FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

IAU Symposium 286
Comparative Magnetic Minima: Characterizing quiet times in the Sun and Stars
October 3-7, 2011, Mendoza, Argentina

Solar and stellar minima represent times of low magnetic activity and simple helio/asterospheres. They are thus excellent targets for interdisciplinary, system-wide studies of the origins of stellar variability and consequent impacts on planetary systems. The recent solar minimum extended longer and was "quieter" than any we have observed in the Space Age, inspiring both scientific and public interest. A rich variety of satellite and ground-based observations, in conjunction with theoretical and numerical modeling advances, have allowed us to probe the peculiarities of this minimum as never before. The implications are far-reaching, connecting Earth to Sun to stars, radio to X-ray to cosmic rays, and the plethora of observations of recent minima to the Sun's past behavior as preserved in cosmogenic isotopes and historical sunspot and auroral records.

IAU Symposium 286 will enable a comparison of recent results from a wide variety of scientific disciplines. Subjects covered will include:

Solar and stellar magnetic minima: definitions and indicators
Differences between minima: from Stars to Sun to Earth
Sources of cycle variability: dynamos and flux transport processes
Grand minima: origins and implications

The symposium will consist of invited talks, contributed talks, and poster presentations. An IAU Symposium Proceedings will be published after the symposium by the Cambridge University Press.

Further information may be found at: http://iaus286.iafe.uba.ar/

If you are interested in attending and would like to be on a "pre-registration" email list, please send an email with Subject: Pre-registration, to iaus286@iafe.uba.ar

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On behalf of IAU 286 SOC and LOC