

# Riccardo's Years at Harvard

- 1972 George Field, as the new Director of the Harvard Observatory and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, creates the Center for Astrophysics
- 1973 George, recognizing the excitement of *UHURU*, invites Riccardo to bring his X-ray group to join the CfA
- 1974 Riccardo is appointed Professor of Astronomy in Harvard Department of Astronomy

# Harvard students were drawn in...

- As Christine mentioned in her talk yesterday, both she and Bill Forman did their Harvard Ph.D. Thesis work with *UHURU* data, making fundamental discoveries
- Having finished my Thesis in '71 developing Cherenkov Imaging techniques for TeV Gamma-Ray detection with cosmic ray shower rejection, and followup work as a Postdoc (Harvard Jr. Fellow) detecting Cen A, in 1974 I joined Riccardo and Herb Gursky's group for the "HXD" (Hard X-ray Detector, 2 – 30keV) on the Astronomical Netherlands Satellite (*ANS*) –the first X-ray pointing mission (vs. *UHURU* scanning).
- In Sept 1975, we discovered X-ray Bursts from a source in a globular cluster

# And more Harvard graduate students worked with Riccardo's group

- Bob Leach did his Thesis with Herb Gursky
- Ken Topka with Paul Gorenstein
- Dan Fabricant with Paul Gorenstein
- Eric Feigelson (now a Prof. at Penn State) with Riccardo
- Heman Marshall with Harvey Tananbaum

# Did Riccardo teach a course or seminar?

- I joined the Faculty as Asst. Prof. in Fall 1976 and started teaching an undergrad Intro class for the first 2 years
- In 1979 and 1981, I gave a graduate class in High Energy Astrophysics which I thought Riccardo shared with me... but Paul Hertz took that class from me and told me yesterday Riccardo wasn't part of the class.
- **Riccardo did teach with me in '79** but not '81 (or vice vera, depending on which year Paul took it). I will continue looking for my class notes, which I was not able to find ....~40y later! **His lectures were clear, like his talks !**

# How about Faculty meetings?

- There were, naturally,, moments of disagreement on plans for future searches or initiatives; Riccardo was quick to demand clear plans (as we heard yesterday)
- Riccardo sometimes told me he thought a couple of (by then) elderly members of the faculty should move on ...
- I think he was somewhat bemused; but at same time, very clear in his views
- At faculty and CfA social gatherings, Riccardo was interactive

# Key decisions in 1981...

- I had several senior faculty offers, including from Harvard, and was seriously considering moving to Berkeley...
- At a dramatic meeting in Riccardo's office in May 1981 (as I recall), Riccardo convinced me to stay, and accept the Harvard offer. I told him I would; *he gave me a big hug...*
- In September 1981 (I think...), Riccardo announced he was moving on (taking Ethan with him) to become the first STScl Director
- I don't think these events were related

# There is yet another Riccardo Legacy...

I don't believe it was a "burning interest" for him, but in fact he not only opened the entire field of X-ray Astronomy/Astrophysics but also opened the then new field of

## *Time domain Astrophysics*

*The broad phenomenology of Bursts (X-ray, Gamma-Ray, now Radio...) was not part of the Astronomical Landscape until dramatically variable sources like Cyg X-1 and "X-ray Novae" were discovered. Then, GRBs, enormous Flaring from Blazars, BH-LMXB outbursts demanded physical understanding ! Exciting new Astrophysics, continuing through today*

# Thank you, Riccardo...

I am deeply indebted to Riccardo. I went to many meetings with him and helped organize some (e.g. a wonderful meeting in L'Aquila in, I think, 1984...)

The last time I talked with him was at the Bologna meeting in 2009, when we were all pushing our key projects (*EXIST*, in my case) for the Astro2020 Decadal

I wish he were still with us to guide us through Astro2020...