

Editorial

We reached the fourteenth number of Latin American Journal of Astronomy Education (RELEA) with several significant good news for Astronomy Education in Brazil.

Last July, we published the Proceedings of the First National Symposium on Astronomy Education (I SNEA), available now at: www.usp.br/snea2011, where one can find lectures and papers presented at the roundtables and all abstracts presented in both oral communications and panels, and full papers submitted to them. The ISSN assigned to the Proceedings of SNEA was obtained. Thus, the archives of the Symposium achieve one of the main purposes of the event. This is an important achievement in the area, still to be consolidated, enabling access, consultation and referencing for future developments.

Also in July, the II National Symposium on Astronomy Education (SNEA II) was held at the campus of the University of São Paulo (USP) in São Paulo, Brazil.

The event featured 58 panels and 30 oral communications. Two lectures, three roundtables and meetings of thematic working groups were also featured – which produced final reports of the respective meetings. It was attended by about 240 participants and 420 enrolled in 13 courses for teachers. The proceedings with the full papers and the groups' final reports are in preparation and Abstract book of the papers presented can now be obtained at: <https://snea.if.usp.br/>.

One of the resolutions of the event was the decision about the SNEA III. It is scheduled to occur in Curitiba in 2014. We hope it will be a success, aiming at the consolidation of the area in our country; besides, we remind you to be aware of the announcement calling for papers to the event, in which we hope to enlarge the number of participants.

Another good news is the induction of new members to the Editorial Board of RELEA, which will cooperate with the release of the journal, as well as with the refereeing process of articles submitted. They are: Cristina Leite (USP), Sergio M. Bisch (UFES) and Néstor Camino (UNPSJB-Argentina).

Furthermore, to improve the processes of evaluation and publication of submitted articles, the RELEA decided for the appointment of three associate editors, who will be renewed every three years. They are: Marcos D. Longhini (UFU), Paulo H. A. Sobreira (UFG) and Rodolfo Langhi (UNESP).

We give the warmest welcome to the six new members.

In this issue we have four articles:

Solar physics topics in high school: analysis of a course with practical activities at the Dietrich Schiel Observatory, by Silvia Calbo Aroca, Peter Donizete Colombo Jr. and Cibelle Celestino Silva. This study analyzes results from a course on solar physics for high-school students sponsored by the USP's Dietrich Schiel Center, with the aim of investigating conceptions about the Sun. Results showed that most participants conceived the Sun as consisting of fire, sunspots as holes on the solar surface, and did not know the nature of the spectral lines. The contents were elaborated with the observation of the solar spectrum, and the results point to the recognition of the importance of science centers as partners of formal education.

A proposed activity for a meaningful learning about the Moon phases, by Bruno de Andrade Martins and Rodolfo Langhi. This paper presents a proposal for a differentiated activity teaching the Moon phases in physics classes in high-school, using as reference frame the meaningful learning. In the proposal, the active participation of students in the

implementation of an experimental activity and other educational activities, aimed at continuous evaluation during the process, culminates with the preparation of a comic involving the phases of the moon.

Learning astronomy by playing in a park, by Néstor Camino. In this paper, some educational games from square to imagine astronomical processes are presented, from the point of view that the learning in astronomy should be developed to strengthen the body's own relationship with the three-dimensional space and time, as one experiences watching the sky. Merry-go-round and sliding games are presented to address the translation of the Earth around the Sun, the Moon phases and gravity. The games are described, discussed and it is developed a didactical criticism; besides, it is mentioned the role teachers should have in supporting kids for the use of the games.

A reappraising of cosmography: the interface between astronomical and geographic studies, by Paulo Henrique Azevedo Sobreira. This research performs a rescue of the term *Cosmography* and a study of its redefinition, propounding the appearance of the name *Geographic Cosmography* as a field of study of Geography, whose body of knowledge is predominantly meant for schools. It is also a study of the interface between terrestrial and celestial knowledge and its geographic significance. It also examines human relationships with the natural and outer space and its consequences for society and nature.

More information about the journal and instructions for authors are listed in the site: www.relea.ufscar.br. Articles may be written in Portuguese, Spanish or English.

We thank Ms. Ana Carolina Contini Pietscher for editing the articles, the authors, the referees and all those who directly or indirectly helped in the continuity of this initiative and, in particular, in the preparation of this edition.

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