

President's Message



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IPS 2007 Council Meeting

Council enjoyed a productive and exciting meeting at the Rio de Janeiro Planetarium in Brazil 3-4 August, thanks to the amazing hospitality and support of our Brazilian colleagues. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the following people, who are now part of our international family; they worked so hard to assist us and provided everything we needed and more:

Carmen Ibarra, president of the Planetarium Foundation; Ormis Rossi, planetarium director; Fernando Vieira, manager; Nuno Caminada, technical engineer; Alexandre Cherman, astronomer; and Luiz Sampaio, Zeiss representative (Omnislux).

Brazil becomes newest affiliate

We are pleased to announce that at this meeting, Council voted to accept the Association of Brazilian Planetariums (ABP) as an IPS Affiliate. The president of the ABP is Michel Sauma and Alexandre Cherman, ABP's scientific director, is now their IPS affiliate representative. By having a voting member on Council, the ABP can affect the business of the IPS and bring its concerns to colleagues in the international community.

As an active and long standing association, the ABP will be an asset to the International Planetarium Society and Brazilian planetari-

ums will benefit from association with an international organization and gain a broader perspective from interacting with other professionals in their field.

The International Planetarium Society anticipates a long and productive collaboration with its first South American Affiliate.

Egypt is Destination in 2010

Council was very pleased to receive three exceptional conference bids for 2010. We had the enviable but difficult job of choosing one of these remarkable sites as the winning bid. After hearing presentations from each, we went into closed session and it took one hour to consider the details of each bid, to carefully make our decision and vote.

Council voted to award the winning bid to Alexandria, Egypt, and thus set another precedent: we will be meeting in an entirely new region.

We would like to congratulate each bidding location for presenting very strong bids and giving us such a difficult task. We have invited Dr. Jin Zhu (representing Beijing, China) and Dr. Jacques Guarinos (from Saint-Etienne, France) to bid again in the future because IPS members would certainly benefit from attending a conference in both of those exciting venues.

We look forward to hearing more from Dr. Omar Fikry as he formulates final plans for our visit to Egypt.

Members can look forward to more news from this Council meeting in IPS News and in the next President's column.

IPS Conference 2008

Marvelous plans for our conference in Chicago are underway and the offerings of speakers, papers, workshops, activities, and the location make it very worthwhile for members to attend. Council will find out more details during our meeting in Rio de Janeiro and you can find the latest information posted on the conference website: ips2008.org.

A serious problem with hotel availability did occur and was resolved. Our host, Paul Knappenberger, president of Adler Planetarium, wrote:

"When it was time to sign a contract guaranteeing the rooms for our conference, we contacted the hotels that had previously expressed an interest and had the ability to accommodate our 2008 conference. We found that 15 other conferences had been confirmed in Chicago for June 2008 with a total of over 76,000 delegates. The week of June 15-20 included conferences of the American Medical Association and the Salvation Army. The availability of hotel meeting rooms and exhibit spaces required by IPS was extremely limited that week, and those rooms that were available were expensive. We have quotes for rooms of over \$300 per night during the week of June 15-20, but not sufficient meeting room or exhibit spaces.

"Since Adler has hosted multiple conferences over the past several years (including co-hosting this May's American Association of Museums Conference with over 6,000 delegates), we were able to negotiate an exceptional rate of \$159 per night per single and \$179 per night per double during the week of June 27 through July 2 at one of the best hotels near the Adler. It is the Hyatt Regency Mc-



Susan Button presents Michel Sauma (left) and Alexandre Cherman with a certificate of welcome from the IPS. Photo by Martin George



The stark beauty of the observatories and the mountain peak above the clouds is amazing. The twin Keck domes are at left; the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility, a 3.0-m infrared telescope operated by University of Hawai'i for NASA, is at right. Photo by Susan Button

Cormick Place, where we have now guaranteed 285 rooms minimum for the conference. They have worked with us to make available our estimated number of meeting rooms and exhibition spaces, which are very conveniently located off the main lobby. This location is an excellent choice for our conference and is within easy reach of the planetarium for sessions in our domed theaters. These room rates are lower than the estimates we received when we originally contacted them about hosting the Conference.

