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ICAR Loses Cherished Friends

By Christopher Mitchell, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Conflict Resolution, cmitchel@gmu.edu

his summer saw us lose three individuals who, in various important ways, influenced the way we at the Institute think about and work in our chosen field of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Elise Boulding, a long time friend of, and inspiration to, ICAR, taught us that history was important but particularly history viewed from the perspective of neglected groups



Left to right: John Burton, Wallace Warfield, Photo: GMU Creative Services. Elise Boulding.

– women particularly, but also minorities and the exploited of all descriptions.

Inside This Issue...

- 2 Network: Putting Theory into Practice: ICAR Liberia Field Study, June 2010
- 3 Initiatives: Facilitating Cross Cultural Exchange: ICAR Hosts the Ben Franklin Summer Institute With ASIA
- 4 Events: Welcome Dinner: Celebration, Reflection, and Community
- 5 Press: ICAR Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor, Blog Roll, and Media Appearances
- 5 Citizen Diplomacy in Jerusalem: CRDC Field Study Trip
- 6 Spotlight: In Memoriam, Elise Boulding, and Wallace Warfield
- 7 Spotlight: In Memoriam, Dr. John W. Burton: Always Ahead of His Time

John Burton was associate director at the Institute in the late 1980s, teaching initial generations of Masters and Doctoral students about basic human needs and problem solving methods, as well as writing his penultimate 4 volume work on conflict resolution.

Most recently, for the present student generation, Wallace Warfield taught and mentored graduates and undergraduates alike, right up to his retirement in June, when he was looking forward to being able to take up projects he had postponed until he had more time.

All three came from very different backgrounds, Elise from sociology, the Society of Friends and a long and happy marriage with Kenneth, another significant figure in the development of conflict and peace studies. John Burton came from a successful initial career as a diplomat from a "Middle Power" (Australia) which could never aspire to the use of force and bullying as a diplomatic strategy and so relied on analysis and reasoning as a means of influence. Wallace came from gang mediation on the streets of New York and never forgot that offering choices to people could enable them to avoid using violence to get what they felt they needed. All three were unique individuals but they all, in their own ways, shared a passionate commitment to making this often appalling world a better place. In addition, they were all my friends, which makes their collective loss even harder to bear.



Putting Theory into Practice in Africa: ICAR Liberia Field Study, June 2010

By Lisa Shaw, Undergraduate Student Services Director, and Patricia Maulden, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution,



his past summer, thirteen students seven undergraduates and six graduates - along with faculty advisors Patricia Maulden and Lisa Shaw, traveled to Liberia to participate in a hands-on field experience. During their stay, students and faculty immersed themselves in the post-conflict context, working directly with local NGO personnel and community members in three parts of the country: Monrovia (the capital), Tubmanberg in Bomi County, and Buchanan in Grand Bassa County. The work was neither glamorous nor comfortable; it was, however, extremely difficult and potentially life changing. As one student commented, "We laughed. Some of us cried. Five of us survived a flood in a small town

where it never floods. We were annoyed with some of what we were seeing. We were frustrated when solutions seemed so simple yet so out of reach. We felt a lot in just a short month and I would not change the negative feelings that arose because that's life and this field is hard work."

The majority of the field study experience focused on direct engagement with the rigors of peacebulding often twelve hours a day, six days a week. Students and faculty advisors learned from local experts as they in turn added to local organizations' knowledge and skills fulfilling the expectation of reciprocity. The three student



Don Bosco Homes, Traditional Council of Liberia, Christian Health Association of Liberia, and the Women and Children's section of the Liberia National Police. Photo: L. Shaw.

teams, each named for peace in an indigenous language, met with the Traditional Council of Liberia; local traditional leaders and dignitaries; and individuals from the US Embassy, University of Liberia, and the Peace and Security Pillar of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. The groups also organized a local parade and celebration for the Day of the African Child; facilitated reunification of street children with their estranged families and communities; and developed and conducted trainings as requested by their NGO partners, Don Bosco Homes and Christian Health Association of Liberia.

