

Summary and Selected Highlights of the 2018 AG

for the Evangelical Christianity SIG

by Larry D. Paarmann and Diane Powell

September 21, 2018



The JW Marriott Hotel, downtown Indianapolis, IN

The 2018 AG met in Indianapolis, IN, July 4 – 8, 2018. The AG was hosted by the JW Marriott Hotel, a very spacious and attractive facility, located downtown Indianapolis. The AG attendance was over 1,700.



Another view of the JW Marriott



Attendees were housed in the JW Marriott, Fairfield Inn, Springhill Suites, and Courtyard



An example Meeting Hall in the Marriott Complex



Meeting rooms varied in size: here is a view of the Grand Ballroom



An AG Session in Progress



The Hospitality Room, a favorite gathering area, was open 24 hours a day.

The AG Presentations

There were about 215 speakers for a little over 300 meetings of various types (not all presentations, some Mensa organizational, debates, games, meet & greets, etc.). At times there were as many as 8 things taking place at the same time. Obviously, what is summarized below is highly selective and no doubt somewhat biased.

The presentations summarized below were selected because they were of interest to the authors of this report. Printed below is the verbatim abstract from the printed program for each event, the verbatim biographical sketch for the speaker, and then followed by comments.

Evangelical Christianity SIG Meet & Greet

Abstract This is a time for current members of the SIG to meet and greet and get acquainted, and for prospective members to see what we are about. Everyone is welcome.

Biographical Sketch Larry D. Paarmann is the LocSec for the Kansas Sunflower Local Group of American Mensa. He is also the Coordinator of the Evangelical Christianity SIG. He is retired from a career in electrical engineering, having taught at three universities and also having industrial experience. For more information, contact Larry at LDPaarmann@cox.net, or visit evansig.org.



Comments We began the Meet & Greet by giving an overview of what the foundation of the SIG is about, and quoting from the web site: “Welcome to the SIG on Evangelical Christianity, where Evangelical Christian theology and the implications of Evangelical Christianity on culture, science, and all areas of life and knowledge are discussed.” Some of the books and organizations mentioned on the home page of the web site were reviewed: *The Truth Project* by Del Tackett, *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey, L’Abri Fellowship, Francis Schaeffer, *Reason in the Balance* by Phillip E. Johnson, etc. We then mentioned the Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation. During and following the above, the group discussed things that brought them to faith in Jesus Christ, and events that were and are important to them. This was a good time of discussion and fellowship. There were about 15 present.

Newsflash: No Such Thing as Fake News!

Abstract Real journalism bears no relation to “fake news,” a misappropriation of the concept of “news.” Elaine Monaghan, a Scot, linguist, and former Reuters correspondent who teaches journalism at Indiana University-Bloomington’s Media School, tells how journalism is created and shares examples of the power of journalism to change people’s lives. She reveals the attributes and anatomies of quality news stories and shows how to fact check textual and visual content you see online. She shares information about the latest technologies and techniques journalists are using to overcome the tyranny of the deadline, the bottom line, and the everyday dangers journalists face. At the same time, she gives an honest portrayal of the everyday pressures journalists face as they strive to be what Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has called “the lookouts who stand on the watchtower, day after day and all night long, in the watches of the night.”

Biographical Sketch Elaine Monaghan grew up in a village of 700 people in southwest Scotland dreaming of a swashbuckling life of travel, adventure, and languages. She got a more humble and meaningful version of that dream by becoming a correspondent for Reuters, the international news agency, where she worked for a decade from Moscow, Kyiv, Dublin, and Washington, following Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell around the world. In 2014, she moved to Indiana, where she found a new calling teaching students of journalism and public relations. Visit mediaschool.indiana.edu or email emonagha@indiana.edu.



Comments There were some good things in this presentation, such as advise on being discriminate about what you hear, and be able to distinguish among opinions, facts, and fiction. However there were two features of the presentation that stood out, and these are things you would not expect from someone with the speaker’s credentials. First, the audience seemed to be populated by people with a liberal bias that took the presentation to be something of a pep rally denouncing the idea of “fake news.” That’s perhaps not a big deal, and since anyone at the AG could attend who wanted to, so perhaps we should not fault the speaker for who was in the audience. But second, her talk was not very well thought out in my opinion, which implies she didn’t take it seriously, and it seemed very sophomoric. The title of the talk was “Fake News: No Such Thing as Fake News!” Yet, in her introduction, she almost immediately contradicted herself, by telling us that she would inform us in her talk how to recognize what is fake news and what is not! Her title informs us that there isn’t any such thing! So, there is nothing to distinguish! Then, well into the talk she implied that “news” is never intentionally misleading or incomplete. Really?

