

## Announcement

With the start of the first of the large-scale, consortium, ALFA Legacy surveys, the nature of the radio astronomy program supported at the Observatory is changing from one based on support of single investigator science, to one with a significant concentration on support of very long-term, team, research programs. As a consequence, we can expect to see fewer, but much longer, radio astronomy programs on the telescope, many of which will involve several tens of collaborating researchers and students. This is a new research model for Arecibo, and it is also a new model for radio astronomy. Optical/IR astronomy is making a similar transition with major community efforts such as 2MASS and SDSS; the NASA observatories with their emphasis on legacy databases successfully pioneered this research model.

In order to facilitate this transition at Arecibo, I believe it is important for me to focus my efforts on bringing about the community relations and procedural changes that will be necessary to conduct the ALFA legacy programs effectively and at the same time protect the interests of our single-investigator researchers. I am not underestimating the magnitude of this challenge nor of the contentious issues it may bring. I believe the best way to establish sound procedures and minimize difficulties for ourselves and for our user community is for me to work in close consultation with the Observatory astronomy staff developing consensus as to how to proceed on each issue. For this reason, I will relocate to Arecibo and assume the responsibilities of the head of astronomy effective immediately.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Steve Torchinsky for his very successful leadership as head of astronomy and ALFA project manager. Although many people at the Observatory contributed in very significant ways to the success of the ALFA project, Steve's management of the joint effort was the critical element that led to its successful implementation at the time planned and on budget. Steve will continue to serve the Observatory on the astronomy research staff and I look forward to his continued contributions in that role.

With my personal concentration in the future being on the astronomy program in Arecibo, I will need help in maintaining the activities of the NAIC office at Cornell. I am pleased that Martha Haynes has agreed to provide that help by serving as my deputy director. Her responsibilities are to the daily NAIC tasks, to represent the NAIC as needed at Cornell, and to provide a liaison with the Cornell faculty. I appreciate the chance to work with her.

Robert Brown