

PREFACE

The Fifth Meeting of Dynamical Astronomy in Latin America (ADeLA-2012) took place in La Plata, Argentina (19–23 March 2012) hosted by the Facultad de Ciencias Astronómicas y Geofísicas of Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

The scientific organizing committee included Carlos Abad (Venezuela), Christine Allen (Mexico), William van Altena (USA), Felicitas Arias (France), René Méndez (Chile), José Luis Muiños (Spain), Rosa Orellana (Argentina), and Ramachrisna Teixeira (Brazil). The local organizing committee, chaired by Rosa Orellana, included Iván Bustos, Jesús H. Calderón, Daniel Carpintero, and Ma. Silvina De Biasi.

Nearly 60 astronomers from most Latin American nations contributed to ADeLA-2012 with invited talks and presentations in the fields of astrometry, celestial mechanics, galactic and stellar dynamics, stellar systems, artificial satellites, space debris and time scales. Also this time ADeLA welcomed a number of students, and offered them the opportunity to approach the state-of-the art in dynamical astronomy over the continent.

In view of the recent developments in time keeping a session was devoted to time scales. Special interest on the revision of the definition of Coordinated Universal Time that is under consideration at the International Telecommunication Union, motivated the organization of a panel discussion on the future of the international time scale, with the participation of specialists from organizations and institutes developing activities related to time keeping.

In connection with the meeting a public lecture on the origin of the Universe was given by Jesús M. Calderón.

We are grateful to the “ADeListas” for their contribution to the success of ADeLA-2012. Our sincere thanks to the members of the local organizing committee for ensuring a smooth run of the meeting. Our gratitude is also due to the sponsoring institutions (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica, Municipalidad de La Plata, Grupo Asegurador Rivadavia and Show Office), whose support made possible the realization of the conference, and to the Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico for support for the publication of these proceedings.

Christine Allen, Felicitas Arias, and Rosa Orellana
Editors of the Proceedings