The trainings presented conflict mapping as a tool to assist in the exploration of the root causes of conflict, mediation techniques, pre-intervention assessment strategies and practices, dialogue and structured conversation around community concerns, and problem solving. Many of the agency personnel had not previously thought about mapping as a way to assess what might be going on, what is known, what is unknown, what needs to be known, and how to gain that information. Mapping, in turn allowed Liberian practitioners to engage in reflective practice, rethinking their responses to challenges, and not taking the same approach to a problem simply because that is the way it had always been done. Participants to the training began to think beyond the norm and toward what might be more feasible and useful. After the final day-long training, conducted for NGO partners and their invited guests, David Koneh, Director of Don Bosco Homes and Joe Wiah, Deputy Director, expressed their gratitude for the work the of the ICAR team. They remarked that they could never have afforded capacity-building of this caliber. They also conveyed that with the students working directly with agency personnel, Don Bosco Homes completed four months of casework in three weeks.

The field study also increased the capacity of students, as reflective practice was an every day activity. Each of the three teams learned about humility, faced emotionally charged situations, struggled with issues of justice and human rights, and became more comfortable with feelings of inadequacy as they worked alongside their Liberian counterparts. At daily evening de-briefs, students reflected, shared dilemmas, sought colleague suggestions and support, and came together as a community of peacebuilders. Throughout, students experienced first-hand the hard realities of post-conflict life, the difficulty people face trying to deal with the past as well as the present, and frustration over the gap between the rich and the poor, the government and the grassroots. The field study immersed students and faculty in day-to-day life in post-conflict Liberia – altogether an unforgettable experience.

Facilitating Cross Cultural Exchange: ICAR Hosts the Ben Franklin Summer Institute With Asia

By Thanos Gatsias, Ph.D. Candidate, Kate Romanova, Ph.D. Alumna, and Tamar Palandjian, M.S. Student, franklin@gmu.edu

George Mason's Fairfax campus was bustling with thirty six youths aged sixteen to eighteen years old from Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and throughout the United States this past summer as they took part in the ICAR hosted Ben Franklin Summer Institute for Asia (BFSIA). Sponsored by the Youth Programs Division, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State and the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassies, the program brought together young persons from these South and Central Asian countries for the first time to help the students develop global perspectives, intercultural understanding, knowledge of worldwide social issues, leadership skills, and a dedication to community service while building cross-cultural relationships.

Meanwhile, it was also an opportunity for ICAR's own graduate and undergraduate students to put their conflict resolution theories, skills, and knowledge to the test. As mentors and trainers with various backgrounds, we all came with our passions to work with youth and in the international setting. Moreover, we all wanted to impart some of our knowledge about finding win-win solutions, seeing people as people, and bridging the gap in misunderstandings about religion and conflict. The BFSIA fellows enjoyed the hospitality of the Fairfax campus, living in the Presidents' Park dormitory complex and having their meals in Southside and the Johnson Center. It was a great opportunity for international students to get a taste of life on an American college campus. While inside the classroom, the students attended lectures and engaged in activities related to the five themes of the Institute, which included: a) Culture, Conflict, and Cooperation, b) Democracy and Governance, c) Diplomacy and International Relations, d) Mass Media and Communication, and e) Sustainable Development. Guest lecturers and speakers included ICAR's Director Dr. Andrea Bartoli, Michael Shank, ICAR Ph.D. candidate and Communications Director for Representative Honda, Will Davis. Director of the United Nations Information Centre. and a series of scholars that delivered lectures related to the Institute's five themes.

Off-campus tours to Washington, D.C., to Thomas Jefferson's house at Monticello, and New York City were not only exciting and highly anticipated sight-seeing trips, but important educational moments as well. For example, the visit to Ground Zero in New York provoked many interesting, emotional, and contentious discussions about religion, terrorism, mutual cross-cultural recognition, and understanding.

As a part of the program, BFSIA fellows were hosted by families living in the D.C. metro and North Virginia areas where they gained an insight as to what it's like to



Participants of the BFSIA Summer School from Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and throughout the United States. Photo: T. Palandjian.

live with American families. The fellows told us they bonded so closely with their host families that some of them referred to their host parents as Mom and Dad!

