

DIVISION C ASTRONOMY EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND HERITAGE

Division C for astronomy education, outreach and heritage is a unique and special division of the IAU, as we are the only division not to focus on one area of astronomical research. Within our division there is a wide and diverse range of activities that cover astronomy education, outreach to the public, the history of astronomy, the heritage of astronomy and we collaborate with Division B in the preservation of dark skies for astronomy.

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DIVISION C COMMISSIONS

Commission C1 **Astronomy education and development**
Commission C2 **Communicating astronomy with the public**
Commission C3 **History of astronomy**
Commission C4 **World Heritage and astronomy**

DIVISION C WORKING GROUP

Division C WG **Star names (chair: E Mamajek)**

INTER-DIVISION WORKING GROUP

Interdivision WG **Solar eclipses (with Div E); (chair: J Pasachoff)**
This is a functional WG

TRIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2018

1. Introduction

Division C for astronomy education, outreach and heritage is a unique and very special division of the IAU, as we are the only division not to focus on one area of astronomical research. Within our division there is an amazing and diverse range of activities that cover astronomy education, outreach to the public, the history of astronomy, the heritage of astronomy and we collaborate with Division B in the preservation of dark skies for astronomy.

Much of the Division's work is carried out by our Working Groups, and there are

20 of these attached to our four commissions as commission WGs or inter-commission WGs. We also have two divisional (or inter-division) WGs. These cover many aspects of the impact of astronomy on society, including equity, diversity, training of teachers and students, using astronomy as a tool for development, promoting women in astronomy, promoting astronomy to the public, including astro-tourism in dark sky reserves, and protecting the tangible and intangible heritage of astronomy which has resulted from the long history of our science.

The Division has links to the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD), Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) and the Office for Young Astronomers (OYA), the last of which is responsible for the successful International Schools for Young Astronomers (ISYA).

2. Developments within the past triennium

During the triennium John Hearnshaw served on the steering committee of the International School for Young Astronomers. He attended the ISYA in Tehran, Iran in August 2016 to gain familiarity with the running of the schools.

Hearnshaw participated in IAU executive committee meetings in Mexico City in May 2016, in Pune India in May 2017 and in Vienna, Austria in April 2018, at the invitation of the General Secretary to Division Presidents.

Division C gave its support to four IAU symposium proposals for 2017, three of which were approved as IAU symposia. For meeting proposals for 2018, the Division supported two IAU symposium proposals, one of them being a GA proposal, and two GA focus meeting proposals. Support was given to nine symposium proposals for 2019.

Following the cancellation of IAU Symposium 326 on astronomy education research, Division C supported the Utrecht symposium on Astrobiology and Astronomy Education in July 2017. This meeting was co-sponsored by the IAU.

In May 2016 Division C approved the formation of a new divisional WG on star names, with the aim of establishing an official IAU database of approved star names. The chair of the working group is E. Mamajek (USA). In December 2017 the working group added 86 new star names to the catalogue, bringing the total number of stars with proper names to 313.

In December 2016 Hearnshaw made a full proposal for a symposium to be held at the Vienna General Assembly to mark the 100th anniversary of the IAU. This was accepted at the EC99 meeting in Pune.

In December 2017 Hearnshaw with M Mosleh (Shiraz University, Iran) proposed an IAU symposium to be held in Shiraz in August 2019 on the amateur-professional connection in astronomy.

In March 2017 Division C approved the formation of a new inter-commission working group Data Driven Astronomy Education and Public Outreach (DAEPO) with Chenzhou Cui (China) as chair.

During the second half of 2017 Hearnshaw held extensive discussions with Aniket Sule (India) and Michael Gavrilov (Russia) with the aim of bringing closer together the two separate olympiad movements in astronomy, namely the International Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics and the International Astronomy Olympiad. However, the result was that the two parties were unwilling to make compromises in their organizations to enable any form of collaboration to take place. It was decided that for the time being the status quo would have to prevail. This means that the IAU was unwilling to endorse either movement, as confirmed by the IAU General Secretary.

In July 2017 Division C made numerous comments on the draft IAU Strategic Plan

2020-30. One of the proposals was for an annual Young Astronomers' Meeting (YAM) open to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and IAU Junior Members.

Division C approved nine individuals to have IAU associate member status in 2016, and ten individuals in 2017. These are mainly individuals working actively in our commission working groups.

3. Closing remarks

Activities relating to astronomy education, development, outreach, history, heritage and dark skies protection (including astro-tourism) have grown strongly during the last three years, and this growth is reflected in the very diverse and flourishing activities of our many working groups. In addition, the strong support of the Executive Committee for these activities, especially for the newer disciplines of outreach and astronomy heritage, is gratefully acknowledged. The future of the Division looks bright.

John Hearnshaw, Christchurch, New Zealand
president of the Division