



*Sourcing and Communicating
Astronomical Narratives -
A Role for the IAU?*

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Rockport, MA Public Schools
and

The Galactic Inquirer
(<http://galacticinquirer.net>)

IAU Division C Meeting, Honolulu, HI
7 August 2015

Current IAU Communications



- Highlights and Transactions
- Symposium Proceedings
- Information Bulletins
- Member Directory
- E-newsletter: including press releases – esp. public contests, events (GAs, Symposia, Administrative dates and deadlines).



➔ By/For IAU Astronomers.

Current IAU Communications (cont'd)



IAU Astronomy Outreach Newsletter

- ❖ Programs – e.g. IYA, Cosmic Light, HST's 25th year projects.
 - ❖ Announcements – e.g. contests, lecture series, upcoming meetings, and E&PO resources.
- By/for the education & public outreach (E&PO) community.



Current IAU Communications (cont'd)

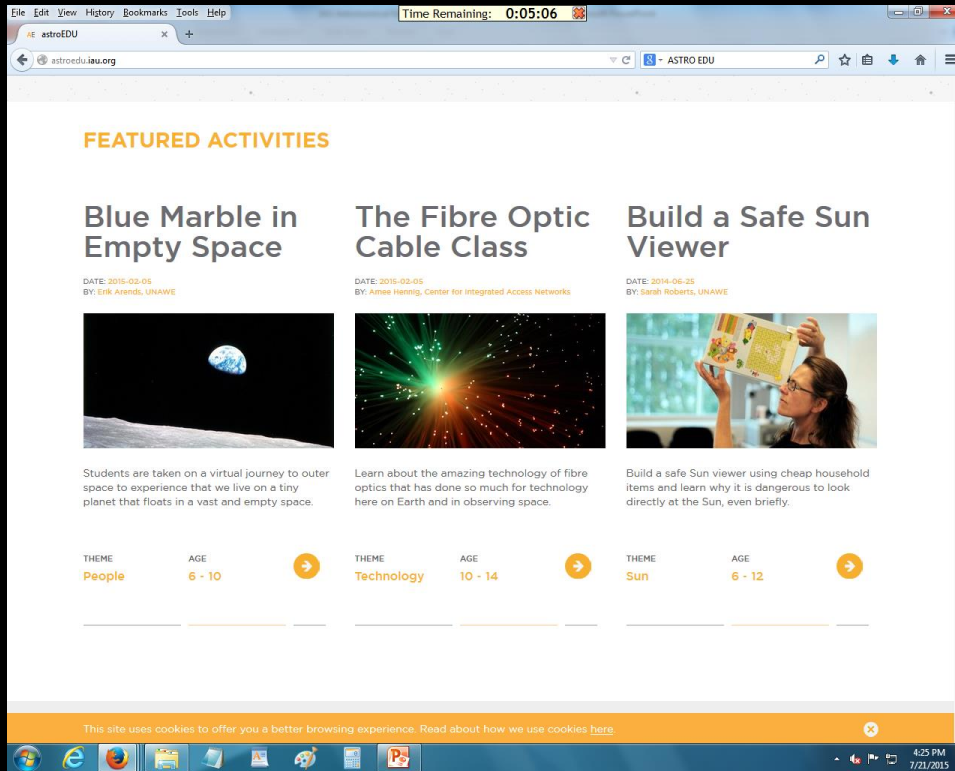


Communicating Astronomy with the Public (CAP) Journal

❖ contains articles, activities, and resources in E&PO.

➔ By/for the public outreach community in astronomy.

Current IAU Communications (cont'd)



ASTRO EDU

❖ Contains classroom activities and other resources.

➔ By/for the astronomy education community.

Current IAU Communications (cont'd)

IAU DIRECTORY FOR WORLD ASTRONOMY

SEARCH FOR ASTRONOMICAL ORGANISATIONS
Find the nearest one around you!

ORGANISATIONS EVENTS COMING SOON

Find Club, Research Centre, Observatory ...etc

All Locations

Professional Astronomical Bodies Public Astronomical Organisations Astronomy-Interested Organisations

KEY BENEFITS OF JOINING US

As PUBLIC ASTRONOMICAL ORGANIZATIONS, you can ...

PROMOTE your events

PARTICIPATE in IAU campaigns

INCREASE your exposure

REGISTER NOW!

NEWS The registration deadline for NameExoWorlds contest is Dec 31, 2014

RECENT ADDITIONS

HAZAKI NAOJ National Astronomical Observatory of Japan Japan, Tokyo

TAKAHASHI ASTRONOMY CLUB Nepal, Kathmandu

HAUS DER ASTRONOMIE Germany, Heidelberg

HAUS DER ASTRONOMIE - Center for Astronomy Education and Outreach

COSMIC LIGHT IAU

SEE ALL ORGANISATIONS >

IAU Directory for World Astronomy
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Follow the IAU on social media

IAU Directory for World Astronomy

❖ Contains listings of astronomy-related organizations.

➔ By/for the professional and amateur astronomy communities.

