



ON 25 AUGUST 1609, Galileo demonstrated his telescope to Venetian lawmakers. This was the first astronomical outreach activity using the new instrument. It is curious how this simple “star party” will be celebrated in the biggest educational and public outreach initiative ever. The International Year of Astronomy 2009 was proclaimed at the highest level by the United Nations, in recognition of the major impact that astronomy has on our daily lives and its contribution to a more equitable and peaceful society. So far, the International Year of Astronomy 2009 is supported by 104 National Nodes, 15 Organisational Nodes, 9 Organisational Associates, 11 Global Cornerstone Projects and 7 Task Groups. This event is the perfect opportunity to raise the profile of astronomy in society and to further develop our community.

The CAP conference (CAP2007) was a good example of how the astronomy education and public outreach community is becoming ever more professional. Over 200 participants attended four days of talks, meetings and lively discussions. These community-building initiatives enhance our activities and, most importantly, provide a forum for the discussion of problems and prospects in the field.

As an example of commitment, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CAPjournal working group member Andrew Fraknoi, for the Award of 2007 California Professor of the Year and the American Institute of Physics Andrew Gemant Award. These prizes reflect Andrew’s sustained commitment and dedication to astronomy education and public outreach for over 30 years.

In this issue we marvel at the breathtaking images taken by astrophotographers from The World at Night project, get insider tips from authors of the two most popular astronomy vodcasts available on the web, learn how to navigate the labyrinth of European Commission grants for education/outreach and much more.

We’d also like to welcome Ryan Wyatt as the author of our first regular column, “Visualising Astronomy”. Ryan will give us his opinions and perspectives about the growing field of graphical science communication.

CAPjournal is a newcomer to the field, but we are extremely happy with the community feedback, which gives us an added incentive to continue. Between editions you can stay in touch through our website, www.capjournal.org, where we have comments on featured papers, a job bank, back issues and the current issue of CAPjournal. You can also post anything you have to say on the site or e-mail me at editor@capjournal.org. I’d love to know what you think!

Happy reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Russo'.

Pedro Russo
Editor-in-Chief