met an English nurse Kathryn (Kate) Alabaster, whom he later married—after, it was said, her father, a retired Scotland Yard Inspector, had subjected him to a thorough background check.

Michalitsianos' first job after his PhD was as a junior research fellow (1973–75) with Harold Zirin at Big Bear Solar Observatory, owned by the California Institute of Technology. There he turned from solar theory to solar observations and experiments. He delighted in taking visiting colleagues there for thrilling motorboat rides on Big Bear Lake. On one such occasion, he was issued a speeding ticket by the operator of an even faster police boat. In 1976, he went to Greenbelt, Maryland, as a National Research Council-National Academy of Sciences researcher in LASP, the organization that he would later head. There he broadened his interests to include stellar physics, and he worked on interpretations of infrared photometry of long-period variable stars, using data from US Department of Defense satellites in the era preceding the lauch of a civilian infrared astronomy satellite.

By 1977, Michalitsianos was in the midst of a research associateship at the Eidgenonische Technische Hochshule in Zurich, when he was recalled to LASP to join the permanent staff and take a significant role in calibrating of the Ultraviolet Spectrometer and Polarimeter (UVSP) for the Solar Maximum Mission (SMM), including developing the telescope optics for laboratory calibration. In view of his contributions, he was appointed Co-Investigator on UVSP. However, after the 1978 launch of the International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE), with US scientific operation headquartered in LASP, he had become intrigued by IUE and began an almost 20-year career in ultraviolet spectroscopy of stars, nebulae, and gravitationally-lensed sources. By the time SMM was launched in 1980, his interests had focussed on the IUE program, and although Michalitsianos participated in a few of the early UVSP publications, he relinquished his observing rights with SSM to concentrate on spectroscopy with IUE.

In his early work with IUE, Michalitsianos focussed on the investigation of symbiotic stars and related objects, often enlisting the participation of specialists like theorist Menas Kafatos, and, for related studies with the Very Large Array, radio astronomer Jan Hollis. In particular, he wrote many papers on the nature of R Aqr and its jet. With Kafatos, he organized an international conference on Supernova 1987A in the Large Magellanic Cloud, less than 8 months after the supernova was discovered, and edited the proceedings volume from the conference in the following year. He also worked on a series of papers on extragalactic planetary nebulae observed with IUE. His growing involvement with ultraviolet stellar astronomy led to participation with the science team of the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UIT) for the Astro-1 Space Shuttle mission, and then to helping plan and propose the yet-to-be launched Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE).

During the 1980's, Andy became the IUE Deputy Project Scientist and played a key role in coordinating efforts of NASA engineers and managers in keeping the aging spacecraft working to maximum potential and in justifying to NASA Headquarters and external reviewers the continued long-term operation of IUE. As his interests turned increasingly to the spectra of gravitationally-lensed systems during the 1990's, he began using HST to investigate these faint targets. In 1997, when Michalitsianos contracted brain cancer, and for months thereafter, he worked intensively with external and NASA scientists, notably Bradley M. Peterson, on the concept for an Earth-orbiting satellite to provide extended time coverage of the sort rarely possible with general-purpose space observatories to monitor variable ultraviolet and X-ray spectra.

Andy is survived by his wife Kate, daughters Elpiniki and Lydia, son Gerasimos, and sister Loukia Michalitsianos.

Stephen P. Maran
Goddard Space Flight Center

CHARLES FRANKLIN PROSSER, JR., 1963–1998

Charles Franklin Prosser, Jr. was born in San Diego on August 26, 1963. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio in 1981 and received a BS in physics and astronomy (*cum laude*, and with election to Phi Beta Kappa) from Ohio State University. While at OSU, he worked with Arne Slettebak and attended summer programs at NRAO and NCAR, working respectively with C. P. O'Dea and D. Mihalas. He subsequently attended the University of California, Santa Cruz (joining AAS in 1989) and earned a PhD in astronomy in 1991. His thesis was entitled "Low-Mass Membership of the Open Clusters Alpha Persei and IC 4665." While at UCSC, Charles worked primarily with Burton Jones and Robert Kraft (his official thesis advisor), and he main-

Charles F. Prosser, Jr. (photo courtesy of Charles F. Prosser, Sr.).