



March 15, 2017

Dear Phi Beta Kappa member:

Each year, the Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa Association hosts a dinner recognizing the honor graduates of Los Alamos High School. This year our 61st annual dinner will be held

Sunday, April 23, 2017, 5:30 pm

Fuller Lodge, Los Alamos

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. for appetizers and conversation with our student guests, followed by a full-service plated dinner with elegant entrees, salad, and dessert catered by The Blue Window of Los Alamos. Entrée choices are: Atlantic Salmon, Southwest Chicken, Beef Roulade, and Vegetarian. Please see www.mindspring.com/~jguzik/PhiBetaKappa2017Menu.pdf for more information on these selections.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Roger Wiens, Los Alamos National Laboratory, who will speak on Exploring Mars With Curiosity (see announcement page).

The cost of the evening for Phi Beta Kappa members and their guests is \$40 per person. Student honor graduates' meals are sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa members. Please consider a donation to the Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa Association to assist with the costs of hosting our annual event, even if you cannot attend. You may designate that your gift be used to sponsor a student honor graduate's meal. Support from our members enables us to recognize the high achievements of our young people and to introduce them to the goals of Phi Beta Kappa. This once-a-year banquet, our only activity, is an enjoyable and stimulating occasion to gather together and reward outstanding Los Alamos students.

The Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa Association has recognized Los Alamos High School honor graduates every year since 1957. Each year our local association awards a scholarship to one of these honor students who has a deep commitment to the humanities or sciences, and plans to pursue that interest in college. This year we will award at least one \$1000 scholarship. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa scholarship fund, so that we can continue offering this scholarship. Send your reply, accompanied by your check, no later than Saturday, April 15 to Robert Chrien at the address listed below. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 23, 2017!

The Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa Coordinating Committee

REPLY FORM

Return this form by Saturday, April 15, 2017 to Robert Chrien, 3105 Walnut Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Make your check payable to Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa.

I shall attend the Phi Beta Kappa banquet (\$40).

Please circle Entrée: Salmon Chicken Beef Vegetarian

Please circle Dessert: Crème Brulee Chocolate Mousse

\$

I shall bring a guest (\$40 per guest).

Please circle Entrée: Salmon Chicken Beef Vegetarian

Please circle Dessert: Crème Brulee Chocolate Mousse

\$

(Please print guest's name below as it should appear on the place card.)

I wish to contribute to the annual scholarship fund.

\$

I shall sponsor _____ student(s) at \$40 each.

\$

I wish to support Los Alamos Phi Beta Kappa with a contribution.

\$

TOTAL

\$

Member's name: _____

E-mail address: _____

If you have questions, please contact Phi Beta Kappa Board members Linda Hull, northmesa@comcast.net, 662-7950, or Joyce Guzik, jguzik@mindspring.com, 672-0249.

Exploring Mars with *Curiosity*

Dr. Roger Wiens

Laboratory Fellow, Space Remote Sensing Group
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Abstract: Human exploration in the 21st century has extended to our neighboring planets and asteroids, and with larger telescopes, to the stars. Humans were made to explore, and as a young person, space exploration fascinated me. I never expected or planned to go into it, but somehow our ChemCam instrument team ended up being selected to explore the red planet on board the 1-ton rover, *Curiosity*. In the process we found that ancient Mars was much more Earth-like than ever expected, with an atmosphere, lakes, rivers, and most likely a large ocean. I will talk about our discoveries as well as the challenges that we faced in getting our instrument selected, built, launched, and landed on the red planet.



Biography: Dr. Wiens started his scientific career by writing the first dissertation on the Mars atmosphere based on samples analyzed in the laboratory, from martian meteorites.

Dr. Wiens was responsible for three instruments for NASA's Genesis mission and he acted in the capacity of Flight Payload Lead. This mission was the first to return to Earth from beyond the Moon, when it landed in 2004 with solar-wind samples that have revealed exciting details about the composition of the Sun.

Since 2004 Dr. Wiens has been the leader of the ChemCam laser instrument on the *Curiosity* rover which landed in 2012. He has directed the US and French team operating ChemCam and interpreting the data returned from Mars.

Dr. Wiens is now leading development for the SuperCam instrument, a successor

to ChemCam, to be built for NASA's next Mars rover, due to launch in 2020.

In 2016, Dr. Wiens was knighted by the government of France for his work in "forging strong ties between the French and American scientific communities" and for "inspiring many young, ambitious earthlings."

Models of his teams' instruments are displayed in museums in Los Alamos and Toulouse, France. His recent book, *Red Rover: Inside the Story of Robotic Space Exploration from Genesis to the Mars Rover Curiosity*, published in 2013 by Basic Books (New York), describes his teams' space adventures. Dr. Wiens has a vision to communicate to the public the adventure and challenge of space exploration and to encourage others to pursue their dreams despite the obstacles.