A Sea of Danger: The *Green Book* and African-American Travel, circa 1936-1966

Abstract The *Green Book* (formally known as *The Negro Motorist Green Book*) was a yearly travel directory, published from 1936-1966, by Victor H. Green. Initially focusing on New York and the surrounding area, the publication eventually grew to cover national travel within the U.S., and, ultimately, international travel. This session will cover the incredible history of the *Green Book*, including its impetus and growth, its use in practice, and its modern-day legacy. Time for questions and discussion will be included.

Biographical Sketch Peter Larsen has a special interest in historical and contemporary civil rights. Currently pursuing a J.D. with a focus on civil rights law, Larsen has previously served as a Civil Rights Commissioner for the City of Minneapolis and Chairman of the Board of the Minneapolis Television Network. A Life Member, Larsen recently wrote about the impact of the *Green Book* for his master’s thesis.



Comments I’m old enough to know something about racism in the USA mid-twentieth century. I knew nothing of it as a child, but in my twenties I was exposed to it. It certainly did not end with the close of the civil war. The whole thing is a sad chapter in our history. Peter Larsen, with an M.A. from the University of Chicago, specializing in this sad chapter, is quite knowledgeable on the subject. Although not a dynamic presentation, it was filled with much information. During his time-frame of 1936-1966, blacks in the USA had to carefully pick where to dine, what hotels would accept them, etc. The *Green*

Book carefully documented for them this information. For a 1949 version of the *Green Book* in pdf, see the following URL:

http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Race/R_Casestudy/Negro_motorist_green_bk.htm For a additional resources, see the pdf document [GreenBookResources.pdf](#).

The Dirty Dossier: Clinton, Trump, Russian Spies, and the 2016 Election

Abstract Is Donald Trump a spy? Is he a “Manchurian candidate” installed in the White House by America’s enemies? Or was the “Dirty Dossier” just an excuse for spying on a despised presidential candidate? Was it the work of concerned Americans and foreign allies, or was it produced by Trump’s political adversaries, working with Russian intelligence? And what does this story have to do with uranium, hazelnuts, a wine bar in London, Jesus vs. Satan, gays for Bernie Sanders, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and two FBI agents in love? Dr. Steven J. Allen has been a political journalist for 45 years. In the forthcoming book *Revolt of the Deplorables*, he tells the inside story of the 2016 election. At last year’s AG, he explained what happened at the polls in 2016. This year, he goes deeper — revealing the roles played by Russian and U.S. intelligence and exposing a plot to discredit American democracy.

Biographical Sketch Dr. Steven J. Allen has been called a “digital revolutionary” (*National Journal*) and “the Tea Party’s editor in chief” (*Daily Beast/Newsweek*). He served as press secretary to U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton and senior researcher in Newt Gingrich’s presidential campaign. Currently, he is VP and Chief Investigative Officer of the Capital Research Center in Washington, D.C. A former Membership Officer of Metropolitan Washington Mensa, he coordinated MWM’s Politics SIG for 10 years. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, *The Washington Times*, *The Washington Examiner*, and the Washington newspaper *The Hill*.



Comments Steve Allen said that he would have a video of his talk posted on the Capital Research Center, <https://capitalresearch.org>, soon after the AG was over. As of August 2nd, that video is now posted: <https://capitalresearch.org/article/featured-video-the-dirty-dossier>. It is just short of an hour and 20 minutes long. It may be found directly on youtube as well at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpJ0R6U0vsE&feature=youtu.be> There is also a talk by Allen on the same topic, given at the 2018 CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) posted on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pp1Wn_Oulo There is also a relevant article by Allen, dated June 23, 2018, posted on the American Greatness web site, titled “Russia Meddled and Almost Nobody Cared, Until . . .”, which gives the long history of the Soviet Union’s and now Russian meddling in

USA elections, dating at least as far back as the late 1940s:

<https://amgreatness.com/2018/06/23/russia-meddled-and-almost-nobody-cared-until> Some of us happened to run into Allen the next day in the Hospitality Room, and he treated us to a non-stop three-hour continuing exposé of the Dirty Dossier and related topics. All of this is now documented in the book *The Russia Hoax*, by Gregg Jarrett, lawyer and journalist, released on July 25th.

State of the Universe Address

Abstract Everyone knows the Big Bang Theory. I will review and extend these ideas to describe the current state of knowledge about our universe. There are the continuing great mysteries of dark energy and dark matter dominating the cosmos. We, the planets and the stars — the “ordinary matter” — are the dregs, a mere 4 percent of the universe. Recently, in 2016, Einstein’s gravitational waves, predicted in 1916, were verified by gravity wave observatories. This new technology will open new windows to the universe. I will describe this and more.

