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ArAS Newsletter



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LOCAL NEWS

International Seminar at BAO

On October 16, the BAO hosted a seminar by Eduard Vorobyov from the University of Vienna, Austria.

The report was dedicated to “Recent developments in theoretical studies of FU Orionis-type luminosity outbursts”. The speaker talked about the luminosity bursts in young FU Orionis-type stars that warm up the surrounding disks of gas and dust, thus inflicting changes on their chemical and dust composition. Using numerical hydrodynamics simulations, E. Vorobyov compared several burst-triggering mechanisms and demonstrated that disk kinematic and morphological features might be used to distinguish them.



Eduard Vorobyov at BAO

In addition, he also reported on the effects that such bursts might have on the spatial distribution of dust grain sizes and the corresponding spectral index in the surrounding protoplanetary disk.

ANNIVERSARIES

Lidia Erastova's 85th Anniversary

Dr. Lidia K. Erastova was born on February 6, 1938, in Ush-Tode (Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan). She graduated from the Yerevan State University (YSU), Department of Astrophysics in 1974 and started working at BAO the same year. In 1982, she defended her Ph.D. thesis under Prof. V.A. Ambartsumian's supervision.

Erastova participated in two very important projects carried out in Byurakan: search for flare stars in star clusters and associations (under Prof. L.V. Mirzoyan's supervision) and the Second Byurakan Survey (SBS), one of the most important projects of the BAO (under Prof. B.E. Markarian's supervision). She also worked on Digitized First Byurakan Survey (DFBS).

Lidia Erastova's main scientific fields were the non-stable stars, surveys, AGN, starburst galaxies. She published about 100 scientific papers on various Astronomy topics. Dr. Erastova was a founding member of ArAS (since July 2001).



Lidia Erastova

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MEARIM VI

Recent Astronomical Activities: Near and Far Universe

On February 13-16, the 6th Middle-East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM VI) was held in The National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG), Cairo, Egypt.

The aim of the [6th MEARIM](#) is to survey the interdisciplinary avenues in the fields of Astronomy and space sciences and to create a solid block of astronomers and centers that can keep the initial momentum of moving astronomy forward in this part of the world, a momentum that will be produced by the MEARIM.

The meeting was intended to bring together the astronomers, observational, theoretical astrophysicists and space scientists and to encourage the interaction and collaboration between them and to associate as many African and Middle East countries as possible. Areg Mickaelian, the Director of the BAO, and Gayane Baleyan also took part in the meeting and presenting reports and posters.

The Conference covered a wide range of topics in the field of Astronomy and space science to explore the near and far universe.



Areg Mickaelian. MEARIM VI. 2023

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On February 11, we were celebrating women in Science. This year, on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGIS) the UN focused on the role of Women and Girls and Science as relates to the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) in review at the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum. In doing so the IDWGIS aims to connect the International Community to Women and Girls in Science, strengthening the ties between science, policy, and society for strategies oriented towards the future.

The IDWGIS will thus showcase best practices, strategies, applied solutions in addressing SDGs challenges and opportunities. For the first time it will also include a science workshop for Blind Girls and a session from the BLIND fellow SCIENTISTS on “Science in Braille: Making Science Accessible”.



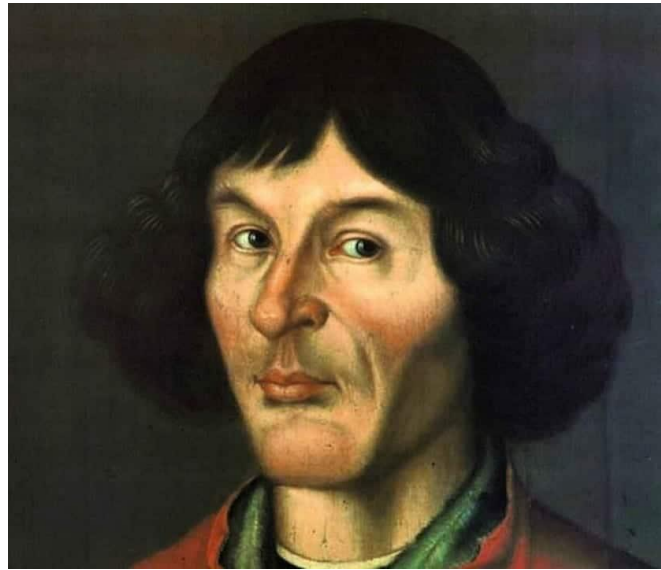
Photo by UNICEF Kazakhstan

OTHER NEWS

Nicolaus Copernicus: 550th Anniversary

Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish astronomer, was born on February 19, 1473 (1473- 1543).

He proposed that the planets have the [Sun](#) as the fixed point to which their motions are to be referred; that Earth is a planet which, besides orbiting the Sun annually, also turns once daily on its own axis; and that very slow long-term changes in the direction of this axis account for the precession of the equinoxes. This representation of the heavens is usually called the heliocentric, or “Sun-centred,” system-derived from the Greek *helios*, meaning “Sun.”



Nicolaus Copernicus

[Copernicus's theory](#) had important consequences for later thinkers of the Scientific [Revolution](#), including such major figures as Galileo, Kepler, Descartes, and Newton. Copernicus probably hit upon his main idea sometime between 1508 and 1514, and during those years he wrote a manuscript usually called the *Commentariolus* (“Little Commentary”). However, the book that contains the final version of his theory, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium libri vi* (“Six Books Concerning the Revolutions of the Heavenly Orbs”), did not appear in print until 1543, the year of his death.

ArAS News is the electronic newsletter of the Armenian Astronomical Society. It was distributed to all ArAS members from the beginning of 2002, 4 times a year, typically at the end of each trimester. In 2009-2014, 8 issues annually and since 2015, 12 issues annually have been released.

ArASNews publishes information materials on ArAS, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and the Armenian astronomy in general, reports on ArAS Annual Meetings and participation of the Armenian astronomers in important international meetings, articles on occasion of anniversaries of famous Armenian astronomers and ArAS members, acceptance of new ArAS members, achievements of the Armenian astronomers, astronomical education in Armenia, Armenian archaeoastronomy, as well as science articles (reviews) on important studies.

So, if you want to share your studies with the scientific community, send us your articles to melin.asryan@gmail.com. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

[ArAS Newsletter issues](#) are available online.