

Editorial

This ninth issue of the *Latin-American Journal of Astronomy Education* (RELEA) is a special one. Once again we publish works presented at a Meeting.

The works in this issue were presented at the *I Encuentro Latinoamericano de Educación y Didáctica de la Astronomía* (I ELDEA), held in Montevideo, Uruguay, between 29 and 31 October 2009. This event featured 80 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. Overall, 10 poster contributions were presented, plus 8 oral contributions and 12 invited talks.

Among the contributed works, this issue features only those approved by the selection process of the event, later submitted as articles by the authors, and further examined and refereed by the Editors of the RELEA. Thus, this special issue is not the Proceedings of that event. In addition, we decided to publish papers which were still on an intermediate stage of their production, with the aim of encouraging and consolidating the scientific production within the area by educators working in formal school education and wishing to participate in Meetings devoted to astronomy education.

As Julio Blanco, one of the Meeting organizers, reports, the sessions took place at the Montevideo Observatory and 40% of the activities were devoted to the permanent education of Uruguayan professors. For this purpose, the *Association of Astronomy Teachers of Uruguay* (*Asociación de Profesores de Astronomía del Uruguay* - APAU) invited Leandro Guedes (Planetary of Rio de Janeiro - Brazil) to give a course on Dynamics and Structure of the Galaxy, Jaime Villas da Rocha (UNIRIO - Brazil) for a course on Dark Matter and Tabaré Gallardo (UDELAR - Uruguay) for a course on Stellar Evolution.

The sessions held at the hall of the IAVA Institute counted with several speakers from Latin-American countries. As a part of the program, there was a poster session by graduate students. The activities organized by the APAU included visits to high and elementary schools of the public system, in which participants could get acquainted with the astronomy contents in the Uruguayan education.

Visits to one of the many observatories maintained by public high schools in Montevideo were performed. The schools are linked to the High School Council of Uruguay. In this occasion, the participants visited the Héctor Miranda Institute, and attended a class by Prof. Jorge Ramírez.

Most of the working sessions were held at the Liceo N°35 "Instituto Alfredo Vázquez Acevedo", where the Montevideo Observatory complex is located. The opening ceremony was organized by the Direction of the Observatory, with the presence of the Director, Prof. Silvia Dalla Zuanna, and the Astronomy Teaching Inspector, Mag. Reina Pintos Ganón.

The II ELDEA has been scheduled to occur from 23 to 25 September 2010, in Uruguay again. In 2011 Brazil will be the host and then Chile in 2012.

More information about the Journal and instructions for the authors may be found at the address: <<http://www.relea.ufscar.br>>. We remind that the articles may be written in Portuguese, Spanish or English.

Editors

Paulo S. Bretones

Luiz C. Jafelice

Jorge E. Horvath