

## BAZA - BELGRADE ASTRONOMICAL COMMUNITY DATABASE

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**Abstract.** We present Belgrade astronomical community web site the purpose of which is to provide basic information about students graduated from the Department of Astronomy, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade, as well as about our current students and friends worldwide, and to help them communicating. BAZA (from Serbian: Beogradska Astronomska ZAJednica) is available at <http://alas.matf.bg.ac.yu/~astrobaza/> and <http://astro.matf.bg.ac.yu/baza/>.

The Department of Astronomy of the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Belgrade is the oldest Department offering bachelor, master and PhD studies in Astronomy in Serbia. The first lectures in astronomy were given 125 years ago at the Grand School (the University of Belgrade since 1905). Until 1947 the Chair of Astronomy made part of the Faculty of Philosophy, and later belonged to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1962 two separate study groups were formed: Astronomy and Astrophysics. In the last reorganization in 1995, the Chair of Astronomy became the Department of Astronomy within the Faculty of Mathematics.

So far the total of 242 students have graduated in Astronomy/Astrophysics from the Department of Astronomy (the first one in 1936), 67 students received MSc degree (the first in 1968), 31 students received PhD degree (first in 1958) and 3 students got master degree (300ECTS according to the new ECTS system).

The majority of graduates stayed in the country either teaching astronomy and physics in schools or at universities or working at the Belgrade Astronomical Observatory - the major astronomical institution in the country. Also, many of the students who graduated from the Department enrolled at PhD studies in the USA, Canada and Australia, and as of recently in the EU countries as well. Most of them already completed their studies, continued their research and gained post-doctoral or permanent positions. The professional development of the first 100 graduates from the Department can be found in the paper by Milogradov-Turin (2009).

The Department of Astronomy also has numerous friends - professional astronomers and others, who completed their studies elsewhere, however feel themselves as

part of this big astronomical family scattered all over the world. The Department has always been a place for encounters during their short visits, vacations or on their way to conferences. During these visits one could often hear the idea to create a place, virtual at least, that would enable more frequent meetings.

Finally, on the website of the Faculty of Mathematics, a new website BAZA (**B**eogradska **A**stronomska **Z**Ajednica) at <http://alas.matf.bg.ac.yu/~astrobaza/> and <http://astro.matf.bg.ac.yu/baza/> is created as an informal on-line assembly of astronomers and a database of graduated and undergraduate students of the Department of Astronomy, as well as of all its friends. The purpose of BAZA is to provide basic information about the students of the Department and to help the growing number of astronomers from Serbia around the world and in the country to establish better communication and collaboration and a more efficient exchange of useful professional information (on scientific achievements, meetings, summer schools, grants, graduate or post-doc studies cooperation on scientific or educational projects, observational projects, meetings, various common events,..). Website is created by using PHP, Javascript and HTML. Users are supposed to submit the relevant data about themselves through the form which is offered to them once they had been registered.

We should mention here also several important initiatives of our astronomers trained and proven in scientific research abroad (M. Bogosavljević, M. Filipović, M. Maksimović) who are ready to help in increasing the level and intensity of astronomical research in their home country by organizing science seminars for the students in Serbia.

Therefore, graduate students from the Department of Astronomy of the Faculty of Mathematics in Belgrade make the skeleton of BAZA, but BAZA is also supposed to join all professional astronomers whose origin is from the country, who live either here or aboard, as well as all undergraduates students.

An information about BAZA and an invitation to participate in this endeavor was sent to all those whose e-mail addresses were collected before the XV National Conference of Astronomers of Serbia, a nice opportunity for a real (non-virtual) gathering.

### References

- Bogosavljević, M.: 2006, *Reviving Astronomy in the Balkans: The Why and the How*, California Institute of Technology.  
Milogradov-Turin, J.: 2009, *Publ. Astron. Obs. Belgrade*, **86**, this volume.