

CHILE

DAHLEM, Michael (D), Operations Staff Astronomer
DELSANTI, Audrey (F), Student
FAURE, Cécile (F), Student
ZALTRON, Paolo (I), Associate

Local Staff (1 September – 30 November 2002)

ARRIVALS

CANIGUANTE BARCO, Luis Alejandro, Electronic Engineer
HENRIQUE LEON, Juan Pablo, Mechanical Technician

Manfred Ziebell Retires



It's hard to believe, but by the end of November, Manfred's sounding footsteps will no longer be heard at ESO Garching.

Manfred initiated his engineering career at ESO when the 3.6-m telescope was in the design phase and had to be brought into a reality. New servo controls, positioning systems, communication protocols were his lot; a time when ESO struggled to reach its autonomous design maturity. Manfred proved to be a key figure for the future technological challenges.

Faced with a jungle of technical initiatives, he managed to develop electronic standards that merged successfully into the VLT design.

Manfred assembled design and support teams for the telescope and the instrumentation controls. Convincing rather than imposing was his style, a style that was very much appreciated and highly respected by his colleagues.

Service-minded, he became a paradigm of support endeavours, by solving technical problems, contractual issues and human relations. He was ready to tackle any issue, including Hausmeister and safety functions.

Problems? Ask Manfred!

Manfred was on the phone with Chile or... in Chile!

The VLT encoding units failed? Manfred was already negotiating alternatives!

As Head of the Technical Division, he established a support culture that placed ESO on the trail to success.

Manfred's hurried and sounding steps will be missed at ESO.

"Un hombre de primeras aguas, ahora otras aguas lo esperan"

Daniel Hofstadt

Thirty-Seven Years of Service with ESO!



On December 1st, 2002, after thirty-seven years of service, first in Chile and then in Garching, Ms. Christa Euler will leave ESO to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Among the current staff, she is probably the only person who started her career at ESO just four years after the Organization was founded.

Christa joined ESO Chile on April 1st, 1966, at the time when Prof. Heckmann was Director General. In these early days she was responsible for all secretarial work in the Santiago

office, which was first located in the Guesthouse before moving to the Vitacura building. Three years later, upon the arrival of Prof. B.E. Westerlund, she took over the post of secretary to the ESO Director in Chile. With the exception of a ten-month period spent in the Personnel Department in Hamburg, she held this position until mid-1976. Her definitive move to ESO Europe took place in September 1976. At the newly installed Headquarters in Garching, she took up

LEIVA BECERRA, Alfredo, Instrumentation Engineer
ROA FIGUEROA, Luis, Mechanical Technician
ROJAS CHANAMPA, Chester, Instrument Technician
TORRES ZAMORANO, Manuel, Maintenance Electronic Technician

DEPARTURES

ALVAREZ CASTELLON, Pedro,
Precision Mechanic
CASTRO CASTRO, Wilson, Mechanic
MIRANDA MANRIQUEZ, Marcela,
Administrative Secretary

duty in the Visiting Astronomers' Section then headed by Dr. A.B. Muller.

During the twenty-six years that Christa worked in this Section, apart from being the key person whose diligence was much appreciated by all the astronomers having to travel to Chile, she has – among many other things – very efficiently handled over 20,000 observing proposals, and organized about fifty OPC meetings, including the corresponding "exclusive" OPC dinners. Today, her name is familiar to most European astronomers as well as to many others overseas, as demonstrated by the numerous expressions of heartfelt gratitude received for the farewell booklet that was presented to her on November 28, on the occasion of the OPC dinner, which was held in her honour.

Friends, colleagues and astronomers will certainly miss Christa Euler. We wish her all the best for the years to come.

Jacques Breysacher

New ESO Proceedings

The Proceedings of the Topical Meeting, held in Venice from 7 to 10 May 2001

Beyond Conventional Adaptive Optics

(ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings No. 58)

have now been published. The price for the 490-page volume, edited by E. Vernet, R. Ragazzoni, S. Esposito and N. Hubin, is € 50.– (prepayment required).

Payments should be made to the ESO bank account 2102 002 with Commerzbank München (BLZ 700 400 41, S.W.I.F.T. Code: COBADEFF 700) or by cheque, addressed to the attention of

ESO, Financial Services, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching bei München, Germany

ESO Workshop Proceedings Still Available

Many ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings are still available and may be ordered at the European Southern Observatory. Some of the more recent ones are listed below.

No.	Title	Price
45	ESO/EIPC Workshop "Structure, Dynamics and Chemical Evolution of Elliptical Galaxies", 1993	€ 45.–
46	Second ESO/CTIO Workshop on "Mass Loss on the AGB and Beyond", 1993	€ 35.–
47	5th ESO/ST-ECF Data Analysis Workshop, 1993	€ 15.–
48	ICO-16 Satellite Conference on "Active and Adaptive Optics", 1994	€ 45.–
49	ESO/OHP Workshop on "Dwarf Galaxies", 1994	€ 45.–
50	ESO/OAT Workshop "Handling and Archiving Data from Ground-based Telescopes", 1994	€ 20.–
51	Third CTIO/ESO Workshop on "The Local Group: Comparative and Global Properties", 1995	€ 25.–
52	European SL-9/Jupiter Workshop, 1995	€ 40.–