Biographical Sketch Harry Ringermacher is a retired senior research physicist from the General Electric Global Research Center. He is now an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. Ringermacher has published in the fields of general relativity, astrophysics and cosmology in peer-reviewed journals. He is the Chairman of the Copper Black Creativity Award Committee and is the only Mensan to win the Copper Black Award twice. He is also Chairman of the new Mensa Foundation Prize committee.

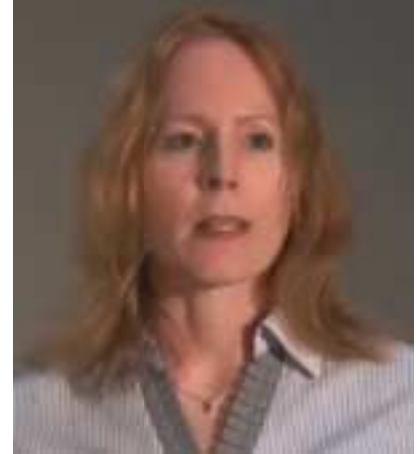


Comments Dr. Ringermacher also spoke at the 2015 AG in Louisville, KY. He spoke there on “Is the Universe Ringing Like a Crystal Glass?”. I found that talk quite interesting, and we reported on it briefly in the 2015 AG Report. Ringermacher has a web site: <http://www.ringermacher.com> Although he has not posted his slides for his 2018 AG presentation, he does have slides from an earlier presentation that he made in 2015 (modified in 2016) with the same title: http://www.ringermacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/StateOfTheUniverse_2015.pdf His “State of the Universe” presentation is an overview of where the current state of knowledge is about the big picture of the universe: what has been discovered, and what perplexing problems are currently issues.

Artificial Intelligence and Intelligence Augmentation

Abstract This talk discusses how some of the latest scientific advances are affecting human and machine intelligence and what the future might hold for mutual collaboration and intelligence.

Biographical Sketch Melanie Swan is a technology theorist in the Philosophy Department at Purdue University. She is the author of the bestselling book *Blockchain: Blueprint for a New Economy*. She is a faculty member at Singularity University and a contributor to the *Edge's* Annual Essay Question.



Comments As robotics and artificial intelligence continue to grow and have impact in our culture, how far will it go, and what are the implications of it in terms of our personal identity, and the workforce of the future? To view the slides of Swan's presentation, all 99 of them, go to the following URL and click on the "Cognitive Enhancement Theory" presentation:

<https://www.slideshare.net/lablogga> Other links for material from Swan: <https://ieet.org/index.php/IEET2/bio/swan>, https://www.edge.org/memberbio/melanie_swan, and <http://www.melanieswan.com>.

Cognitive Enhancement Agenda

- Method
 - Theoretical model development
- Problem
 - Defining human identity in the context of machines
- Solutions
 - Biomedical Advance
 - Personal Identity
 - Cloudminds
- Conclusion

4 Jul 2016
Cognitive Enhancement

Conclusion

- Automation Economy
 - Cognitive offload produces more time for innovation, creativity, and enjoyment, and starts redefining human identity
- Biomedical Advance
 - Ability to work with learning, memory, attention, and disease means new forms of awareness about existence and reality
- BCI Cloudminds
 - Possibility of Brain-Computer Interfaces with continuous connection to the internet and other minds in cloudmind formats

4 Jul 2016
Cognitive Enhancement

Why People Spy: American Traitors and Foreign Spies I've Personally Known

Abstract Mr. Coyle spent 30 years with the CIA as an undercover field operations officer, trying to find foreign diplomats and officials who for one reason or the other were willing to supply secret information to the United States government. He will explain what he learned were the six main reasons why people spy, based on his own experiences of recruiting a number of foreigners while serving abroad during his career. He also had the unique experience of personally knowing and working with three CIA colleagues and one U.S. Embassy Marine security guard who were recruited by Soviet/Russian Intelligence to spy against the United States. He will discuss his impressions of the personalities and motivations of those four traitors: Ed Howard, Rick Ames, Jim Nicholson, and Cpl. Clayton Lonetree.

Biographical Sketch Gene Coyle is a native of Indianapolis and joined the CIA in 1976. He served some 14 years of his 30-year career abroad in a variety of locations, ranging from Moscow to Brasilia. From 2006 until 2017, he taught courses on national security and intelligence issues back at Indiana University. As a retirement hobby he writes spy novels, gives the occasional lecture, and enjoys traveling around the country. Visit sourcesandmethodslc.com or email gene@sourcesandmethodslc.com.

