

FOREWORD

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The annual meeting of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (*Soci t  Fran aise d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique* - SF2A), nicknamed *Journ es* or *Semaine de l’Astrophysique*, is an absolute must in the landscape of French Astronomy. The XXXVIth session, hosted by the *Centre de Recherche Astrophysique de Lyon* from June 14 to 17 did not depart from the tradition.

These *Journ es* were very well attended with about 286 registered professional astronomers and astrophysicists (and many unregistered colleagues!), who participated in plenary sessions organized by the SF2A and 14 workshops organized by the scientific committees of the *Programmes Nationaux* (PN) and *Actions Sp cifiques* (AS) of INSU-CNRS, as well as the community.

The talks were exciting and well received. The discussions were very lively and often continued well into the coffee breaks. During the plenary sessions, scientific reviews focused on outstanding scientific results (such as the new messengers, i.e. gravitational waves and neutrinos). Our special guest, the German *Astronomische Gesellschaft* (AG) represented by Joachim Wambsgann β , emphasized the similarities between our two societies.

Other general talks led to topical discussions on the organization and the future of French astronomical research in the fast moving national and international environment. In particular, Denis Mourard (INSU) provided the community with a thorough overview of our observing infrastructures. Fran ois Menard convincingly promoted the *Unit  Mixte Internationale* based in Chile. Michel Marcelin gave a review of the CoNRS section 17 activities during the last 4 years.

A large number of SF2A members attended the General Assembly where the annual activity and financial reports of our Society were presented by the president and treasurer of the SF2A Council, resp. H. Wozniak and A. Palacios. According to SF2A rules, half the board members have been changed. The new elected members are: Olivier Bern , Fabrice Herpin, Eric Lagadec, Ariane Lan on, Fran ois Lique, and Paola di Matteo.

Several new features were introduced in 2016. After the successful experiment last year, we opened the meeting to four workshops organized by the community, in reply to a call of opportunity (S03, S05, S06, and S10 workshops). A gender–lunch meetings was scheduled on Tuesday, whereas the AUDDAS (*Association Unissant les Doctorants en Astrophysique*, <http://auddas.fr/>) organized a successful experiment–happening event in the evening.

A key moment of these *Journ es* was the prize ceremony (and buffet) in the splendid *Terrasses du Parc*. The laureates of the SF2A Young Researcher prizes were Laur ne Jouve (IRAP) and Fr d ric Bournaud (CEA). Corinne Charbonnel (Geneva) and Eric Emsellem (ESO) delivered vibrant speeches for the recipients. Sandrine Codis (IAP and now CITA) was presented with the Thesis prize by F. Bernardeau (IAP). We warmly thank the long–term sponsors of these prizes, EdP Sciences and the Exelis company for their continuing interest in our science and support to our Society. For the first time, DELL supported the two Young Researcher prizes. We want here to warmly thank M. Pascal Deliv r , from the DELL company, for his enthusiastic support and presence in Lyon. We sincerely hope that this partnership can be renewed next year.

All along the *Journ es* a number of social, outreach, and cultural events were organized. The SF2A Prize *D couvrir l’Univers* sponsored by EdP Sciences aimed at promoting astronomy among children and young

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students. Three classrooms were awarded the prize during a special ceremony held in the *Planétarium de Vaux-en-Velin* which offered a party and a planetarium session to the winners. On Tuesday, Cathy Quentin-Nataf (LGL) gave a public conference in a packed auditorium of the *Musée des Confluences*, entitled “*Chroniques Martiennes*” (The Martian Chronicles).

Another exceptional event took place in the *Musée des Confluences*: the SF2A board decided, almost one year ago, to award the special (and rare) prize *Science et Société* to Alexandre Astier, a well-known French writer, director, editor, scriptwriter, humorist, actor and composer (no less), for his excellent comic show “L’Exoconférence” (The Exo-conference). This show demolishes many weird unphysical theories (on cosmogony and UFOs for instance). But this Exoconference is definitively an act of vulgarisation, done by a non-specialist but well advised showman, that may improved the perception of science by a large public.

The venue of these *Journées* was made possible through a number of sponsoring organizations: the INSU-CNRS, the CNES, the Service d’Astrophysique du CEA/DSM/IRFU and the LabEx “Lyons Institute of Origins”. PN and AS of INSU-CNRS have supported the organization of the workshops. We are extremely grateful to the Observatoire des Sciences de l’Univers de Lyon and the University of Lyon for assisting and hosting the *Journées*.

The success of the meeting hinged on the efforts of many people. The Local Organizing Committee was led by Johan Richard and consisted of the further members : Mylène François, Marie-Hélène Lassalle, Emmanuel Pécontal, Laurence Tresse (CRAL director), Isabelle Vauglin, Stéphanie Vigner, Caroline Vilatte. Their fool-proof enthusiasm for preparing this event was undoubtedly a great part of the success. Thanks also to the SF2A board, acting as Scientific Organizing Committee, for its active contribution, and to the editors of these proceedings.

In conclusion the success of these XXXVIth *Journées*, which brought together colleagues from all branches of astrophysics, was overwhelming, so that we feel encouraged to think of the organization of the next conference, in Paris, in 2017. And the next one... and the next one...

Hervé Wozniak, President of the SF2A