

It is a pleasure to present the speakers on the 2009 China Eclipse trip. I've been leading eclipse expeditions for 30 years -- from Mexico to South Africa, from the Galapagos to France, and it has always been my goal to create the finest possible experience. Each speaker is not only an expert in her or his field but an audience favorite who garners rave reviews. You've probably seen many on TV or read their books. Our tours are for everyone – no previous knowledge of astronomy or China is needed.

We will have additional well-known astronomers with us, including Bruce Weaver of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy, and others. Enjoy meeting them, too.

Douglas Duncan – Boulder, Colorado – summer 2008

Dr. Douglas Duncan



Doug Duncan is a faculty member at the University of Colorado and Director of Fiske Planetarium. Previously he held dual appointments at the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics of the University of Chicago and Chicago's Adler Planetarium, where he helped begin a trend of modernizing planetariums that has spread to New York, Denver, and beyond. He served as national Education Coordinator for the American Astronomical Society, the society that represents the 6,000 professional astronomers in the US. In that capacity he led efforts for better teaching and public communication throughout the United States. Before moving to Chicago, he was a staff astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STSI) where he was responsible for one of the Hubble Telescope's original instruments. While at STSI, he was one of 5 astronomers who organized the 1992 meeting "Women in Astronomy," the first to examine whether men and women have equal access to astronomy careers.

Dr. Duncan's research studies the oldest known stars - "fossil stars" - which date back almost to the time of the Big Bang. These have provided direct evidence of the explosive birth of our Milky Way galaxy and shed light on conditions at the time of the Big Bang. He has worked at the Lick Observatory, California's Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, and at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. He was part of a group that discovered sunspot cycles on other stars, similar to the 11-year cycle seen on the Sun. Some of his most interesting work involved the discovery that when the Sun was young it may have been spinning much faster than it is today, throwing off material and radiating strong ultraviolet and x-rays. This may well have affected the earth when it was young and even the development of life.

Dr. Duncan is a national leader in presenting the excitement of scientific discoveries to the public. He has appeared on BBC television and served extensively as science commentator on National Public Radio. His book, *Clickers in the Classroom*, describes

the remarkable way in which inexpensive wireless technology is being used to enhance science teaching. He has led groups of people to photograph Halley's Comet in South America, to many total eclipses, and into the Arctic to photograph the aurora. His photography has been published by National Geographic. In April 1993 he traveled to the North Pole, and was elected to The Explorers Club in 1991.

Dr. Erica Ellingson



Erica Ellingson is Associate professor in the Center for Astrophysics & Space Astronomy at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She received a B.Sc. in Physics from MIT and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Arizona. After postdoctoral positions at Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and University of Colorado, Boulder, she was a visiting professor at New Mexico State

University until joining the CU faculty in 1995.

Dr. Ellingson's research centers on the evolution of galaxies and quasars, and observational cosmology-- the origin and evolution of the universe. Much of her recent work concerns rich clusters of galaxies: how much dark matter they contain, the properties of their galaxies, and the hot gas held inside the clusters. Of particular interest is how the environment of the galaxy cluster affects the unfortunate galaxies which fall into it, and the relation between quasars and active galaxies and their cluster-scale environment. She is also part of a large consortium to discover new very distant clusters as probes of cosmology and galaxy evolution. Dr. Ellingson uses a variety of telescopes in her research: ground-based telescopes from around the world, the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-Ray space telescope, and the Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico. Dr. Ellingson is also known for creating innovative, multi-media planetarium programs on the topics of dark matter and cosmology.

Dr. Chris Impey



Chris Impey is University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona. As Deputy Department and Academic Head, he runs the nation's largest undergraduate majors program in astronomy, and the second largest Ph.D. program. His research interests are in observational cosmology, gravitational lensing, and the evolution and structure of galaxies. He has over 140 refereed publications and 50 published conference proceedings. His research has been supported by more than \$10 million in grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation, and he has had 24 projects approved and been given time on astronomy's premier research facility, the

Hubble Space Telescope. In addition, he has used most of the world's large ground-based telescopes.

As a professor, Dr. Impey has taught astronomy to over 4000 students and won eleven teaching awards at the University of Arizona. He has pioneered curriculum development in astrobiology, and leads a major three-year effort sponsored by the Templeton Foundation to explore issues at the interface of science and religion. A career goal is to make astronomy accessible to a very wide audience, and to this end he gives a dozen or more public talks annually, and has been a Shapley Lecturer for the American Astronomical Society for many years. Working with the planetary scientist Bill Hartmann, he has co-authored two introductory texts, and written more than twenty popular articles on cosmology and astrobiology. He is the creator of the *Astronomica* web site, which supports 1000 students a semester with interactive tools and instructional technology. His web design and curriculum projects have been supported by NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Impey is currently Vice President of the American Astronomical Society and serves on its Astronomy Education Board. In 2002 he was named the Arizona Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Council for the Improvement of Teaching, and was one of six people nationwide named Distinguished Teaching Scholar by the National Science Foundation.

Dava Sobel, author of the best sellers *Galileo's Daughter* and *Longitude*



Dava Sobel has been a freelance writer for numerous magazines, most notably Harvard Magazine, Omni, Science Digest, and Discover, as well as Audubon, Life, and The New Yorker. The publication of *Longitude* in 1995 – and its unexpected worldwide success – transformed Dava into a full-time author of books. She writes:

People may have the impression that book tours and public appearances are the most exciting times in an author's life. I certainly enjoy those events, and am flattered both by my publishers' willingness to send me on tour and readers' eagerness to come hear me. But writing is really about sitting alone in a room, and the highlights occur in that room, with no one else as witness, in the small moments of the day when the work goes well. I experienced some of the most memorable such moments during the years spent on *Galileo's Daughter*, especially in winter, when the early morning hours (my best work time) were dark, and I could enter my office half-believing it was Suor Maria Celeste's Convent of San Matteo in Arcetri.

Longitude helped place a memorial to John Harrison in Westminster Abbey, unveiled by Prince Philip on March 24, 2006. Astronomers who read *Galileo's Daughter* named a crater on Venus for Suor Maria Celeste, and also a feature on

the asteroid Eros for her mother, Marina Gamba. An asteroid discovered in 1994 by David Levy and Carolyn Shoemaker has been officially registered as (30935) Davasobel.

Dr. Nicholas M. Schneider



Nick Schneider is an associate professor in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado and a researcher in the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. He received his B.A. in physics and astronomy from Dartmouth College in 1979 and his Ph.D. in planetary science from the University of Arizona in 1988. In 1991, he received the National Science Foundation's

Presidential Young Investigator Award.

Dr. Schneider's research interests include planetary atmospheres and planetary astronomy, with a focus on the odd case of Jupiter's moon Io. He enjoys teaching at all levels and is active in efforts to improve undergraduate astronomy education. With Drs. Jeff Bennett, Megan Donahue, and Mark Voit, he is co-author of the most widely-used textbook in astronomy: *The Cosmic Perspective*. He will tell us about fantastic new discoveries on Mars, Saturn, and Pluto.

We will also be welcomed by:



Dr. Tian Jing, Deputy Director and lead archeologist of the Museum of the Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses of Emperor Qin Shihuang.

Dr. Jin Zhu, Director of the Beijing Planetarium. This planetarium has just finished a fantastic

\$100M modernization, very similar to the Hayden Planetarium -Rose Center in New York. We will have dinner plus a talk there.

