

## **DIVISION XII**

## **UNION-WIDE ACTIVITIES**

### *ACTIVITÉS D'INTÉRÊT GÉNÉRAL DE L'UAI*

Division XII consists of Commissions that formerly were organized under the Executive Committee, that concern astronomers across a wide range of scientific sub-disciplines and provide interactions with scientists in a wider community, including governmental organizations, outside the IAU.

#### **PRESIDENT**

**Malcolm G. Smith**

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Françoise Genova**

#### **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Johannes Andersen**

#### **BOARD**

**Steven R. Federman, Alan C. Gilmore,  
Il-Seong Nha, Raymond P. Norris,  
Ian E. Robson, Magda G. Stavinschi,  
Virginia L. Trimble, Richard J. Wainscoat,  
Lars Lindberg Christensen**

#### **DIVISION XII COMMISSIONS**

##### **Commission 5**

**Documentation and Astronomical Data**

##### **Commission 6**

**Astronomical Telegrams**

##### **Commission 14**

**Atomic and Molecular Data**

##### **Commission 41**

**History of Astronomy**

##### **Commission 46**

**Astronomy Education and Development**

##### **Commission 50**

**Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory  
Sites**

##### **Commission 55**

**Communicating Astronomy with the Public**

#### **INTER-DIVISION X-XII WORKING GROUP**

**Inter-Division X-XII WG Historic Radio Astronomy**

### **TRIENNIAL REPORT 2006 - 2009**

#### **1. Introduction**

After the addition of Commission 55 at the IAU XXVI General Assembly in Prague, 2006, Division XII now consists of seven IAU Commissions. The first six had remained outside the IAU Division structure when it was created in 1994, because their activities did not fit comfortably into any of the eleven initial Divisions which are organised by scientific or technical discipline.

The activities of these seven Commissions cut across the full range of scientific sub-disciplines – comets to cosmology – but also deal with important policy interfaces to the outside world which are important for astronomy and for the IAU as a whole – e.g., data access rights, science education and outreach, and protection of the environment. Recognising this unifying theme, the IAU XXV General Assembly created Division XII during

its meetings in Sydney, 2003, on the proposal of the Executive Committee. Light pollution control is an example of one of the Division's Commissions at work (Commission 50) and is currently featured in the 'Themes' highlighted on the IAU home page <[www.iau.org](http://www.iau.org)>. The 'Themes' section comprises 'the most popular topics in astronomy and most frequently asked questions that the IAU Press Office has received over the years'. The work of Commission 55 is a particularly significant, Union-Wide activity during the *International Year of Astronomy 2009*, along with the underpinning role of Commission 46 and its Program Groups. The *IYA* also offers a special opportunity to showcase the work of Commission 41. For more on the *IYA2009*, visit <[www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)>.

For further details of Division activities, visit the Division XII web site <<http://www.iaudivisionxii.org/>>.

## 2. Reports of Commissions and Working Groups

The detailed reports and projected activities, for the period September 2006 - August 2009, of most of the above-listed individual Commissions, along with with those of their Working Groups and Programme Groups, follow below. These include a variety of conferences and meeting activities. An effort has been made to cross-fertilize the efforts of Commissions 41, 45, 50 and 55 in their support activities for *IYA2009*, following the lead of the IAU Executive Committee Working Group.

Malcolm G. Smith  
*president of the Division*