

en avril 2010 dans le cadre d'un sondage profond du télescope Wide Field Infrared Explorer (WISE) de la NASA, porte désormais le nom de (400811) Gillesfontaine.

Il fut un collègue exceptionnel et un ami cher pour tous ceux qui l'auront côtoyé.

Pierre Bergeron  
Université de Montréal

He was an exceptional colleague and a dear friend to all who knew him.

Pierre Bergeron  
Université de Montréal

## LI-HONG XU (1957–2019)



Dr. Li-Hong Xu, a prominent and devoted member of the Canadian Physics community, passed away on January 21, 2019 after a short battle with cancer. Li-Hong was born on May 2, 1957 in Suzhou in the People's Republic of China. In 1977, Li-Hong was among a small elite group who got into university where she graduated in physics with highest honours. She was one of only two from her class of 240 graduates chosen to remain in Suzhou University as an assistant professor.

Li-Hong came to the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton in 1988 as a Visiting Scholar. She earned her PhD in molecular spectroscopy in 1992 and continued at UNBF as a post-doctoral fellow in the Centres of Excellence in Molecular and Interfacial Dynamics. Li-Hong received her Diploma in University Teaching in the first cohort of graduates of the Centre for Enhanced Teaching and Learning.

She then joined Dr. J.T. Hougen as a research associate in the Molecular Physics Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. In 1995, Dr. Xu returned to New Brunswick and took up a faculty position at the UNB campus in Saint John where she set up a laboratory for high-resolution gas-phase laser spectroscopy of molecules of environmental and astrophysical importance. Her research lab attracted post-doctoral fellows and visiting researchers and students from Belgium, France, Russia, Iran, the Czech Republic, China and the US. A large number of undergraduate summer and work-study students were given a good start on their careers there.

Dr. Xu gained recognition internationally as a valued visitor and collaborator at centres such as NASA/Goddard, the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, NIST Boulder, the Institute of Applied Physics in Nizhny Novgorod, the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy and the University of Cologne. From 2002-2005, she was a member of the Canadian Institute

for Photonic Innovations and was also a charter member of the Far-Infrared Beam Team at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron in Saskatoon. She served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy and on International Advisory Committees for International Symposia and Conferences, receiving invitations for plenary presentations at the 21<sup>st</sup> HRMS meeting in 2010 in Poznan, Poland, and the 71<sup>st</sup> ISMS symposium in 2016 in Urbana, Illinois.

In Canada, Dr. Xu was a loyal P.Phys. member of the CAP, serving from 2003-2009 as Regional Councillor for NB/NL and from 2008-2010 as NB Coordinator for the CAP High School Prize Exam. She had a special interest in promoting women in science and from 2011-2014 served as Chair and Past Chair of the CAP Committee to Encourage Women in Physics (CEWIP), which also involved service on the Annual Congress organizing committees. Regionally, from 2009 on, she served on the Science Atlantic Physics and Astronomy Committee. She was on the Canadian national delegations to the International Conferences for Women in Physics in Korea in 2008, in South Africa in 2011, and in Waterloo in 2014 where she was Team Leader and the lead author of the paper, "Women in Physics in Canada". Notably, she was one of the promoters, organizers and invited speakers for the Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics. Colleagues saw Li-Hong as "the spirit of CEWIP" and that's how many women in physics, in Canada and abroad, will remember her.

Li-Hong was a member of GSC29 (General Physics) for the 2004-05 NSERC grant competition, and Committee Chair for the subsequent two years. She served on the NSERC 2009-10 Steacie Fellowship Committee and the Physics Evaluation Group 1505 for the 2011-12 Discovery and RTI (Research Tools and Instruments) grants. In 2013 she was appointed Group Chair for Physics and held a seat on the NSERC Committee on Grants and Scholarships (COGS). In this role, she became a familiar figure at the 2014-2016 CAP Congresses with her annual plenary presentations on the granting picture for physics at NSERC.

In addition to her many external commitments, Dr. Xu maintained an exemplary role at UNB in teaching, service and outreach, notably for women and girls. She received her department's award for teaching excellence in 2013 and the faculty teaching award in 2015; she was one of the inaugural winners of the "Change One Thing" innovation challenge by the UNB Centre for Enhanced Teaching & Learning. In collaboration with the Saint John Free Public Library, Li-Hong instituted a "Physics Circle" where girls gathered weekly to explore interesting physics activities. She visited a number of local schools for physics shows, gave presentations for groups of Girl Guides, and participated in the Canadian Association for Girls in Science's local chapter. In conjunction with UNB open houses, regional science fairs and special events, she set up popular fun demonstrations for the visiting students and their parents to encourage and stimulate their interest in physics. She became Director of the Music Program of the Lorenzo Society seven years ago and will be remembered for her warm introductions (and also her welcoming bowl of chocolates) at the Saint John String Quartet noon-hour concerts. She organized student-led concerts and arranged for UNB students and staff to join forces with the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick medical students in the Heartbeat Choir and the Ceol ceilidh band, greatly enriching the cultural life at the university. She received a President's Distinguished Service Award in 2017.

From 2005-11, Li-Hong was co-president, then president, of the Chinese Cultural Association, and was the founding Director of the Saint John Chapter of the Asian Heritage Society NB from 2008-18, organizing events annually for Asian Heritage Month in May. She was a member of the SJ Community Arts Board from 2008-14, and of the Imperial Theatre Board from 2016-18. She was an honorary life member of the school district Senior String Orchestra, and a second violinist with the Altomare community orchestra. She danced with the Jasmine Performing Arts group and taught tai chi lessons at The Studio dance school.

In all of her professional, university, community and personal roles, Li-Hong was a tireless and effective role model. Despite her whirlwind of activities, Li-Hong never seemed to be rushed, and was a devoted mother to her children, Alex and Miranda. From her difficult start as a young woman, Li-Hong rose to positions of respect and importance and made profound contributions in a myriad of ways. She embodied the best of the multicultural character of Canada. Li-Hong's enthusiasm, boundless energy and engaging personality will be profoundly missed.

Extracted from an In Memorium prepared by Ronald M. Lees, Fredericton, NB, and Adriana Predoi-Cross, Lethbridge, AB

The Editorial Board welcomes articles from readers suitable for, and understandable to, any practising or student physicist. Review papers and contributions of general interest of up to four journal pages in length are particularly welcome. Suggestions for theme topics and guest editors are also welcome and should be sent to [bjoos@uottawa.ca](mailto:bjoos@uottawa.ca).

*Le comité de rédaction invite les lecteurs à soumettre des articles qui intéresseraient et seraient compris par tout physicien, ou physicienne, et étudiant ou étudiante en physique. Les articles de synthèse d'une longueur d'au plus quatre pages de revue sont en particulier bienvenus. Des suggestions de sujets pour des revues à thème sont aussi bienvenues et peuvent être envoyées à [bjoos@uottawa.ca](mailto:bjoos@uottawa.ca).*