All throughout the month of July, they bonded over campfires making the classic American s'mores, watching the World Cup, playing soccer and experiencing new heights in a ropes course at Mason's EDGE. In many ways, they began to apply the skills they had acquired and

sought to "see people as people" as they learned about each others' cultures and tried to understand each other.

By the end of July, these youth were so inspired, motivated, and bonded with each other that it was hard for them to leave each other. It's rare to see so many tearful good-byes! Since BFSIA, students have continued to stay in touch as they develop and implement projects of their own. We all know that the relationships built, fruitful collaboration and memories made will know "no borders" and will remain an experience that unites us all.

Seeking Contributions

If you have an initiative or event you would like to contribute, or simply wish to discuss a topic that you think could enrich the ICAR community please contact the ICAR Newsletter via email, icarnews@gmu.edu.



ICAR Welcome Dinner: Celebration, Reflection and Community

By Jacquie Antonson, ICAR Event Coordinator and M.S. Student, jantonso@gmu.edu





Professor Patricia Maudlen presenting the summer study trip to Liberia. Photo: P. Snodgrass.

n September 11, 2010, ICAR marked this notable anniversary by holding its annual Welcome Dinner, inviting another intake of hopeful conflict resolvers to join its growing community.

The evening commenced with a welcome from Professor Mark Goodale, followed by a

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Thursday, October 7, 2010 Book Launch

Reasons to Kill, by Richard Rubenstein, Ph.D., ICAR Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs 6.30 PM, Bus Boys and Poets, Shirlington Village, 4251 South Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Lecture - "Understanding the Caucasus" By Thomas de Waal, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Hosted by George Mason University's Terrorism Transnational Crime and Corruption Center and the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

12:00 pm, Truland Building, Room 555

ICAR Open House: Thursday, November 11, 2010

In celebration of the ICAR Community: Faculty, Students, Alumni, Staff, and Friends are invited to enjoy an informal wine and cheese gathering to help our community stay connected.

6:00 pm – 9:00pm, Truland Building, Room 555

http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm

humorous introduction of the ICAR faculty and staff by Professor Rich Rubenstein. Dr. Rubenstein delighted the crowd by revealing the faculty's darkest secrets, which are far too scandalous for re-print. Before dinner, Professor Karina Korostelina took a moment to welcome this year's visiting scholars.

After enjoying a delicious catered meal, the attendees were treated to "Stories from the Field," moderated by Professor Susan Hirsch. Professor Patricia Maulden spoke of the challenges and rewards of her travels to Liberia with ICAR students, and Professor Thomas Flores gave everyone an insight into ICAR faculty's trip through China this past summer, visiting four cities in eight days. After an open invitation for more stories and comments from Dr. Hirsch, ICAR Director, Dr. Andrea Bartoli amused the audience with anecdotes about mis-spoken English expressions and chance meetings.

This annual dinner has also historically been the time for announcing student and faculty awards. This years recipients were as follows: the Brenda Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Rose-Jensen; the Mary Lynn Boland Award for Outstanding Student Service was awarded to James Moon; the John Burton Scholarship was awarded to Tetsushi Ogata; the James H. Laue Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michael Rupert; the Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Edward Thompson; and the Faculty Scholarship for this year was awarded to Lori-Ann Stephensen. Following these awards, the creation of a new scholarship fund in the name of late Professor Wallace Warfield was also announced. This scholarship will be awarded for practice in the field, and donations to this fund are currently being accepted.

With scholarships awarded and dinner eaten, Dr. Bartoli bade attendees a good night, and a new year at ICAR began.



ICAR Director, Dr. Andrea Bartoli. Photo: P. Snodgrass.