"The fortuitous advantages of the new dates are that the 'Taste of Chicago' will be in full swing nearby on the lakefront for conference delegates and their families to enjoy, there is a spectacular fireworks display on the evening of July 3 for those folks who choose to stay over an extra day, and we've avoided the conflict with the 5th Science Center World Congress in Toronto the week of June 15-20.

"I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or problems that the shift in dates may cause, especially to the SEPA group. Fortunately, there are over 11 months before the conference convenes, which should allow plans to be made around the new dates."

Council realizes that this is a serious change and may cause an inconvenience for some of our members who have made other commitments for these dates and we sincerely apologize for that. Given the lack of rooms and meeting space we would have had to change venues completely if we did not change the dates.

As required by our Standing Rules, Council members voted on the change in conference dates and by an overwhelming majority, decided to change the 2008 conference dates to June 27-July 2, 2008. Please save those dates on your calendars; we hope you can attend this exciting conference.

Officers Meeting

Throughout the year, IPS officers are in constant communication with each other, as well as with Council and committee members. Each year it has proven to be necessary to meet together in person to concentrate efforts

and more efficiently attend to IPS business. Officers met at the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawaii at the end of June. Treasurer/Membership Chair Shawn Laatsch now works at this center as the planetarium director. We worked together for two very full days with President-Elect Tom Mason, who could not attend this meeting, talking with us for several hours from his home in Ireland by computer through the free Skype program. The time difference between Hawaii and Ireland meant he had to stay up very late!

We were able to address a large variety of issues and prepare several documents for Council members' consideration, as well as prepare a comprehensive agenda for the August Council meeting in Rio.

MKOOOC

Thanks to Shawn, IPS officers were invited to join a meeting of the Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee (MKOOOC) and network with representatives from the participating Observatories. After Shawn introduced us, the chair, Inge Heyer, explained who the MKOOOC members are and their mission. "The Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee (MKOOOC) coordinates and organizes the collective outreach efforts of the Mauna Kea Observatories, and acts as a forum for the observatories, related organizations, and the Visitor Information Station (VIS) to discuss outreach activities."

Observatory members of the committee are:

- NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu)
- Canada France Hawaii Telescope (www.cfht.hawaii.edu)
- Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (www.submm.caltech.edu/cso)

www.submm.caltech.edu/cso)

- University of Hawaii 2.2-meter telescope (www.ifa.hawaii.edu/88inch) and University of Hawaii 24-inch telescope (www.astro.uhh.hawaii.edu/NewEducationalTelescope.php)
- Joint Astronomy Centre (www.jach.hawaii.edu)
- Gemini North Telescope (www.gemini.edu)
- Subaru Telescope (www.naoj.org)
- W. M. Keck Observatory (www.keckobservatory.org)
- Submillimeter Array (sma-www.harvard.edu)



IPS Officers (from left) Lee Ann Henning, Susan Button, Marin George and (far right) Shawn Laatsch and Dr. Hiroko Shinnaga (to left of Shawn) stand in front of the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory. Photo by Tom Button

www.submm.caltech.edu)

- Other participating members include:
- Visitor Information Station
 - University of Hawaii at Hilo Physics and Astronomy Department
 - University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy
 - Office of Mauna Kea Management
 - Mauna Kea Observatories Support Services
 - Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center

I, in turn, shared the mission of IPS and some of the ways we hope to collaborate with scientists and astronomers in the field. One of the most important ways we can help each other is to publicize each other's good work and exchange expertise in our various fields. MKOOC members were astonished at all that we do and were very pleased at the prospect of collaborating. They also now view IPS as a valuable outreach vehicle for informing the public about science and the work performed at the observatories. The opportunities are vast for IPS members to tap into resources that MKOOC can provide to us with their already existing outreach initiatives and new projects that we can develop together.

Contact: Inge Heyer, science outreach specialist and chair of Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee; phone (1) 808-969-6524; email: i.heyer@jach.hawaii.edu; MKOOC website: mkooc.org.

