

## Editorial

The Latin American Journal of Education in Astronomy (RELEA) reaches its thirty-first issue.

In this issue, and despite the sensible number of submissions, we have the publication of a modest number of articles. This is due the fact that several submitted manuscripts were not accepted because they only addressed activity reports in a descriptive way. Thus, they lacked of deepening in the education area and, for this goal, it would have been necessary to establish a problem, research objectives, theoretical and methodological references and discussions with references to the literature in the area. For this reason, we encourage authors to learn more about the literature and methodologies in the area, so that they can produce acceptable articles for publication in the Journal with valuable contributions for the readers.

We also emphasize that we still have a chronic shortage of article submissions from several Latin-American countries. Therefore, we ask that you help us to disseminate RELEA in other countries so that more authors can contribute, and to help reach the teachers, so that this material can be useful in general in education, research and teaching in the area.

From a more positive point of view, it is worth noting that RELEA recently surpassed the 1,000 citations mark on Google Scholar, 1,064 to be exact. Our h5 index is already at 11. These numbers only reinforce the quality of the articles published. For more information and other indicators of interest, visit our [profile](#).

In this issue we publish four articles:

*Ausência de gravidade e estado de imponderabilidade: a concepção de estudantes universitários* (Absence of gravity and weightlessness: undergraduate students' conception), by Ricardo Ceconello, Vinícius Pavinato and Odilon Giovannini. The article presents a study on the concepts of weightlessness and weightlessness carried out with university students at a university in Caxias do Sul/RS. A questionnaire was applied and the results indicated that more than half of the students did not distinguish between these concepts. With the results obtained, it is recommended that high school and undergraduate teachers look for materials and strategies to teach these topics in their classes.

*As características dos textos de divulgação científica que promovem o interesse pela ciência em um público infantojuvenil* (Features in scientific outreach texts that boost the interest of young people for science), by Alexsandro Issao Sunaga and Elysandra Figueredo Cypriano. In this article, characteristics of scientific popularization texts that have the potential to arise interest in science and facilitate learning in children and adolescents were identified. Texts of this type were applied to elementary and high school students. The results indicate that the use of scientific popularization texts can be an effective strategy for the dissemination of knowledge and teaching of Astronomy in the classroom.

*Técnicas de captura e processamento de astrofotografias utilizando equipamentos de baixo custo: uma metodologia para o ensino de Astronomia* (Astrophotography capture and processing techniques using low-cost equipment: a methodology for the teaching of Astronomy), by André Ferreira Teixeira, Gabriel Fernandes Costa, Jamil Nader Neto, Ana Cristina Moreira M. Z. Armond, Kelly Beatriz Vieira Torres. This work presents a

methodology that exemplifies techniques for capturing and processing astrophotographs using low-cost equipment. With two digital cameras coupled to a telescope, astrophotographs were taken, then processed and analyzed the images of the Moon, Saturn and Jupiter's moons. The diameters of several lunar craters were also calculated, in order to exemplify the application of the method to obtain physical data from the images, as well as the orbital motion of Jupiter's moons. The methodology proved to be efficient in capturing, processing and extracting physical data from astrophotographs, and can be applied for artistic purposes and the teaching of Astronomy.

*Temas de Astronomia em feiras de ciências: reflexões sobre currículos e interdisciplinaridade* (Astronomy themes in science fairs: reflections on curricula and interdisciplinarity), by Sônia Elisa Marchi Gonzatti, Andréia Spessatto de Maman and Dayene Borges Guarienti. The work presents a survey and analysis of science fair proceedings promoted by a community university in Rio Grande do Sul, aiming to map contents and interdisciplinary approaches related to Astronomy themes. From a theoretical perspective that considers science fairs as a space to encourage scientific education, there is greater autonomy in the choice of themes in relation to formal contexts. Thus, the presence of Astronomy themes can favor interdisciplinary teaching and research practices. As a result, different levels of integration were identified, from internal connections to the researched themes to the integration of two or more school subjects.

More information about the Journal and instructions for authors can be found at: <[www.relea.ufscar.br](http://www.relea.ufscar.br)>. The articles can be written in Portuguese, Spanish or English.

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