Citizen Diplomacy in Jerusalem: Historic CRDC Field Study Trip

By Paul Snodgrass, ICAR Technology and Knowledge Management Director, psnodgra@gmu.edu



Aziz Abu Sarah, CRDC Director of Middle East Projects. Photo: P.Snodgrass.

n late May and early June, Professor Marc Gopin, Aziz Abu Sarah, and the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) led a first of its kind 'Citizen Diplomacy Seminar' in Jerusalem, taking 15 students from George Mason, George Washington, and American Universities to visit Israel and Palestine. Following on the heels of the dramatically successful visit to Damascus the winter before (a course that was co-led by Syrian Hind Kabawat), this course broke new ground in its approach and impact. Based upon the foundation of Dr. Gopin's book "To Make The Earth Whole," this trip was categorically different from typical trips to the region. While students were exposed to a variety of perspectives on the conflict and learned a great deal about the history of the region, the primary focus of their studies were on how individuals can contribute to Conflict Resolution through positive incremental change. According to Dr. Gopin, "its insanity to leave everything to a few select people when we know through good science that progress is made by thousands of people experimenting."

"States are not as powerful as they think they are," Dr. Gopin says. "They don't make these critical shifts as much as we think they do. Or when they do, there is far more that is invisible, that is not linear, beneath the surface that has given somebody political permission to be visionary in a place of official power." Dr. Gopin argues that biochemistry and physics are coming to the same conclusions of mysticism; that there is an interconnectedness of systems and the smallest of components are powerful and important.

Continued on Page 7

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor, Blog Roll, and Media Appearances

Will the U.S. troop surge in Afghanistan "succeed" as it did in Iraq?

By Shukria Dellawar, ICAR M.S. Alumna, and Riyad Jarjis *The Hill, 9/22/10*

Between Exhaustion and Engagement: The Radical Choices of the Long American War in Afghanistan By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor *Huffington Post, 9/21/10*

'Balls' Would Have Given Blair a Legacy

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor *Financial Times, 9/11/10*

Bring Hamas to the Table

By Roi Beh-Yehuda, ICAR Ph.D. Student www.thedailybeast.com, 9/4/10

Diasporas in Global Politics

By Terrence Lyons, ICAR Professor A Report on the Role of Diasporas in Homeland Politics for the MacArther Foundation

Religion Som Slagträ I Den Politiska Maktkampen Sweden's Premiere Program on Conflict, Discussion on Religion and Tolerance

By Solon Simmons, ICAR Professor *Konflict on Sverige Radio, 9/4/10*

Clinton Opens New Round of Middle East Peace Talks By Solon Simmons, ICAR Professor *Fox 5 News*, *9/2/10*

U.S. Transitions to Final Phase of War in Iraq By Solon Simmons, ICAR Professor *CTV News, 9/2/10*

The Roles of Conflict Resolution Scholars in Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South-Ossetian Conflict and Conflict Resolution

By Susan Allen Nan, ICAR Professor Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Volume 23, Issue 2 26/2/2010

The McChrystal Question

By Solon Simmons, ICAR Professor CTV News, 6/23/2010

In Memoriam, Dr. Elise Boulding, 1920 - 2010.

By Tom Richardson, ICAR Newsletter Editor and M.S. Student, trichar7@gmu.edu

Boulding's life long commitment to the resolution of conflict stemmed from early experiences of war and peace. Although her family emigrated to the United States when Elise was three years old, her home-sick mother repeated stories that conceptualized Norway as a safe haven. Elise shared her mother's nostalgia until 1940, when this vision was shattered by the Nazi invasion of their homeland. "And that was when I realized that there was no safe place on earth," she said, "and I knew that I had found my life's mission."

Elise was brought up in a non-practicing Protestant family but was introduced to Quakerism by college friends, through which she embraced pacifism and met her future husband Kenneth Boulding (1910-1993). Elise and Kenneth became instrumental in the development of the field of Conflict Resolution. Upon gaining her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Elise and Kenneth, were invited to become Scholars in Residence at Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, Elise chaired the Sociology department and developed the nations first Peace Studies program. hoped would lead to the creation of a *global civic culture,* whereby the international community would not simply be made up of states but defined by a global community of human beings. Elise strove to build up what we now commonly describe as civil society; chairing the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; creating the



Elise Boulding.

International Peace Research Association; and promoting environmentalism and respect for indigenous cultures.

