

well with the aspirations of the European Union and several individual European countries.

An "announcement of opportunity" will be disseminated at the end of 2005, requesting expressions of interest by national groups that are interested in participating in UNA. Although the pilot project will concentrate on the selected target countries, UNA material will be made available generally.

Organisations

At present the following organisations support the Universe Awareness Programme: ESO, the European Schoolnet (ESN), the European Association for Astronomy Education, (EAAE), the International Astronomical Union, Leiden

University and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). During the next year we will seek further endorsements.

The development of the UNA project is presently being overseen by a 5-member Universe Awareness International Steering Committee (UNAISC) and two sub-committees devoted to education and organisation/funding respectively. Dr. Carolina Ödman has been appointed as UNA international project manager/coordinator at Leiden from September 15, 2005.

It is planned to hold a second larger interdisciplinary workshop to discuss progress in the project in the late summer of 2006. All those who are interested in UNA and wish to be kept informed of developments should contact Carolina Ödman (odman@strw.leidenuniv.nl).

Preliminary Timeline

Three stages in the pilot project are envisaged:

September 2005–December 2006

Preparation

- Contacting suitable funding organisations
- Refinement of educational goals and needed material
- Preparation of funding proposals

2007–2008

Development

- Production of actual animation films, games, toys, and internet tools
- Development and organisation of coordinator training courses

2009

Implementation

- Start of pilot project with evaluation

Note that the expected implementation date for the pilot project coincides with the International Year of Astronomy planned for 2009.

Catherine Cesarsky Elected Member of Academies of Sciences

On April 20, 2004, the US National Academy of Sciences selected 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 13 countries, including Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, ESO's Director General. This brought the total number of active members to 1949, including 351 foreign associates.

Among its distinguished members, the National Academy includes 83 astronomers. Catherine Cesarsky was elected in recognition of her role as a pioneer of space infrared astronomy and a leader of European physics and astronomy, and more particularly, for her seminal contributions to the study of star formation in near and distant galaxies, the cosmic infrared background, and the confinement and acceleration of cosmic rays.

The US National Academy of Sciences is a private, non-profit, self-perpetuating society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and technology and to their use for the general welfare. Upon the authority of the charter granted to it by the Congress in 1863, the Academy has a mandate that requires it to advise the federal government on scientific and technical matters.

On April 30, 2005, at the Annual Meeting of the US National Academy of Sciences, Catherine Cesarsky, was officially inducted into this highly prestigious society.

At about the same time, Catherine Cesarsky became a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Founded in 1739, this Academy was modelled on the pattern of the Royal Society of London and of l'Académie Royale des Sciences in Paris. It is an independent organisation whose overall objective is to foster the sciences, particularly mathematics and the natural sciences. And, of course, every year the Academy awards the Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry, the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the Crafoord Prize and a number of other large prizes. It might be worth mentioning that this year's laureates of the Crafoord Prize are three astronomers: James Gunn and James Peebles from Princeton University, USA, and Sir Martin Rees from the University of Cambridge, UK.

On May 27, 2005, Dr. Cesarsky was also elected Foreign Member of the British Royal Society, thereby joining the 1292 Fellows and 132 Foreign Members of the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. The Royal Society was founded in 1660 and



Photo: L. Bulajits/The Royal Society

Catherine Cesarsky is inducted into the British Royal Society.

has, throughout its history, promoted excellence in science through its Fellowship and Foreign Membership, which has included Newton, Montesquieu, Darwin, Rutherford, Einstein, Hodgkin, Crick, Watson and Hawking.

Fellows at ESO



Cédric Foellmi

After my studies in Geneva and my PhD in Montréal, I moved to ESO and La Silla. Like many others, I was fulfilling a dream. I was not only visiting La Silla, but actually working in it! Long *turnos* provide this very peculiar feeling of a little community of specialised workers whose goal is to observe the sky every night. And the people in La Silla are really great. As much as the sky.

I have been right away attached to the NTT. These were hard and great times. I was still finishing my PhD, and having duties at the NTT in the “old” control room: cold, very dry, moving all night. Tough. However, I was not only learning how ESO operates, but also how to become an efficient observer on large telescopes. “Efficient” here means having a strong vision of the variety of astronomical objects and phenomena, and a detailed knowledge of instruments and techniques. This proves to be of the greatest importance for my research.

Research is the other part of the fellowship, and actually the most important for me. Greatly enhanced by a unique experience of the “backstage” of telescope operations, I can conduct my research freely at Vitacura. Even in the context where none of my colleagues is directly working in my field. Of course, not everybody is aware of the great interest Wolf-Rayet stars might represent ... But I am slowly making more and more people aware of it! And I realise after these years the advantages of being an ESO fellow: in Vitacura there are simply all the “instruments scientists” of all ESO instruments! And the fellowship is three years in Chile. It gives precious time to start serious collaborations, and develop a coherent research. Friends, coherence and sense. Isn't it what we all are looking for? Some lucky ones looking at the beautiful southern sky.



Margrethe Wold

I arrived at ESO in the winter of 2003. I had been working as a post doc at the Spitzer Science Center at Caltech in Pasadena, so arriving in cold Garching was quite a dramatic change from warm and sunny California. From early on, I had a deep interest in science, not just astronomy, but several different topics like archaeology, ornithology and particle physics. In the end, I decided to study astronomy, even though I first started an engineering education at a technical university.

My astronomy career started at the University of Oslo where I did my master degree. During this period, I went on frequent observing trips to the 2.5-m Nordic Optical Telescope on La Palma, and hence got observing experience fairly early. To pursue my PhD, I moved to the University of Stockholm. My PhD concentrated on clustering of galaxies around quasars, but I also worked with weak gravitational lensing by clusters of galaxies. I still find weak gravitational lensing a very fascinating technique to measure the masses of the largest bound structures in the Universe.

During my post doc at the Spitzer Science Center I started a programme to study the centres of nearby radio galaxies, in particular to measure their black hole masses. For this, I used the historic 5-m Hale telescope on Mt. Palomar. During my time here at ESO, I have continued this project using both the NTT and the 3.6-m telescope. Being interested in what is going on in the centres of galaxies, I am now using the new mid-infrared VLT instrument, VISIR, to study gas in the centres of active galaxies.

Never did I dream that my interest for astronomy as a kid would take me to so many different places in this world, and would allow me to meet so many interesting people. This is still an adventure for me!