Current IAU Communications (cont'd)



Portal to the Universe

An outgrowth of the IYA, *Portal to the Universe* provides a “one-stop shopping center” of aggregated and curated news, press releases, and blogs relating to astronomy.

(see <http://portaltotheuniverse.org>)

Proposed IAU Communications

ASTRO TALES

(or similar title):



- ❖ A vetted source for general-interest narratives on various astronomical topics ...
- ❖ ...research programs & findings, educational endeavors, reflective essays, and memoirs.
- ➔ Original content by IAU members for the greater astronomical community and curious public.

Proposed IAU Communications (cont'd)

PROFILES IN ASTRONOMY

(or similar title):

- ❖ Autobiographical narratives – information and insights that go well-beyond the IAU Directory, LinkedIn, CVs, Astro-ph, etc.
- ❖ Forums featuring science communicators and their astronomical stories.
- ➔ By IAU members for the astronomical community and curious public.



Proof of Concept: *The Galactic Inquirer*

(<http://galacticinquirer.net>)

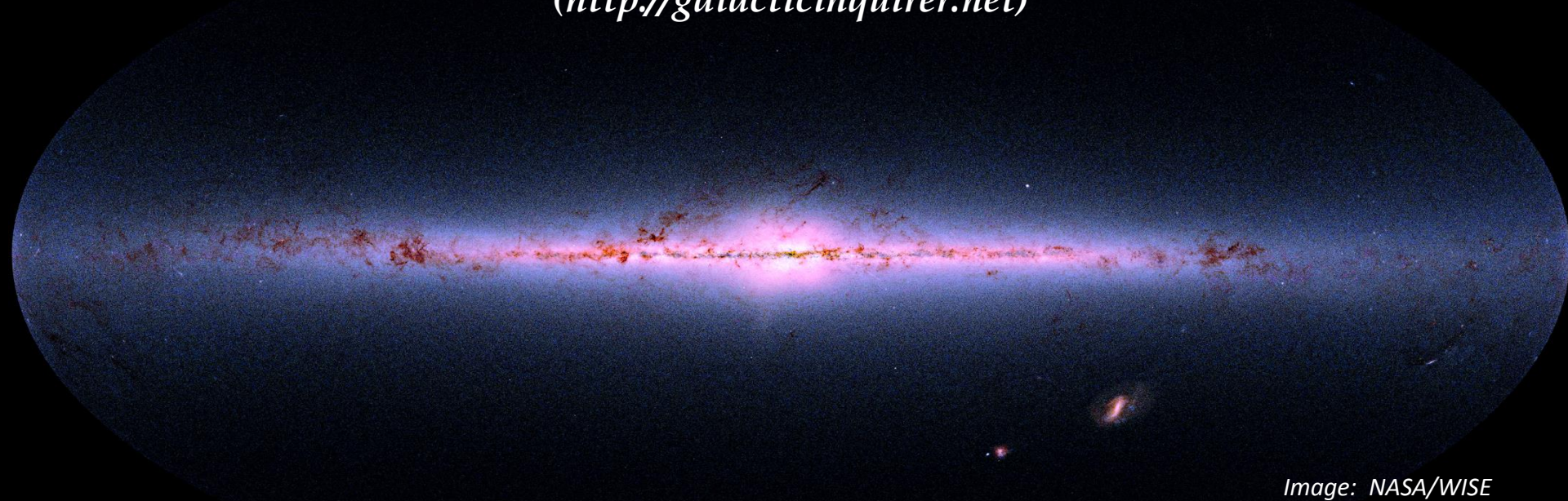


Image: NASA/WISE

A free online journal and forum for people interested in ...

- galactic and extragalactic astronomy
- cosmochemistry and astrobiology
- interstellar communications

Get involved! We are currently seeking well-written non-technical articles, commentaries, profiles, and photo essays. Contact info@galacticinquirer.net.

Proof of Concept (cont'd)

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Image Credit: NASA/ESA, G. Bica et al. (STScI), Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/NASA)

Featured Articles

Jayant Murthy
The Worlds of Isaac Asimov: Modeling Kalgash
Bruce Lazarus
Musical Explorations of the Messier Catalogue of Star Clusters and Nebulae
David Levy
The Magic of Comet Hunting

Welcome to The Galactic Inquirer — an e-journal for those interested in galactic and extragalactic astronomy, the search for life beyond Earth, and prospects for interstellar communications. This journal is co-edited by Michael Deneen and William H. Waller — galactic astronomers, educators and writers. The Galactic Inquirer invites original articles, commentaries, papers, and presentations on...

- Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy
- Cosmochemistry and Astrobiology
- Interstellar Communications

Please contact us with your proposals.

Dr. William H. Waller is author of *The Milky Way — An Insider's Guide* (Princeton University Press, 2012) and co-author with Paul W. Hodge of *Galaxies and the Cosmic Frontier* (Harvard University Press, 2003). Dr. Michael Deneen is a founder and sometime Chair of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club; he has authored a number of articles on amateur astronomy and on 18th & 19th century British literature. He teaches at Endicott College in Beverly, MA.

