

Open Session, Tour and Reception at the historic l'Observatoire de Paris

We were invited to the Open Session of the 15th Paris Cosmology Colloquium 2011, Ecole Internationale Daniel Chalonge, held at the historic l'Observatoire de Paris. The two talks were followed by a tour of the historic Perrault building including the observatory on the roof and then a wonderful reception. All photos are by Olivia.



This was a 3-day conference attended by about 80 or 90 astronomers, astrophysicists and particle physicists from around the world. The title of the conference was “From cold dark matter to warm dark matter in the standard model of the universe: theory and observations.” The session we attended, the final one in the meeting, had two talks by distinguished people. The session began at 1700 with an hour-long talk by George Smoot (Nobel Prize) on Gamma-Ray bursts. This was followed by a description by John Mather of the James Webb Space Telescope (planned as successor to the Hubble Space Telescope).



These two globes were constructed in the 17th century and show the world and the heavens as they were known at the time. Although the observatory is closed to the general public, school groups can schedule a visit to see the display of historic artifacts.

Louis XIV promoted the construction of the Observatory starting in 1667, and it was completed in 1671. It thus predates the Royal Greenwich Observatory in England which was founded in 1675. The architect of the Paris Observatory was Claude Perrault. The buildings were extended in 1730, 1810, 1834, 1850, and 1951. The last extension incorporates the spectacular Meridian Room, now called the Cassini room (after the first director of the observatory back in the 17th century) where the meeting was held. The line of trees at the entrance to the Perrault building (as well as the city streets on the other side of the building) are all aligned with the Paris meridian.

We began our tour on the roof top where the dome is and enjoyed a magnificent 360° view of the Paris sky-

line. The rainy weather had cleared and it was a pleasant temperature as we walked around the roof. The dome was opened for us so we could view the historic telescope, still in use for training students. Perhaps the younger members of the audience had never seen a real refractor telescope. They also opened one of the windows in the dome. The machinery groaned as the dome turned and the window was opened.



We trooped down to the ground floor for the reception in the gracious Grande Galerie. It was quite a spread, enough for dinner. Here are some photos. Not pictured is the chocolate fountain with an array of fruit to dip; this was outside on the terrace. The reception began with champagne and a lengthy toast by Professor Norma Sanchez, Director of the Chalonge School. The caterer staff circulated pouring champagne and offering hors d'oeuvres.





The picture on the left is of the dessert petit-fours. The cheese lady was happy to spread whichever of the many cheeses one chose on to bread. Featured (with a large sign) were wines from the Loire Valley. The caterer was very proud of the presentation and the connection to the banana, used as a symbol of the conference and representing graphs of parameters that describe the growth of the early universe. The picture below shows the exit from the historic building in which the school took place.



Ecole Internationale Daniel Chalonge



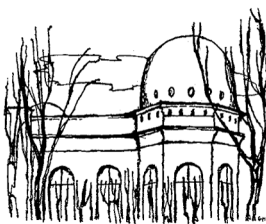
The 15th Paris Cosmology Colloquium 2011

FROM COLD DARK MATTER TO WARM DARK MATTER IN
THE STANDARD MODEL OF THE UNIVERSE:
THEORY AND OBSERVATIONS

The International School Daniel Chalonge: 20 Years of Activity

OPEN SESSION

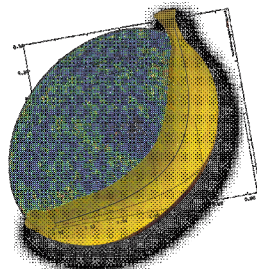
OBSERVATOIRE DE PARIS, Friday 22 JULY 2011 17:00



in the historic **PERRAULT building ("Bâtiment PERRAULT")**.

Observatoire de Paris ENTRY :

77, Avenue Denfert Rochereau, 75014 Paris Tel : 01 40 51 22 21



Invitation -

Madame Norma G. Sanchez
Directeur de Recherche au CNRS,
Directeur de l'Ecole Internationale Daniel Chalonge

vous prie de bien vouloir honorer de votre présence

la Seance Ouverte

de l'Ecole Internationale Daniel Chalonge

avec les professeurs John C. Mather

et George F. Smoot, Lauréats du

Prix Nobel de Physique 2006

ainsi que

la remise de la Médaille Chalonge 2011.

suivie de

la visite de l'Observatoire de Paris, guidée et commentée par Suzanne

Debarbat, astronome émérite de l'Observatoire de Paris, Officier de la

Legion d'Honneur

et la réception de clôture

Le vendredi 22 juillet 2011

de 17h00 à 22h00

Salle Cassini

Accueil : Grande Galerie