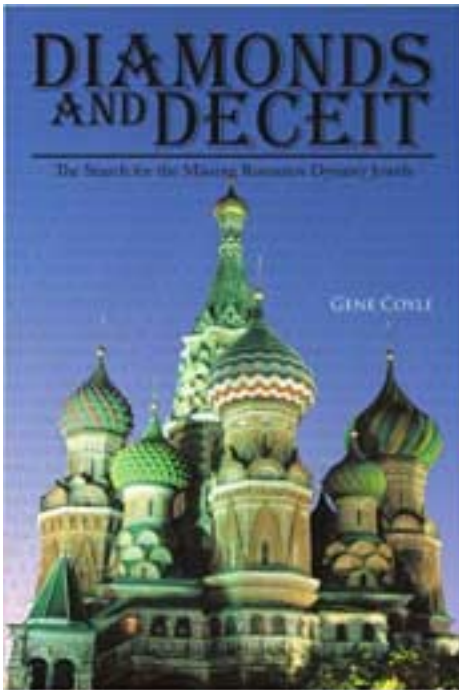


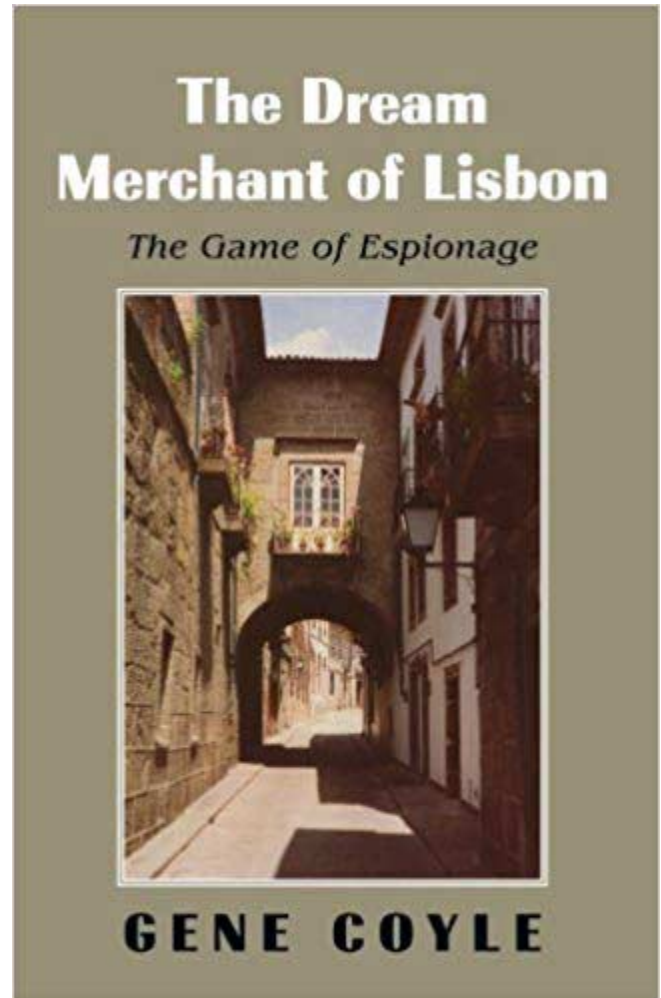
Comments Coyle is the author of several books having to do with spies and spying: *Nazi Gold*, *Portuguese Wine*, and *a Lovely Russian Spy*; *No Game for Amateurs*; *The Dream Merchant of Lisbon*; *A Spy's Lonely Path*; *Diamonds and Deceit*; and *If You Can't Trust a Fellow Spy: A Story of Friendships, Betrayal and Revenge*. **The US has**

been meddling in foreign elections since the 1930s. Ironic, is it not, that we are now making a big deal, and perhaps rightly so, that the Russians meddled in our 2016 election. Coyle is briefly in the following youtube video indicating our meddling in foreign elections (3 minutes and 28 seconds):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=IszoSW2oEDY

Coyle writes as follows on his blog on his web site: "Using my 18th birthdate as a starting point, I have attentively been following national and international politics for the past 47 years. First as a college student, followed by working at the CIA for thirty years and finally as a college professor for thirteen years, teaching courses on national security. And I sadly offer the observation that the political reporting by the overwhelming majority of major print and electronic media 'journalists' since the last presidential election has been the most biased I've ever seen over those nearly five decades."