Mauna Kea Observatories

Again thanks to Shawn and the staff of three telescopes, officers were able to visit the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory, the W.M. Keck Observatory, and the Gemini Observatory on the Monday after our weekend officer's meeting. We had an excellent guide, Kirk Pu'ouhau-Pummill, who drove us from the visitor center to the peak and made sure we were not experiencing ill effects of the altitude. He became very important to us! He also took the time to let us enjoy the views, as he has photographer's eyes and knew how important it was to us. The drive to the summit was truly amazing and the sight of all of the observatories on the peak above the clouds was awesome and a very emotional experience for me. Aside from the stark beauty, impressive human accomplishment of building these instruments on this peak, and the work being done there, I was impressed by the mindfulness and reverence for the sacred history of Mauna Kea.

Each observatory is special in its own way and I hope to have comments in future columns from a representative of each telescope to explain the unique qualities of these powerful instruments. So, I will not expound on all that we learned, but make just one or two points about the experience.

Three observatory guides provided superb outside and inside views of the equipment, procedures, philosophy, and missions of their observatories. We first visited with Dr. Hiroko Shinnaga as she explained the work done at the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory. We were able to see into the opened dome and had a great view of the 10.4-m Leighton radio dish because some instruments were being repaired at the time. Dr. Shinnaga explained, "Approximately 55% of the nights are allocated to observers outside the Caltech communi-

ty each year. The University of Hawai'i and the University of Texas are part-time partners, each receiving 10% time."

Next we visited the W.M. Keck Observatory with Laura Kinoshita as our guide. It was exciting to walk the catwalk around a 10-m mirror and to be able to see its famous 36 hexagonal segments. We were informed that observing time on the Keck telescopes is available to members of seven communities: the University of California, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Hawaii, NASA, the National Optical Astronomy Observatory through the National Science Foundation's Telescope System Instrumentation Program, the Gemini community through an observatory exchange of up to five nights, and the Subaru community through an observatory exchange of up to five nights.

The third observatory we visited was the Gemini, where Kirk was our knowledgeable leader, and we were privileged to see workers go through their end of the day test of the dome and the massive telescope in preparation for that night's observers. Just like in our planetariums, when the dome moved, we thought we were moving! Kirk explained that Gemini was built and is operated by a partnership of seven countries: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Australia, Brazil, and Argentina. Any astronomer in a partner country can apply for time on Gemini, which is allocated in accordance with the amount of financial support provided by each country.

All of these observatories have extensive outreach programs and staff who make it possible for IPS to network with them and share expertise through the Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee. We look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with these special people!

Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope

On Tuesday, my husband and I traveled from Hilo to Kamuela (Waimea) and visited with Librarian Liz Bryson, Service Observer Mary Beth Laychak, and Astronomer Jean-



Jean-Charles Cuillandre, CFHT astronomer; he's working on a film of Mauna Kea by integrating time-lapse photography and CFHT images. Photo by Susan Button



From left, Mary Beth Laychak, Liz Bryson, and Susan Button in the library for the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope. As librarian, Liz plays a vital role in providing outreach. Photo by Tom Button

Charles Cuillandre, at the CFHT base facility. Liz and Mary Beth gave us a tour of the beautiful building that houses the offices of astronomers and other staff as well as the library. After graciously treating us to a delicious lunch, we were invited to view a video that Jean-Charles is producing. It incorporates amazing time-lapse photography and visuals from the CFHT that makes this film, when completed, possible for use in museum kiosks or planetarium shows. This is Jean-Charles' second video; the first is called *Mozart and the Dolomites-A Visual Score of Mozart's Requiem*. For a sample view of that film, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM4dnEr-Qpl.

After loading us up with some fantastic pic-

ture calendars, posters, and a DVD that Liz put together called *Gathering the Forgotten Voices: An Oral History of the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope's Early Years*, they sent us on our way to explore more of the varied weather and topography of the Big Island. This DVD is a well-done project that gave me insight into the struggles of planning and building a telescope at the remote location of Mauna Kea, with its high speed winds, thin atmosphere, and snow in the winter.

In an effort to begin the process of sharing with observatory scientists I asked Mary Beth to write some paragraphs about the uniqueness of the Canadian France Hawaii Telescope.

She explains, "Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope's unique position in the astronomical community is twofold: cutting-edge instrumentation and dedicated employees who tirelessly work to ensure that the best science possible is obtained.

