

Topic Title: *Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) – Are We Alone?*

Topic Description:

Larry will provide a science-based presentation on the probability of intelligent life elsewhere, including a brief background and history, what we know and don't know, and an overview of the arguments for and against.

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Larry F Jones Brief BIO:

Larry Jones was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, renowned for where Jumbo the Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant met his demise with a train collision in 1885 (I was not present!). Although baptized as an Anglican at age 12 (!), he shortly thereafter became an atheist. He briefly attended Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, and then moved on to complete an Honours BSc degree in Applied Mathematics at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), followed then by a Master of Mathematics (M.M.) degree at Waterloo University in Applied Mathematics (Master's Thesis in General Relativity field).

Retired in 2004 after a career of over 30 years, Larry worked as a scientist / (real-time) software engineer at CAE Electronics, Montreal Engineering and Telesat Canada, followed by as a Project Manager / Quality Manager / Senior Management Consultant at DMR Group Inc., LGS Group Inc., and then with his own firm (a trinity of sorts), at LFJ Group Inc. Larry was heavily involved as a member, active volunteer and in some leadership roles with several professional organizations through the last 16 years of his working career, including:

- American Society for Quality (ASQ); the Ottawa ASQ Chapter
- Project Management Institute (PMI)
- Canadian Informatics Professionals Society (CIPS)
- IEEE Computer Society (IEEE-CS)
- Canadian Association of Management Consultants (CAMC)
- IEEE-CS Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE)
- TCSE Software Engineering Standards Committee (SESC)

He provided ***Training / Education / Mentoring*** professional support coverage that included a variety of ISO/IEC and IEEE, quality and software related standards and guidelines.

This support has involved such activities as

- Orchestrating several TickIT Auditor (ISO 9001/ 9000-3) Training Courses,
- Sponsoring and supporting the SPICE (ISO/IEC 15504) Assessor Training Courses,
- Sponsoring and supporting ISO/IEC 12207 Workshops,
- ASQ Software Division Council Member & Chair of the 12th ICSQ for Oct 2002 Ottawa Conference,
- Performing ISO/IEC 12207 and ISO/IEC TR15504 Awareness presentations, seminars, courses,
- Review of developing standards or revisions to standards (e.g. ISO/IEC 15271, ISO/IEC 12207, ISO/IEC TR 15504) for JTC1 and CAC /TC176,
- Participation in the TCSE Software Engineering Standards Committee (SESC) professional activities (Including contributions to the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge Guide and the SWE Exam Writing exercise), and
- ASQ certification (CQIA, CQA, CSQE, CQMgr) mentoring, coaching, and training support.

Larry married his 1st wife while in university, and has 2 boys (Paul and Deven), now adults over 50 from that marriage. Larry married his 2nd wife, Lena, and acquired another son (Alexi), ready-made. Larry was an active volunteer on several of the soccer and hockey teams that his 3 sons played on. Thus far, we now have 5 grandchildren, 3 of which are in their early 20s already (Kaitlyn, Emilie, Nicholas), while the 4th and 5th grandchildren (Evie aged 10 and Ella aged 7) reside in the UK.

Lena and I joined FirstU in May of 2015, knowing some members already and looking for a community of active thinkers that appreciate, support, and respect one another in recognition of the human condition and (many) foibles. Consistent with the above volunteering bent, both of us have been and continue to be actively involved in various areas at FirstU.