Exploring the Wonders of the Universe with Link Observatory Space Science Institute

Abstract For decades, we have been sending rockets, satellites, and people into space to learn about our own planet as well as what lies beyond. As a result, we have benefitted from new technologies, and information about Earth's health has helped us to understand our own biology, and empowered our imaginations. 2018 Is the beginning of a new era in space exploration. NASA and commercial space companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin have plans to send humans into space, which will fundamentally transform our world and pave the way for human expansion into the solar system. Two leaders of the Link Observatory Space Science Institute – Executive Director Greg McCauley and Deputy Director Kurt Williams – will describe the unique challenges of space exploration, from triumph and tragedy of the Apollo era, to a celebration of what is about to happen in space exploration ... and more.

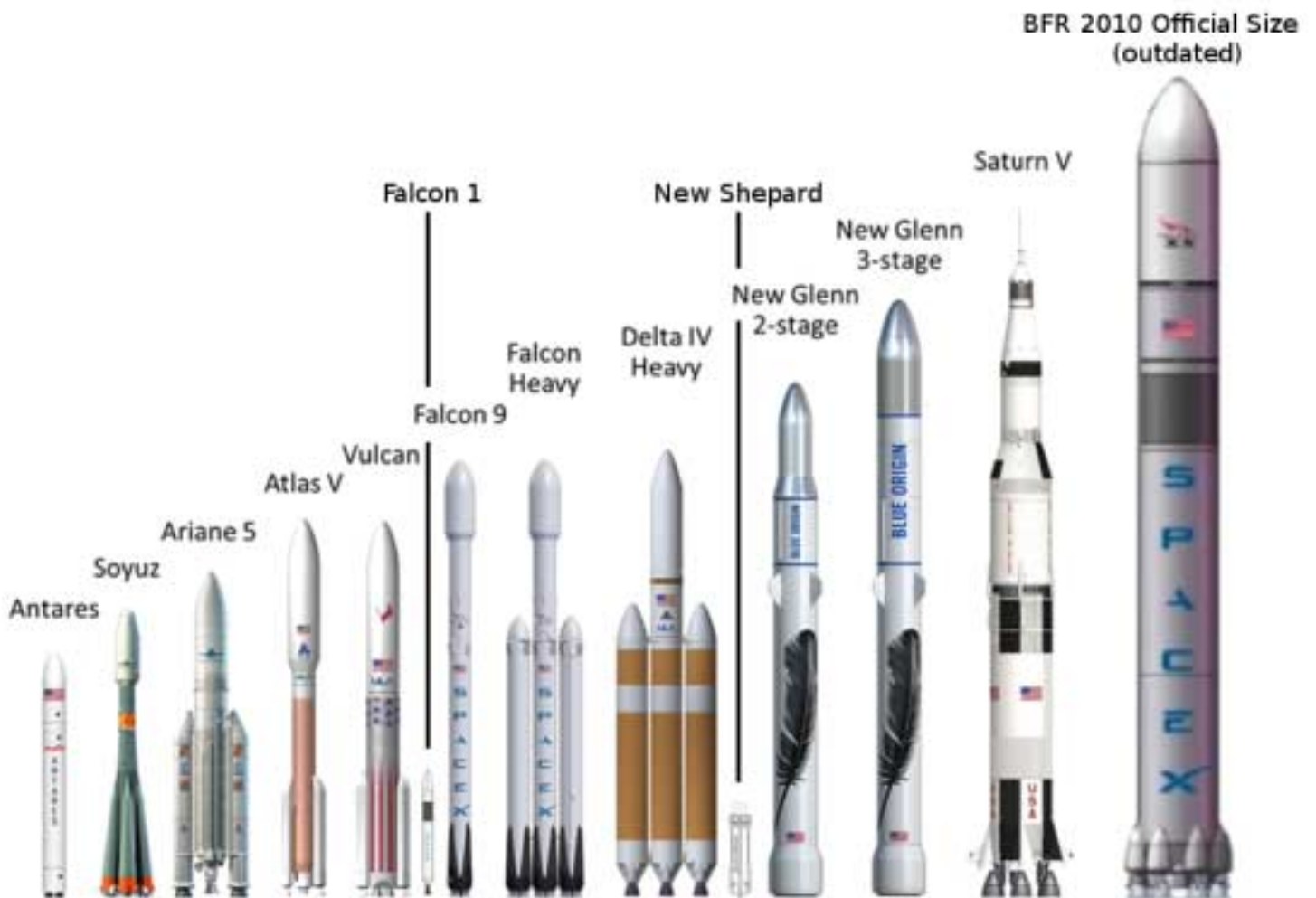
Biographical Sketches Greg McCauley is the Executive Director of the Link Observatory Space Science Institute in Martinsville, Ind. In the early 1970s, he worked for NASA at the Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center) in Houston, in the Mission Planning and Analysis Division for the lunar missions Apollo 15 and 16. He was also a member of the Lunar Launch Team for Apollo 17. McCauley is the former CEO of Advanced Imaging Inc., an Indianapolis-based medical consulting firm. Greg serves as a Solar System Ambassador for NASA/JPL and lectures throughout central Indiana on planetary exploration.



