



UNA Northern Ireland

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The United Nations Association Northern Ireland celebrated United Nations Day and the UN International Year of Astronomy (UN IYA) simultaneously. The day-long event reinforced the role and work of the United Nations and highlighted astronomy and its contributions to society and culture.

The Armagh Observatory and the Armagh Planetarium worked with UNA to provide a day for representatives from other UN organisations, including CEWC, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNYSA, as well as UNA members, all of whom are based in Northern Ireland. Representatives were welcomed to Armagh by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gareth Wilson and to the UN IYA by Archbishop Alan Harper, Chairperson of the Board of Governors for the Armagh Observatory and the Armagh Planetarium.

UNA Chairperson, Hilary Sloan, said “Last year UNA held a special event to mark UN Day in Belfast. It is a pleasure to hold the 2009 event in Armagh, to celebrate the work of the United Nations and to mark the UN International Year of Astronomy with the world renowned Armagh Observatory and the Armagh Planetarium. We are also very pleased that representatives from other UN organisations have joined us to mark the day, so that the UN family is well represented.”

The day included tours of the Observatory by Mark Bailey and John McFarland, a talk on the International Year by the Co-ordinator for Ireland, Miruna Popescu, and a showing in the Planetarium of the special year’s film ‘She is an Astronomer’ , introduced by Nigel Farrell.

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