

A Message From the Editor

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Happy Birthday, AAVSO! The year 2011 has been a very special one for the AAVSO, being the hundredth anniversary of its founding, as a small group of enthusiastic variable star observers, in 1911.

The AAVSO centennial was marked in several ways, notably by the publication of its official history, *Advancing Variable Star Astronomy*, by Drs. Tom Williams and Michael Saladyga, by a joint meeting with the American Astronomical Society (AAS) in Boston in May, and by an extended Centennial Fall Meeting in Woburn in October. The invited history and science papers from these meetings, and the abstracts of contributed papers, will be published in a special issue of the *JAAVSO*, to be published in June 2012. This issue will also include a set of invited short reviews of the state of variable star science in 2011, including how AAVSO observations have contributed.

The centennial year has also been a year of continued scientific and educational progress for the AAVSO, as you will learn from the Director's Reports which are found on the AAVSO website. Among other things, 2011 marked the culmination of the Citizen Sky project, which was focussed on the 2009–2011 eclipse of epsilon Aurigae. This exemplary project attracted, trained, and mentored many new observers, who were motivated by the opportunity to help solve the mysteries of this bright binary star system. Another special issue of the *JAAVSO*, in 2012, will be devoted to papers arising from this project.

Other papers submitted to the *JAAVSO* in 2011 and 2012 will continue to be published in regular issues. As usual, all papers will be made available on-line as soon as they have been received, reviewed, edited, and formatted.

At this time, I would like to thank Drs. Aaron Price, Matt Templeton, and Tom Williams for their work in organizing the Citizen Sky, science, and history papers for these special issues, and Dr. Michael Saladyga and his colleagues at AAVSO Headquarters for doing most of the real work in producing the *JAAVSO*. We recognize that AAVSO staff have gone far beyond the call of duty to organize these Centennial events; they have been much appreciated, both scientifically and socially. Thanks also to the *JAAVSO* Editorial Board for their ongoing advice, to the anonymous referees for their work in maintaining the high standards of the *JAAVSO*, to the authors for sharing their research and scholarship with us, and to you the readers for making it all worthwhile.

Enjoy!