ESO, the European Southern Observatory, was created in 1962 to "... establish and operate an astronomical observatory in the southern hemisphere, equipped with powerful instruments, with the aim of furthering and organising collaboration in astronomy..." It is supported by ten countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. ESO operates at two sites in the Atacama desert region of Chile. The new Very Large Telescope (VLT), the largest in the world, is located on Paranal, a 2,600 m high mountain approximately 130 km south of Antofagasta, in the driest part of the Atacama desert where the conditions are excellent for astronomical observations. The VLT consists of four 8.2-metre diameter telescopes. These telescopes can be used separately, or in combination as a giant interferometer (VLTI). At La Silla, 600 km north of Santiago de Chile at 2,400 m altitude, ESO operates several optical telescopes with diameters up to 3.6 m and a submillimetre radio telescope (SEST). Over 1300 proposals are made each year for the use of the ESO telescopes. The ESO headquarters are located in Garching, near Munich, Germany. This is the scientific, technical and administrative centre of ESO where technical development programmes are carried out to provide the Paranal and La Silla observatories with the most advanced instruments. There are also extensive astronomical data facilities. ESO employs about 320 international staff members, Fellows and Associates in Europe and Chile, and about 160 local staff members in Chile.

The ESO MESSENGER is published four times a year: normally in March, June, September and December. ESO also publishes Conference Proceedings, Preprints, Technical Notes and other material connected to its activities. Press Releases inform the media about particular events. For further information, contact the ESO Education and Public Relations Department at the following address:

EUROPEAN
SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching bei München
Germany
Tel. (089) 320 06-0
Telefax (089) 3202362
ips@eso.org (internet)
URL: <http://www.eso.org>
<http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/pubs/messenger/>

The ESO Messenger:
Editor: Peter Shaver
Technical editor: Kurt Kjær

Printed by
Universitätsdruckerei
WOLF & SOHN
Heidemannstr. 166
D-80939 München
Germany

ISSN 0722-6691

No.	Title	Price
53	ESO/ST-ECF Workshop on "Calibrating and understanding HST and ESO instruments", Garching, Germany. P. Benvenuti (ed.)	€ 30.-
54	Topical Meeting on "Adaptive Optics", October 2-6, 1995, Garching, Germany. M. Cullum (ed.)	€ 40.-
55	NICMOS and the VLT. A New Era of High Resolution Near Infrared Imaging and Spectroscopy. Pula, Sardinia, Italy, May 26-27, 1998	€ 40.-
56	ESO/OSA Topical Meeting on "Astronomy with Adaptive Optics - Present Results and Future Programs". Sonthofen, Germany, September 7-11, 1999. D. Bonaccini (ed.)	€100.-
57	Bäckaskog Workshop on "Extremely Large Telescopes". Bäckaskog, Sweden, June 1-2, 1999. T. Andersen, A. Ardeberg, R. Gilmozzi (eds.)	€ 30.-

Contents

TELESCOPES AND INSTRUMENTATION

L. Pasquini et al.: Installation and Commissioning of FLAMES, the VLT Multifibre Facility	1
F. Pepe, M. Mayor, G. Rupprecht: HARPS: ESO's Coming Planet Searcher. Chasing Exoplanets with the La Silla 3.6-m Telescope	9
K. Kuijken et al.: OmegaCAM: the 16k×16k CCD Camera for the VLT Survey Telescope	15
A. Glindemann: The VLTI - 20 Months after First Fringes	18
B. Koehler, C. Flebus, P. Dierickx, M. Dimmler, M. Duchateau, P. Duhoux, G. Ehrenfeld, E. Gabriel, P. Gloesener, V. Heinz, R. Karban, M. Kraus, J.M. Moresmau, N. Ninane, O. Pirnay, E. Quertemont, J. Strasser, K. Wirenstrand: The Auxiliary Telescopes for the VLTI: a Status Report	21
Roberto Gilmozzi and Jason Spyromilio: Paranal Observatory - 2002	28
O. Hainaut: News from La Silla: Science Operations Department	30
Two unusual views of La Silla	31

REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS

N.C. Santos, M. Mayor, D. Queloz, S. Udry: Extra-Solar Planets	32
I. Labbé, M. Franx, E. Daddi, G. Rudnick, P.G. van Dokkum, A. Moorwood, N.M. Förster Schreiber, H.-W. Rix, P. van der Werf, H. Röttgering, L. van Starckenburg, A. van de Wel, I. Trujillo, and K. Kuijken: FIREs: Ultradeep Near-Infrared Imaging with ISAAC of the Hubble Deep Field South	38

OTHER ASTRONOMICAL NEWS

M. Kissler-Patig: Summary of the Workshop on Extragalactic Globular Cluster Systems hosted by the European Southern Observatory in Garching on August 27-30, 2002	42
A. Glindemann: The VLTI: Challenges for the Future. Workshop at Jenam 2002 in Porto	44
P. Shaver and E. Van Dishoek: Summary of a Meeting on Science Operations with ALMA, held on Friday, 8 November 2002	44
C. Madsen: Celebrating ESO's 40th Anniversary	45
C. Madsen: Breaking the Ground for the European Research Area - The Conference 'European Research 2002'	46
A Nobel Prize for Riccardo Giacconi	47
Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Chile and ESO for Establishing a New Centre for Observation in Chile - ALMA	48
Sara Ellison: Eighty Nights Up a Mountain	48

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Announcement of an ESO Workshop on High-Resolution Spectroscopy in Astronomy	50
ESO Workshop on Large Programmes and Public Surveys	50
Personnel Movements	50
Daniel Hofstadt: Manfred Ziebell Retires	51
Jacques Breysacher: Christa Euler - Thirty-Seven Years of Service with ESO!	51
New ESO Proceedings	51
ESO Workshop Proceedings Still Available	51