

Recent Visits of VIPs

In the last few months ING has received several visits of VIPs: the Spanish Science and Technology Minister, the British Ambassador in Madrid, the Industry, Trade, Research and Energy Commission of the EU, the Science and Technology Commission of the Spanish Senate, the Science and Technology Research Committee of the EU (CREST), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) and some ESO representatives involved in the construction of the OWL telescope. In the accompanying photo we can see the representatives of the Industry, Trade, Research and Energy Commission of the EU in the WHT.



Personnel Movements

After many years at ING **Nic Walton** returned to the UK, to the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, where he is involved in the AstroGrid developments. Nic has been at the heart of various developments at the observatory, from which astronomers continue to profit. Grateful for his efforts, we wish him well in his new career.

Paul Morrall, who worked in the mechanical section for a number of years, also returned to the UK. He now employs his skills in the field of physics at Daresbury Laboratory.

Thomas Augusteijn decided to take up a position as Astronomer in Charge at the Nordic Optical Telescope. Although it is sad to see him leaving ING, it is good that his skills and extensive experience in the observatory 'business' have been retained at the ORM.

ING's second EU-funded Mary Curie Fellow has strengthened our adaptive optics team: **Sebastian Els**, previously at the University of Heidelberg, arrived in La Palma earlier in the year.

Arami Felipe and **María Batista** have left the administration group recently to find fortune elsewhere.

Francisco Prada and **Javier Licandro** have taken up positions as support astronomers.

Chris Evans arrived at ING on a PDRA position to work with Danny Lennon on massive stars.

As part of the financial cutbacks, unfortunately many familiar faces will not be seen at the observatory anymore. I mention **Manuel Acosta**, **Cecilio Alvarez**, **Sheila Crosby**, **Inocencio García**, **Mavi Hernández**, **John Mills**, **Peter Moore**, and **Carlos Ramón** who have all left in recent months. Between them, there are many decades of effort dedicated to the ING telescopes, some going back to the very early days of the construction of the observatory, when neither roads nor Residencia, or even the WHT existed! We wish them all well for the future.

The ING PR Collections of Images

One of the best ways to advertise the observatory to the public is by showing superb astronomical images obtained at the telescopes. For this reason at ING we have started to collect astonishing images of celestial objects which are then made available on the web. Full credit is given to the observers and the authors of the images.

The images are offered as part of several collections which can be found at http://www.ing.iac.es/PR/images_index.html. Here you will also find information on how to participate in this exciting project.

On the following page we show a recent image of M42 and M43 obtained using the Wide Field Camera on the INT. Such an image is already part of our PR collections of images. Credit: Simon Tulloch (ING) and Nik Szymanek (Univ. of Hertfordshire).

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Seminars Given at ING

Visiting observers are politely invited to give a seminar at ING. Talks usually take place in the sea level office in the afternoon and last for about 30 minutes plus time for questions afterwards. Astronomers from ING and other institutions on site are invited to assist. Please contact Francisco Prada (fprada@ing.iac.es) and visit this web page: <http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/science/seminars.html>, for more details. These were the seminars given in the last six months:

- 30 August. *The exceptional Dwarf Nova, V485 Cen*, Hannah Worters (Univ. of Sheffield & ING)
- 30 August. *Star formation in spiral galaxies*, Stuart Folkes (Univ. of Hertfordshire & ING)
- 27 August. *Planetary Exospheres*, Cesare Barbieri (Padova)
- 26 August. *A study of B-type line-profile variables in close binaries*, Katrien Uytterhoeven (Leuven/Mercator Telescope)
- 12 August. *AGN-selected clusters as revealed by weak lensing*, Margrethe Wold (IPAC, USA)
- 7 August. *Dynamical Processes in the Central Kpc and AGN*, Isaac Shlosman (JILA & Univ. Kentucky, USA)
- 30 July. *Lucky exposures: diffraction limited CCD imaging*, Bob Tubbs (IoA Cambridge)
- 18 July. *Red Giants in the Magellanic Clouds*, Maria Rosa Cioni (ESO, Germany)
- 4 July. *AstroGrid: Creating the UK's Virtual Observatory*, Nic Walton (IoA Cambridge)
- 3 June. *TASCA: the Tololo All-Sky CAmera*, Hugo Schwarz (CTIO)
- 24 May. *The EURO-50 project: The world's largest telescope at the ORM*, René Rutten (ING)
- 21 May. *Double Bars, Inner Disks, and Fossil Nuclear Rings: The Strange and Complex Interiors of Barred Galaxies*, Peter Erwin (IAC)
- 16 May. *The surface of icy minor planets: trans-neptunian objects, Centaurs, comet nuclei, and trojan asteroids*, Javier Licandro (CGG & TNG)
- 23 April. *Binary subdwarf-B stars and the origin of Extreme Horizontal Branch stars*, Pierre Maxted (Keele Univ.)
- 25 March. *Adaptive optics developments on Mauna Kea, Hawaii*, Chris Benn (ING)
- 21 March. *Lyman-break galaxies: Are they forming bulges?* Sam Rix (IoA Cambridge)