Elise worked tirelessly to promote peace and social justice as an academic and an individual, writing over 14 books, numerous articles and pamphlets, and receiving many lifetime achievement awards. In recognition of this contribution the American Friends Service Committee nominated her for the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.

Outside of academia Elise pursued what she

In Memoriam, Dr. Wallace Warfield, 1938 - 2010.

By Tom Richardson, ICAR Newsletter Editor and M.S. Student, trichar7@gmu.edu

allace Pinn Warfield was born in New York in 1938. After graduating from Howard University he went on to receive a Master's degree in public administration from a Washington D.C.-based program of the University of Southern California in 1962.

Wallace began his career with the Youth Services Agency in New York City, working to resolve disputes among street gangs throughout the 1960s. This formed the foundations of a profession that would see him become an internationally respected practitioner and academic. From 1968 to 1988 Wallace worked for the Department of Justice's New York Community Relations Service, first, as a community mediator, eventually rising to become its Acting Director.



Wallace Warfield. Photo: GMU Creative Services.

Wallace moved to the D.C. metropolitan area to develop dispute-resolution processes for federal agencies. Although Wallace guest lectured at ICAR in the 1980s it wasn't until 1990 that he formally joined the ICAR community. Wallace quickly became a respected academic, receiving his Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University in 2000. Wallace published widely, sat on the editorial board of the Negotiation Journal and was president of the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution. An expert of the highest order in resolving racial and ethnic conflict, Wallace led training programs for government officials and participated in conflict mediation efforts in the United States, Europe, Africa, and South America. In 2009 Wallace received a lifetime achievement award from the Association for Conflict Resolution .

Wallace was, and remains, a deeply loved and respected member of the ICAR community, reputed for his warmth and sense of humor. Wallace's impact as a mentor, practically and academically, is reflected in the messages of condolence from across the United States, Uruguay, Bolivia, Colombia, and France. Wallace will be remembered by many for his humanity and the value he placed on every individual, a student commented on the below blog that: "He was the best ICAR teacher I had because he made me feel special and not just another student passing through his class. He brought me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to speak of things that I had never shared with most people before."

Those wishing to pay their respects to Wallace can leave messages at http://wallacewarfieldmemorial.blogspot.com. Additionally, a new scholarship fund in the name of Professor Wallace Warfield has been created. Reflecting Wallace's exemplary contribution as both a scholar and a practitioner this scholarship will be awarded for practice in the field. Donations to this fund are currently being accepted; please contact ICAR for further information.

In Memoriam, Dr. John W. Burton, 1915 - 2010: Always Ahead of His Time.

By Dennis J.D. Sandole, Ph.D., Professor of Conflict Resolution and International Relations, dsandole@gmu.edu

n June 23, 2010, one of the leading figures in the field of conflict analysis and resolution, Professor. John W. Dr. Burton, passed away at his home in Australia.

Dr. Burton's contributions were unique in that he pioneered both conceptual and practical conflicthandling approaches to intractable, identity-based conflicts and their resolution. On the conceptual side, Dr. Burton developed a theory that highlighted the frustration of basic human needs (BHNs) for identity, recognition, and security as precursors to the emergence of violent conflict. On the practical side, he developed the problemsolving approach to conflict resolution.



John Burton. Photo: GMU Creative Services.

academic life in the early 1960s at University College London (UCL), where he did most of his groundbreaking work (and where I had the pleasure of working with him), Dr. Burton had been an extraordinarily gifted and successful civil servant and diplomat in his native Australia. During this period, he attended the San Francisco opening sessions that established the United Nations and later became Secretary of the Department of External Affairs in Canberra and then High Commissioner (i.e., "ambassador") to what was then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

The shift between Dr. Burton

Dr Burton earned a first class honors degree from the University of Sydney in Psychology (1937), and later, a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics (LSE). Prior to entering

the maverick finding his way out of the "box" of traditional International Relations during a time of great ferment in IR thinking, to Dr. Burton the architect of a new paradigm, and an analytical means for addressing deep-rooted conflicts within it, came with the companion publication of his Systems, States, Diplomacy, and Rules (1968) and Controlled Communication (1969). The first volume focused on the macro level, dealing with "states" as one subset of "systems" that could adapt to change, as part of a general systems theory orientation that clearly transcended traditional IR discourse. The second volume, focusing on the micro level, dealt with Dr. Burton's problemsolving approach to conflict resolution. This was concerned with decisionmaking subsystems adapting to change in their environment - clearing up "wrong assumptions" and misperceptions in the process -to resolve deep-rooted conflicts that remained unresolvable as long as they remained within the traditional power frame.