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Proof of Concept (cont'd)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Browser Interface:** File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, Help. Address bar: galacticinquirer.net/article_category/cosmochemistry-and-astrobiology/. Search bar and navigation icons are present.
- Navigation Bar:** Most Visited, Yahoo!, Facebook, Dictionary, Wikipedia, TWC Weather, Hulu, Netflix, Gordon Research Con...
- Article 1: "How the Earth Got its Water"**
 - Author: William H. Waller Ph.D.
 - Date: May 6, 2015 · *Cosmochemistry and Astrobiology*
 - Image: A portrait of William H. Waller.
 - Text: "Water has been identified in the most uncanny of places – as vapors in the nebulae that roam our Milky Way Galaxy, as ices in the protoplanetary disks that surround many protostars, and as liquids below the icy crusts of the Jovian moons Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. In 2005, the Cassini spacecraft imaged geysers of liquid water erupting from the surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus. The liquid form of water is especially important to biotic processes, as it provides an essential solvent for making the sundry hookups and energy transfers that are necessary to life."
- Article 2: "Extraterrestrial Anthropomorphism: Hollywood's Sci-fi Revolution"**
 - Author: Ayan Purkayastha
 - Date: September 14, 2014 · *Cosmochemistry and Astrobiology*
 - Image: A portrait of Ayan Purkayastha.
 - Text: "Perhaps because of their tremendous popularity, Hollywood's sci-fi films have exerted a powerful influence on our psyches – piquing our curiosity and igniting our imagination regarding life beyond Earth."
- Article 3: "The Search for Extraterrestrial Life, and Extraterrestrial Intelligence"**
 - Author: Martin Annis
 - Date: February 28, 2014 · *Cosmochemistry and Astrobiology*
 - Image: A photo of Martin Annis in a red jacket.
- Right Sidebar:** A vertical list of colorful tags including: Astrobiology, Atmosphere, Carbon, Cepheid, CETI, Comets, Cosmological, Constant, Dark, Energy, Dark Matter, DNA, Earth, Emr, Enceladus, Europa, Exoplanets, Glycoaldehyde, H2O, Heavy Elements, Hubble, Constant, Light, Pollution, Messier, Milky Way, Open, Clusters, Orbits, Oxygen, PAHs, RNA, SciFi, SETI, Supernova, Titan, Via, Voyager.
- Video Player:** "GAAC Presents Robert Naeye on Saturn's Moons". The player shows a video frame with text: "Active water on Enceladus. Hot spots at tiger stripes and at the south pole." It includes a play button, a "share" icon, a "pop out" icon, and a progress bar at 00:00.
- Bottom Bar:** "GAAC Presents Small Telescopes: Glenn".
- Taskbar:** Windows Start button, open applications: Cosmoche..., Inbox (2,8...), Galactic Inq..., M_Barazon..., Microsoft P..., ann14045a..., system tray with icons and time 4:08 PM.

Proof of Concept (cont'd)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Interface:** File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, Help. Address bar: galacticinquirer.net/article_category/profiles/. Search bar.
- Page Header:** The Galactic Inquirer. Home · Contact Us.
- Navigation Menu:** Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy, Cosmochemistry and Astrobiology, Interstellar Communications, Profiles in Astronomy.
- Main Content:**
 - Profiles in Astronomy and Related Sciences**
 - Bruce Lazarus**
July 23, 2015 · Profiles in Astronomy and Related Science
 -  **BUILD YOUR PROFILE FOR POSTERITY**
 - Profiles in Astronomy and Related Sciences**
 - William H. Waller**
July 18, 2015 · Profiles in Astronomy and Related Science
 -  **BUILD YOUR PROFILE FOR POSTERITY**
- Right Sidebar (Topic List):**
 - Andromeda, Arecibo, Asimov
 - Astrobiology, Atmosphere
 - Carbon, Cepheid, CETI, Comets
 - Cosmological, Constant, Dark Energy
 - Dark Matter, DNA, Earth, Emr
 - Enceladus, Europa, Exoplanets
 - Glycoaldehyde, H2O, Heavy
 - Elements, Hubble, Constant, Kuiper Belt
 - Light, Pollution, Messier, Milky
 - Way, Open, Clusters, Orbits
 - Oxygen, PAHs, Pluto, RNA, SciFi
 - SETI, Supernova, Titan, Via
 - Voyager
- Footer:** GAAC Presents Robert Naeye on Saturn's Moons

Next Steps?

- E-mail “williamhwaller@gmail.com” to request profile questionnaire.
- ➔ Complete as you see fit and send back for posting at *The Galactic Inquirer*.

- Submit any general-interest astronomical narratives to “williamhwaller@gmail.com” for editing and posting at *The Galactic Inquirer*.

Next Steps?

- Discuss among your colleagues the prospects for IAU Division C and/or the Office of Astronomy Outreach (OAO) sourcing and communicating original general-interest astronomical narratives by IAU members for the greater astronomical community and curious public.