"In an age of ever-increasing mirror size, the 3.6-m CFHT has carved its niche by offering instrumentation that cannot be found anywhere else. The observatory's workhorse instrument, MegaCam, offers an unparalleled field of view at 1° x 1° on the sky. With 340 megapixels at their disposal, astronomers use MegaCam to scan the heavens for objects as close as asteroids and as distant as the furthest known black hole. Using MegaCam at CFHT is akin to looking for a lost penny with a streetlight, rather than a flashlight. While the beam is brighter with the flashlight (larger telescopes), the streetlight covers a larger area, allowing the penny to be found faster. Joining MegaCam are WirCam and Espadons. WirCam is a wide field infrared camera that covers roughly one-fourth the area of the sky as MegaCam.

"While smaller than its sister instrument, WirCam is one of the largest infrared cameras currently in operation. Used by astronomers to study astronomical objects too cool, too far away, or too shrouded in dust for observations with optical cameras, the potential for discovery by WirCam is limitless. Espadons, a spectrograph/spectropolimeter, is also a unique instrument. It is the only spectrograph/spectropolimeter operating on a 4-m class telescope and not only yields information about the composition and velocity of objects, but about their magnetic fields as well. In fact, the first detection of a magnetic field on a star with a hot Jupiter type extrasolar planet was made using Espadons.

"The staff of CFHT is integral to keeping the telescope and its unique instrumentation at optimal scientific output. Each instrument that calls CFHT home is one of a kind and their software is custom designed. Further, CFHT is on the forefront of astronomical observations with Queue Mode. This allows as-

tronomers to remain in their Paris, Montreal, Vancouver, etc. offices while a dedicated team of observation specialists gathers top quality data for them at a level of unprecedented efficiency. Between maintaining the instruments and telescope, designing software and observing, the staff of CHFT gives astronomers who use it the complete package. All this work is done in an atmosphere of ohana (family) and aloha (welcome)."

We will be hearing more from Mary Beth. She has enthusiastically agreed to write two articles for future issues of the *Planetarian*.

Contact: Mary Beth Laychak, Canadian-France-Hawaii Telescope Corporation, 65-1238 Mamalahoa Highway, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 USA; phone (1) 808-885-7944; email: mary@cfht.hawaii.edu.

If you would like to be notified when the latest edition of the CFHT newsletter, *HOKU*, is available, email Liz Bryson (bryson@cfht.hawaii.edu) to be put on a mailing list. To see the July 2007 newsletter, go to www.cfht.hawaii.edu/Reference/Library/hoku.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

IPS is an organization that provides resources, through our Education Committee, to members who are seeking guidance in creating age appropriate lessons and shows. There is another international organization that can provide us with a broader perspective on education and how children learn. It is the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, "a community of educators, advocating sound policies and sharing best practices to achieve the success of each learner." On their website, www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd, they provide a mission statement and brief history of the organization:

"Founded in 1943, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents 175,000 educators from more than 135 countries and 58 affiliates. Our members span the entire profession of educators—superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, and school board members.

"We address all aspects of effective teaching and learning—such as professional development, educational leadership, and capacity building. ASCD offers broad, multiple perspectives—across all education professions—in reporting key policies and practices. Because we represent all educators, we are able to focus solely on professional practice within the context of "Is it good for the children?" rather than what is reflective of a specific educator role. In short, ASCD reflects the conscience and content of education."

It is worth our time to periodically visit the ASCD website to discover more or find another approving professional voice for the techniques and programming we already provide. A variety of resources can be found on this site for you and your staff; there's a list of publications, programs and courses for professional development, and news about current issues in the field of education.

What is IPS?

IPS is a membership organization. Members define it and we make it strong by actively participating and contributing. The time has arrived for you to become active!

Website:

One of the ways you can shape the effectiveness of IPS is by assisting in making our website more attractive, useful for members, and interactive. Alan Gould is currently working on some exciting additions to the website, but he is always looking for new appropriate documents, graphics, links, video, and suggestions for the Members Only Area, and for ways to make the website more interactive.

Please examine the website and see what you think. At the very least, if there are any errors in names or addresses, please notify Alan. You can even send in ideas, pictures, graphics, videos, and documents for committee pages. For example, look at the Portable Planetarium Committee page. I have posted some pictures there; if you have better pictures, graphics or some documents you would like added there, please send them to me. If everyone sent in one idea or item for the website, that could make a huge impact!

Contact Alan at adgould@comcast.net. ☆



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