Dr. Burton's clear ontological break with traditional IR followed his encounter with sociologist Paul Sites' 1974 work on needs, and is expressed in Dr. Burton's 1979 publication of *Deviance, Terrorism, and War: The Process of Solving Unsolved Social and Political Problems.* This volume comprises four main issues where, the core concept was needs; the core problem, conflict; the core process, problemsolving; and the core idea was the issue of paradigm shift.

Dr. Burton left UCL to help found a peace and conflict studies program at the University of Kent at Canterbury. After retiring from British academia, he traveled to the U.S. where, first, he was an International Studies Association (ISA) Fellow at the University of South Carolina and then joined the late Ed Azar at the University of Maryland.

Continued on Page 8

Citizen Diplomacy in Jerusalem

Continued from page 5



Professor Marc Gopin, Director of CRDC. Photo: P. Snodgrass.

Comparing chemical reactions in the body to human society, Dr. Gopin realizes that change comes from surprising places that aren't always recognized by the fields of Political Science and International Relations.

Each day of the seminar was divided between lectures, discussions on the practice of Citizen Diplomacy, and field visits with cutting-edge grassroots peacemakers throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Staying in East Jerusalem and Studying at West Jerusalem's Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, the group crossed boundaries every day.

Nearly all of the money spent by the group went toward peace and social justice. The organizers of the trip went to great lengths to do business with groups that focus on social justice. At a time when calls are rising for disinvestment from Israel, Dr. Gopin is leading the way in constructive investment in businesses that foster cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis, benefit the poor, and work for peace.

CRDC Study Trips in 2011

Dr. Gopin and the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution have two upcoming classes going to the region. Reflection in Practice will be in Damascus, Syria January 12-22, 2011 and Integration of Theory and Practice will be in Palestine and Israel from March 10-19, 2011. These courses are for students, undergraduate through PhD and are available for 3 academic credits. For more information, please visit crdc.gmu.edu.

In Memoriam, Dr. John W. Burton, 1915 - 2010: Always Ahead of His Time

Continued from page 7

He subsequently came to ICAR where I had the pleasure of working with him again. During his American phase, he coined the term *provention*, "to signify taking steps to remove sources of conflict, and more positively to promote conditions in which collaborative and valued relationships control behaviors."

Reflecting on his overall contribution, Dr. Burton will be remembered for his emphasis on the need to question conventional wisdom with its wrong assumptions, wrong perceptions, wrong behaviors, and counterproductive outcomes, as a point of departure for a "paradigm shift" to a system of thinking and action more relevant to, and effective for the times. His body of theory and practice clearly singles him out - in a field inclusive of, among others, Adam Curle, Kenneth and Elise Boulding, Johan Galtung, Anatol Rapoport, and Herbert Kelman - as the "founding father of the philosophy of Conflict Analysis and Resolution!"

This philosophy is captured in his final publication, *Violence Explained* (1997), which makes an eloquent case for a holistic approach to understanding and dealing with all levels of society's complex challenges. His *Weltanschauung* (comprehensive world view) is even more relevant now than it was when he first started to articulate it, especially given the dysfunctional and counterproductive policies emanating from many of the world's major players in response to a growing array of complex global challenges.



Portrait of John Burton. Photo: ICAR.

Dr. Burton's staying power is guaranteed and will continue to influence my own work for some time to come!

This is an abridged version of a longer article, to see the original copy in full please visit the ICAR newseletter website: http://icar.gmu.edu/ICAR_News.html



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