From the Link Observatory web site: Kurt Williams is the Deputy Director, Chief Operations Officer and co-founder of the Link Observatory Space Science Institute. Prior to joining us, Kurt was Managing Director of ALA, llc, a business consulting firm specializing in turnarounds and start-ups where he helped small and mid-size companies become successful. He also has a background in tutoring, teaching, training, public speaking and continuous improvement and is a professional science communicator. With a life-long interest in astronomy, science and space exploration, Kurt is well positioned to bring his background and enthusiasm to encourage students in all disciplines to explore and achieve their greatest potential.



Comments The actual presentation was entirely about the upcoming mission to Mars. NASA's plans for a mission to Mars with human astronauts are significantly different than those of private enterprise, but NASA and private enterprise will collaborate. NASA's plans are to first return to the Moon for long-term exploration, long-term lunar orbiting, and a long-term outpost on the surface. These objectives are reviewed on the following URL: <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/moon-to-mars/overview> The NASA Mars mission rocket, called Orion, is reviewed on the following URL: <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/moon-to-mars/getting-there> and also at: <https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/sls/index.html> Falcon Heavy test flight, February 6, 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbSwFU6tY1c> The Falcon Heavy is in testing phase now, and as the youtube video displays, all three of the boosters land back on earth for reuse. To see the relative sizes of the proposed Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) and existing rockets, see the following figure. The Saturn IV would produce 7.6 million pounds of thrust at liftoff, the BFR 11.8 million pounds. An Apollo trip to the moon took about three days. A BFR trip to Mars will take about nine months. The presentation included discussion of trip duration, carrying sufficient supplies, the medical risks involved, the fact that launch windows on each direction are very limited, the long time delays in communication and control, the necessary planning for repairs and trajectory correction, protection from cosmic rays and meteoroids, etc.



Secrets from a Dhow Shipwreck

Abstract In 1998, a shipwreck was discovered off Belitung Island, Indonesia. It contained a remarkable cargo of more than 60,000 ceramics produced in China during the Tang dynasty (618–907), as well as luxurious objects of gold and silver. Hear and see what was learned from this one wreck. Bound for Iran and Iraq, the ship provides early proof for strong commercial links between China, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. The Tang shipwreck reveals that Singapore’s region lay at the heart of a global trading network in the 9th century. The success of Singapore as an exchange point of global shipping thus has ancient roots. The beautiful objects of exceptional rarity testify to the ingenuity of artists and merchants, and show that exotic objects have long been appreciated by the world’s consumers.

Biographical Sketch David Michel has been an active member since 1978.

Comments Seldom has such an ancient ship with all of its cargo been so well preserved been found. In fact, it was a set of unlikely events that resulted in such a preservation. The ship apparently encountered a significant storm while sailing in the Java Sea off the coast of Indonesia's Belitung Island, sunk into the mud in a shallow sea, and then covered by the storm with mud: so well covered that it was not discovered for over a thousand years. The ship is Arab, and the cargo Asian.



See the article by Sonia Kolesnikov-Jessop, "Ancient Arab Shipwreck Yields Secrets of Ninth-Century Trade," *The New York Times*, online, March 7, 2011: <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/08/arts/08iht-singshow08.html>



See also the article by Rick Spilman, "Secrets of the Sea – A Tang Shipwreck and Early Trade in Asia," *The Old Salt Blog*, posted March 7, 2017: <http://www.oldsaltblog.com/2017/03/secrets-sea-tang-shipwreck-early-trade-asia> See this article especially for its 15 minutes and 23 seconds video.

See The Jewel of Muscat (the reconstructed ship):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjqem7HUWcw>

See the following web site for a wealth of information about the ship: <http://jewelofmuscat.tv>

See The Tang Shipwreck gallery at the Singapore Asian Civilizations Museum:

<https://www.acm.org.sg/galleries/tang-shipwreck>





Singapore Asian Civilizations Museum

The Real Hunt for Red October

Abstract During the height of the Cold War, the major nuclear powers of the world adhered to the principle of Mutually Assured Destruction. The major component was the Nuclear Triad, and the most dangerous part of the Triad were submarine-launched weapons. The U.S. Navy fielded the most effective anti-submarine force in the world, and Jon Applegate was honored to be a small part of that force. The presentation, using Jon’s experience, will concentrate on the P-3 Orion as a sub-hunting platform and discuss the strategic and tactical components of what Sean Connery called “the great game” in the movie *The Hunt for Red October*.

