

the Río Piedras Campus before coming to Arecibo Observatory from the US Patent & Trademark office in Washington, DC where he was a Patent Examiner.



During his ~ 3 years stay, he contributed to the commissioning of new Hydrogen Maser, development of cryogenics maintenance plan, RFI shielding and installation of Penn State 430 Yagi receiver at the Carriage House. Calixto briefly served as the acting Spectrum Manager attending to RFI issues and mitigation efforts. In January 2006, he decided to return to Telecom industry to manage a big project to provide VoIP based communication network to customers across the island. We wish Calixto all the best!

***Bon Voyage to Steve Torchinsky***  
*Chris Salter & Jonathan Friedman*

Steve Torchinsky recently accepted the position of Project Scientist for the European Square Kilometre Array Design Studies (SKADS) effort with the Paris Observatory, and departed from Arecibo in March. Steve served two and a half years as Project Manager for the Arecibo L-band Feed Array (ALFA)



project, seeing the development project through to a highly successful, on-schedule conclusion. He also served nine months as interim Head of the Radio Astronomy, during which time he brought much needed leadership and stability to that department.

Steve's quick perception, natural leadership skills, and his direct and efficient approach to problems were "just what the doctor ordered" when he took over the ALFA project. He required little time to learn how to get things done at Arecibo, and this was reflected in ALFA's rapid progress. Less than a year after his arrival, and following a visit to Australia to conduct acceptance tests on the instrument, he received the 7-feed receiver on site. A month later it was inside the Gregorian Dome and operating. With an NAIC newsletter imminent, he not only succeeded in filling a page with photos of the the ALFA installation, but even included its first light measurements of an HI spectrum (NGC3627) and a pulsar detection (B1133+16). Steve oversaw the initial commissioning and calibration of ALFA, and personally prepared the web pages presenting the instrument and its performance to potential customers.

For the best part of a year Steve held parallel appointments as interim Radio Astronomy Department Head and ALFA Project Manager. He managed the increased workload ably, and was a liked and respected leader of the radio astronomy staff. Afterwards, he continued as an NAIC staff scientist pursuing his own research. Following a three month sabbatical stay at the Paris Observatory over the 2005-06 new year, Steve was offered the SKADS Project Scientist position there, which he duly accepted. In France, he is working on the concept of aperture plane arrays for the European Square Kilometer Array project.

We wish Steve, Valérie, and Patsy all the very best in Paris from us all. We also look forward to their revisiting Arecibo, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

***Bienvenidos Evelyn and Juan***  
*José Cruz*

With the unexpected departure of Ángel David Rodríguez from the operations group last October and the possible

departure of yet another member this year we take great pleasure in announcing the

addition of two new operators joining our department. Mrs. Evelyn Nelson and Mr. Juan Marrero. Evelyn has an associates degree from Harper College, a bachelors degree in mathematics from Northern University and an MS in product development. Evelyn has worked for several companies, Northrop Grumman and Aetna US Healthcare.



Juan Marrero has an associate's degree in electronic engineering technology from the Technological Institute of Puerto Rico. Juan has worked for General Instruments, Motorola, Precision auto and Digital TV One. Please join us in welcoming them.

***Ryan Seal Joins the Staff***  
*Mike Sulzer*

On April 3rd Ryan Seal joined the Electronics Department as a Digital Engineer. AO staff and most visitors already know Ryan. After getting his Bachelors Degree in Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology at the University of Arkansas, he entered the masters program there



and undertook a thesis project involving digital receivers with Professor Julio Urbina. This project brought him to the observatory where he has developed SAS's new digital receiver data-taking machine. He has designed and written software at