

# The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

Year 8

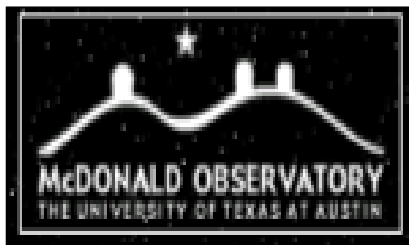
April 2004

## UNIVERSO: Pioneering Radio Program Enters 10th Year

The most widely aired Spanish-language science program on radio began its 10th year on April 1. Universo, which is a production of The University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory, airs on about 175 stations in the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and several other countries.



The daily two-minute programs, which are the Spanish version of the popular StarDate series, tell listeners what to look for in the night sky. They also cover recent astronomical discoveries, space missions, and Earth's place in the cosmos. Universo places a special emphasis on the work of Hispanic astronomers in the United States and elsewhere, and on the rich starlore and sky observations of Mesoamerican cultures, with particular emphasis on the Maya, Aztecs, and Inca. Writer and producer Damond Benningfield is always interested in suggestions for script topics; contact him at [damond@stardate.org](mailto:damond@stardate.org). The program is recorded at Etcom, Inc., in El Paso. Teresa de la Cruz has been the announcer since the program began. Paul Castro is associate producer and Ignacio Acosta is the audio engineer.



The panel of technical reviewers includes Dr. Jorge Lopez, Dr. Carmen Pantoja, and Dr. Gustavo Ponce. Program scripts, audio, and much more astronomy information in Spanish are offered on the Universo Online web site, [radiouniverso.org](http://radiouniverso.org). With grant funding from the National Science Foundation, Universo first aired on April 1, 1995. The program continues to seek funding to cover production and distribution expenses as it aims at its 10th anniversary next year.

## Juan Maldacena receives the 2004 APS Bouchet Award

Juan Maldacena will be the recipient of the APS Bouchet Award this year. Maldacena studied at the University of Buenos Aires and at Instituto Balseiro in Bariloche, Argentina receiving a BS in 1988. He received a MS and Ph.D. degrees in 1993 and 1996, respectively, from Princeton University. After being a Research Assistant at Rutgers University, he went to Harvard as a Visiting Professor, an Associate Professor and became a Professor of Physics in 1999. Today, he is a Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. In the past he has received the MacArthur Fellowship, the Sloan Fellowship, Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering, the UNESCO Husein Prize for Young Scientists, the Sackler Prize in Physics, and the Xanthopoulos Prize in General Relativity.



Maldacena's work focuses on string theory and on the relation of the large N limit of gauge theories and gravity.

**NSHP congratulates one of our own: ¡Felicidades Juan!**

## Research Profile: Miguel Castro and Gildardo Rivas



Miguel Castro Colin is a new Ph.D as of 12/2003. Miguel earned his PhD from the U. of Houston with a study of "Modulation of the Amorphous Structure of SiO<sub>2</sub> over (001)" supervised by Dr. S. Moss. Miguel currently holds a postdoctoral position at U. Houston.

Gildardo Rivas earned his Ph.D. on 3/2004 at the U. of Washington, Seattle, with the study "Ab initio calculations of X-ray and UV absorption spectra and optical constants" supervised by Dr. John J. Rehr

Gildardo is currently looking into possibilities for academic positions at several institutions.



### News you can use

#### University of South Carolina Fellowship



The University of South Carolina (USC), in Columbia, S.C. encourages Hispanics to apply to the Graduate Assistantship in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship for physics students. These fellowships provide up to a maximum of \$21,500 stipend. They also include an institutional allowance. These fellowships are for graduate studies toward the Ph.D. The students must be USA citizens or legal residents. For more information: <http://www.cosm.sc.edu/gaann1.html> or contact Dr. Oscar A. [olopez@sc.edu](mailto:olopez@sc.edu)

#### Faculty and Postdoctoral Positions Centro de Estudios Científicos Valdivia, Chile



The Department of Biophysics and Molecular Physiology of the Centro de Estudios Científicos (a top ranked Chilean scientific center located in Valdivia) invites applications for up to two fulltime faculty positions at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. Independent candidates using mouse molecular genetic approaches to study basic mechanisms involved in normal physiology or disease, preferentially, of the central nervous system are sought. Postdoctoral positions are also available to study the participation of brain-specific genes in complex behaviors such as reward, impulsivity and drug intake utilizing novel conditional mutant mouse models. For more information contact Ramón Latorre ([rlatorre@cecs.cl](mailto:rlatorre@cecs.cl))

#### Biophysical Society Memberships

In order to encourage people to become members of the Biophysical Society, the International Committee announces



new initiatives in their programs. 1) Special fees for students (\$10) from countries under the "low-, lower-middle-, upper-middle-income" according the World Bank. 2) Special fee for the first membership year for the regular category (\$50) for scientific residents of the countries mentioned above. For more information visit: [www.biophysics.org/committees/int-ops.htm](http://www.biophysics.org/committees/int-ops.htm)

#### New Bioscience program at Agencourt

Agencourt Bioscience Corporation is introducing a two-year program, funded by a grant from the National Human



Genome Research Institute. The program is intended to strengthen the graduate school applications of the participants by providing research experience and additional coursework. The trainees will receive a competitive salary and benefits for full-time research at Agencourt under the mentorship of successful Ph.D. scientists, as well as tuition reimbursement and books for graduate-level courses at universities in the Boston/Cambridge area. The program is described in detail on our website. For more information see [http://www.agencourt.com/company/minority\\_training/](http://www.agencourt.com/company/minority_training/) or contact Kimberly Sparks at [ksparks@agencourt.com](mailto:ksparks@agencourt.com).

#### New SOBLA's President elected



The Society of Latin American Biophysicists (SOBLA) has elected Dra. Nancy Carrasco for the position of vice President 2004-2006 and President for the period 2007- 2009. SOBLA 's President is Dr.Mario Amzel. For information on SOBLA contact Dr. Hector Rasgado Flores, [Hector.Flores@finchcms.edu](mailto:Hector.Flores@finchcms.edu).

NSHP Congratulates Dr. Nancy Carrasco and Dr. Mario Amzel, **felicidades!**

**The Hispanic Physicist.** Published whenever there is news and the editor has enough time. Send news, letters, congratulations, etc. to Jorge A. López, Physics Department, Univ. Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave. , El Paso, TX 79968, (915) 747-7538, [jorgelopez@utep.edu](mailto:jorgelopez@utep.edu), <http://physics.utep.edu/nshp/nshp.html>.