Biographical Sketch Jon Applegate served in the Navy during the mid-'60s as an airborne sonar operator aboard P-3 Orion patrol bombers hunting Soviet submarines around the world. After the Navy, he received his bachelor's in geography from Indiana State University. He flew as a corporate pilot before joining the Federal Aviation Administration as an Assistant Air Traffic Control Specialist at the Indianapolis Control Tower. He later transferred to the Lansing Michigan Automated Flight Service Station, where he spent the last 16 years of his career as an Operations Supervisor. Jon retired from the FAA in 2006 and now lives in rural Greene County, Ind.

Comments This was a very enjoyable presentation on how the US Navy detects and tracks Russian submarines, using sonar arrays on the ocean floor, sonar buoys, and mostly P-3 Orion aircraft.



There is an interesting and detailed article by Tyler Rogoway, “Confessions of a US Navy P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Pilot”: <https://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/confessions-of-a-pilot-behind-the-us-navys-airborne-sub-1598415741>

A P-3 Orion submarine surveillance mission (2 minutes and 9 seconds):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHH7E6XqeL0>

A P-3 looking for MH370 off the coast of Australia (2 minutes and 19 seconds):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yJToVDdupM>

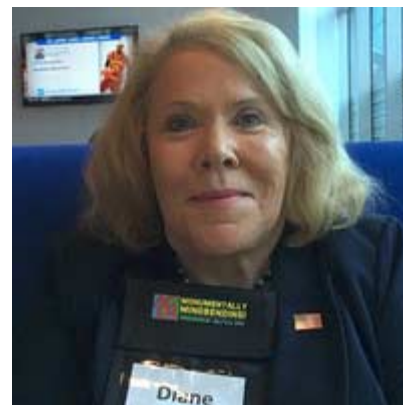
A historical overview of the Lockheed P-3 Orion (4 minutes and 32 seconds):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55JXNDgCtLc>

Forensic Document Examiners Look at What?

Abstract A forensic document examiner (FDE) is responsible for the examination of anything that may bear marks, signs, or symbols that have meaning or convey a message to someone. The laboratory analysis may include an electrostatic detection device, a cow's ear, transcribing the text on a carbon film typewriter, the utility of satellites for classification of inkjet printers, and assessing a person's natural range of variation in handwriting. With 36 years as an FDE with the Indiana State Police followed by several years in private practice, Diane Tolliver will give you a peek into her profession.

Biographical Sketch Diane K. Tolliver enjoyed a 36-year career with the Indiana State Police, Lab Division, as a forensic document examiner. She was the first female and the first civilian examiner hired, in 1975, by the State Police. Typewriters ruled the world then. She always wanted to be in law enforcement but not as a sworn officer. Perry Mason was her inspiration. Today, Tolliver is active in the Propylaeum Historic Foundation and the Indianapolis Woman's Club. She and her husband enjoy riding on his BMW motorcycle. Email TolliverD@aol.com



Comments Diane Tolliver, 36-year veteran of the Indiana State Police department, described the types of evidence studied by trained FBI document examiners. This training requires a full 3 years of on-the-job training – the most extensive training period of any FBI position. Increasingly sophisticated technological methodologies provide critical strength to these determinations. Throughout the country there are various classes and degrees offered but no universally recognized degree or program currently.

Criminals attempt to conceal their identity and guilt – they may attempt to alter the apparent Cause of Death including the time in order to give themselves an alibi. They will also have made attempts to alter or destroy critical pieces of evidence which could have been used to convict them. Document examiners focus on checks, hand-written notes, other materials, and even plastic bags which may have been part of the crime scene and provide critical clues as to what happened.

Handwriting Analysis depends upon the fact that each person has a characteristic or typical style of handwriting. However there are certain variations and consequently there are occasionally disagreements between 2 or more experts. Criminals may attempt to trace over someone's handwriting

but a precise copy of the original is very difficult. Cashing stolen checks is a common crime and technicians closely examine the signatures including the crease pattern – which happened first, the signature or the creasing? Information on shredded documents can also be recreated by using special software.

Notes written on a paper pad will leave indentations on the pages underneath. Close examinations of these materials may reveal the previous note and provide additional information to investigators. In one case, a page showed a list of items with an added phrase, “bring a gun”. Investigators may also be able to retrieve information from charred documents left by the suspect.

