

Working Group for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (WGAAC) Triennial Report (2015-2018)

Ed. Steven R. Gullberg

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TRIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2018

The WGAAC was created in 2015. It is the focal point within the IAU for the vigorous research field of "Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture." This field is also serviced by several non-IAU organizations such as ISAAC (International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture), SEAC (European Society for Astronomy in Culture), and SIAC (Sociedad Interamericana de Astronomía Cultural), but the IAU WGAAC builds focus on this area within mainstream astronomy to:

- Promote the research area, and facilitate interactions with other IAU members and groups
- Facilitate interactions between researchers in this field and projects such as SKA, which is actively promoting Indigenous Astronomy in Australia and South Africa to engage the community in the SKA project
- Facilitate interactions between researchers in this field and IAU initiatives in Outreach and in Astronomy for the Developing World
- Facilitate interactions between researchers in this field, such as WG meetings at the IAU GA
- Facilitate engagement in this research area by IAU members who are not currently members of ISAAC, SEAC, or SIAC

As well as facilitating interactions between research in this field and other IAU bodies, we also maintain strong links between the WG and ISAAC, SEAC, and SIAC. The WG additionally promotes archaeoastronomy-advancing dialog and interaction among its members between IAU General Assembly meetings.

The WGAAC planned to have its inaugural meeting at the Honolulu GA in 2015, but this was prevented by the organizational arrangements of that GA. A WGAAC meeting at the 2018 GA in Vienna is now being planned. This meeting will serve as the platform to fully launch the WG and its contributions for the future.

Ray Norris was the WGAAC's first chair and his dedicated efforts created the WG and gave it its start. Steven Gullberg became the new chair in January 2018 and will guide the WG into the

future. A meeting of the WGAAC members at the GA in Vienna will serve to more specifically advance the group's endeavors.

In addition to the aforementioned areas of archaeoastronomical activity, the WG will also devote attention to advancing the field by supporting initiatives that increase the numbers of those engaged in strong research and publication. An effort in this area will be the support of emerging educational programs, one example being the archaeoastronomy graduate level distance-learning degree and certificate programs being developed for global enrollment at the University of Oklahoma by Steven Gullberg and Andrew Munro, with assistance and contributions from many international colleagues. Degree programs such as these will greatly strengthen this emerging field in the future and will facilitate significant advancements in what we know about the astronomy of ancient cultures world-wide.

The emerging discipline of Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture has reached a stage of increasing momentum in its evolution and advancement. The IAU and its WGAAC will continue to play a central role in guiding the further development of this field that is integral to the history of astronomy.

Steven R. Gullberg
Chair of the Working Group