

# Cosmonaut shares heavenly tales

## Badin students learn about space travel

By **WHITNEY ELLIS**  
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**HAMILTON** — It was a day of Russian space exploration for the students at Badin High School.

Col. Alexander Volkov, commander of Russia's cosmonauts, and Alexander Martynov, head of the foreign relations department in Korolev, Russia, told about 670 students Tuesday about the glory of spaceflight and the possibility of human flights to Mars.

The presentation, "From Mir to Mars," was the third and final presentation Volkov and Martynov gave before returning to Moscow today.

The presentation was a collaboration between Miami University's departments of aerospace and physics and Badin High School.

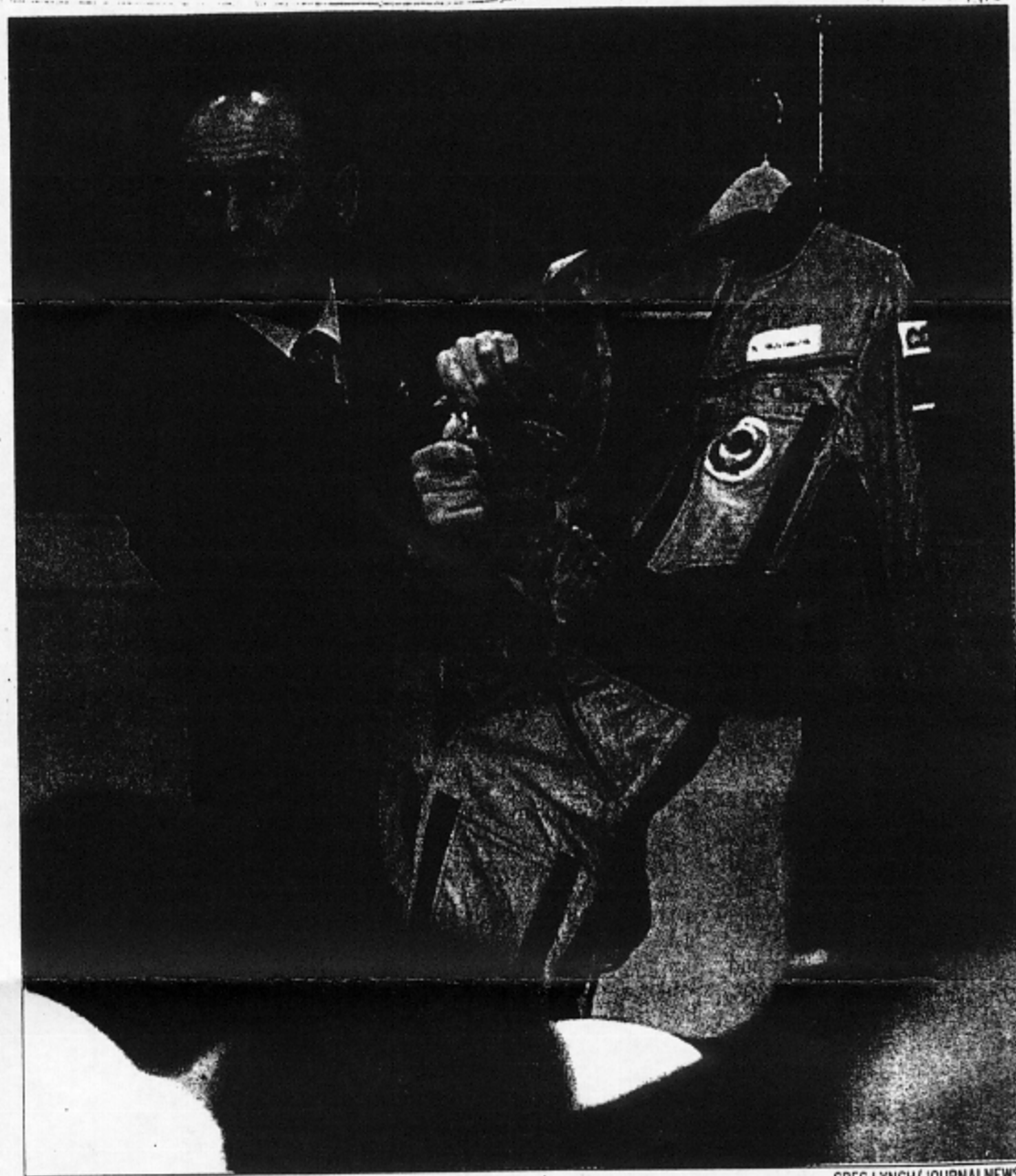
When asked if he would ever return to space, Volkov said, "I won't be ready for 20 years, but I will be younger than John Glenn when he went up."

Volkov, 54, earned the Order of Lenin, the Order of October Revolution and the Golden Star medal for courage and heroism. He also was awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union for his three spaceflights from 1985-1992, which include two stints as commander of the Mir space station. He is the most decorated cosmonaut in Russia's history.

Martynov designed re-entry modules for the Soviet space program that allowed soft landings on Earth for cosmonauts and unmanned landings on Venus and Mars.

Badin sophomore Alex Raible said he enjoyed the program, especially getting to see samples of food cosmonauts carry into space.

"It held my attention better than class," he said.



GREG LYNCH/JOURNALNEWS

**Russia's most highly decorated cosmonaut, Alexander Volkov, explains the workings of his spacesuit Tuesday morning at Badin High School. Volkov, along with Alexander Martynov, head of the foreign relations department in Korolev, near Moscow, put on a program called "From Mir to Mars."**

Badin sophomore Dennis Carley said he found the program informative.

"It showed us what space was really like," he said.

The project came together when Martynov sent a letter to

the former mayor of Hamilton, Adolf Olivas, saying they would be interested in giving presentations to students in the area.

The letter was then sent to Miami University-Hamilton. With funding from the Hav-

ighurst Center for Russian and Post Soviet Studies at Miami University in Oxford, Martynov and Volkov were able to come.

Both men live in Korolev, one of the centers of Russia's aerospace industry.