Another area focused on by investigators is that of the watermark, along with fiber content, ink composition and optical qualities. These facts in a particular case can point directly to someone who is under suspicion.

One of the most famous cases of this kind involved the Zodiac Killer in California in the 1960s and 70s who was – as a matter of fact – never found. See the following URL:

https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2007/march/zodiac_030207

And, for a look inside the FBI, see the following URL:

<https://www.themuse.com/profiles/federalbureauofinvestigationfbi#people>

The Spread of Misinformation in Social Media

Abstract As social media become major channels for the diffusion of news and information, they are also increasingly attractive and targeted for abuse and manipulation. This talk overviews network analytics, data mining, and modeling efforts to understand the spread of misinformation online and offline. I present machine learning methods to detect astroturf and social bots, as well as theoretical models to study how fake news and fact checking compete for our collective attention. These efforts will be framed by a case study in which, ironically, our own research became the target of a coordinated disinformation campaign. Based on joint work with collaborators at the Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research (cnets.indiana.edu) and the Indiana University Network Science Institute (iuni.iu.edu), this research is supported by the National Science Foundation, McDonnell Foundation, Democracy Fund, and DARPA. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily reflect the views of these funding agencies.

Biographical Sketch Dr. Filippo Menczer is a professor of informatics and computer science, an adjunct professor of physics, and a member of the cognitive science program at Indiana University. He currently serves as director of the Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research and is a Fellow of the Institute for Scientific Interchange Foundation in Torino, Italy, a Senior Research Fellow of the Kinsey Institute, and an ACM Distinguished Scientist. His research focuses on



web science, social networks, social media, social computation, web mining, distributed and intelligent web applications, and modeling of complex information networks.

Comments An intriguing topic but what does it mean? Dr. Menczer is a Professor of Informatics and Computer Science and Director of the Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research at Indiana University. Of growing concern in the modern world of social media is the creation of automatic fictitious accounts which do not reflect a legitimate person and his or her views. This is known as a “bot”. By studying the web activity of specific terms analysts can determine whether the activity is man-made or created by using automatic fictitious accounts. The concern is that this “fake news” may be used to manipulate political views during critical moments. Efforts to detect such “spam” are ongoing.

Those who would like to know more about this important new field may be interested in the following: A talk given by Dr. Menczer in 2016 on fake news –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMb04wG00W0>

Here is another URL for Dr. Menczer on fake news: <https://milesobrien.com/bots-major-issue-junk-news-track/>

Dr. Menczer has also received a \$1.2 million dollar grant to study this phenomenon.

<http://cnets.indiana.edu/blog/2017/10/24/darpa-grant-to-study-information-spread/>

Collecting Rare and Odd Cars

Abstract It has been said that there are three phases of car collecting: 1) finding the car (the “hunt and chase”), 2) restoring the car (the hard times), and 3) showing the car (the fun times). Leo started collecting cars around 15 years ago and has amassed 43 of the rarest and strangest vehicles around. He will talk about how he acquired his cars and how he finds parts to repair them. He will share stories about how some sellers will interview him and ask for references before they will agree to sell him their car. Leo has traveled all over the country to acquire his collection. If you’ve ever thought about hunting for that one rare car or starting your own car collection, this talk would be a good starting place. Or perhaps you’d just like to see some pictures of some rare and odd cars.

Biographical Sketch Leo Doyle is a cyber first responder and is head of the Cyber Defense Force for Indianapolis’ Homeland Security. Besides being the cyber-threat subject matter expert for the city, he has also given guidance to the governor, mayor, and a member of Congress. He is a Life Member. He started the first internet company in Indiana and was a professor in computer science at Purdue University. In his spare time, he enjoys collecting, working on, and showing odd cars. He found the love of his life, Jan, in Mensa and married her.



Comments Leo Doyle spoke about his rare car collection and how much fun he has had doing it. First of all, he has 4 stipulations which guide his hobby: all of his cars must be:

1. really cool
2. street-legal
3. highway worthy
4. roomy enough for him to ride in!

In case you missed his talk and you're sorry you did – here is an option . . . you could visit: Leo's Garage: <http://www.leosgarage.com/>

Mr. Doyle has also written a book wherein he details his numerous car experiences as well as various tips about cars. You can find “My Obsession with Cars” at Amazon.com.

One of the most interesting things I learned was that Indiana is the perfect place for car enthusiasts such as Leo Doyle because of the race-car industry. When it comes to cars . . . if they can't fix it . . . no one can! Turns out he also has wild computer skills – and has spoken on Cyber Security at the 2015 and 2018 AG's!

