2003, coming from the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center in Palo Alto, California where he was a Staff Physicist working on the development of advanced space missions for solar and space physics. He is currently a member of the Rice Faculty Senate.

Education

University of Glasgow, Ph.D. (1989) Self-similar Cosmological Models

University of Glasgow B.Sc. (1985) First Class Honours in Physics and Astronomy

RESERVATION & COST INFORMATION

**Cocktail Reception, Dinner & Lecture
7 April, 2016 / 6pm - 9pm
Cohen House, Rice University**

Dinner Meeting \$40 per person

**Please remember to pay your dues
\$85 per year**

**For Reservations call Dale Wilkins: (713) 839-0808
or
Reply to email: dale@amchouston.com**

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Please note that voting on the election of officers and section heads for HPS's 2016-2017 year will take place at the April meeting. The Society's Long Range Planning Committee is currently preparing a slate of officers to present to the membership for election for next year; Voting on nominations for new members will likewise take place at the April meeting. The nominees are:

Robert (Bob) Casey III (F)

Nominated By: Albert Kidd (F) / Sara Lowman (D)

Donald Foss, Ph.D. (D)

Nominated By: Jim Granato (D) / Bill Hobby (C)

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Dr. Christopher Hammons (D)
Nominated By: Don Bryrnes (D) / Harold Raley (D)

Barbara Kimmel (A)
Nominated By: James Thompson (A) / Ewa Thompson (D)

Prof. Marek Kimmel (A)
Nominated By: James Thompson (A) / Ewa Thompson (D)

Gail Merel (C)
Nominated By: Evelyn Keyes (C) / Betty Adam (F)

Robert O'Conor (C)
Nominated By: George Barnstone (C) / Tim Riley (C)

Charles Place (E)
Nominated By: Robert Shaddox (C) / Michael McEnany (E)

Howard Thames, Ph.D. (A)
Nominated By: J. Patrick Hughes (A) / Robert Curl (A)

Peter Wallace (E)
Nominated By: Randal Hall (D) / Jeffrey Brown (E)

Members are encouraged NOT to invite nominees to the April meeting.

Remember:
This will be the last meeting of the Society until we begin the new season in September, if you have not attended a meeting during this season you need to attend this one in order to keep your membership current..

Happy Summer Vacation!

Sara Lowman
President
Houston Philosophical Society