

ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE DELEGATES OF THE  
Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop July 2011

by

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It is my privilege this afternoon to announce the recipient of an award administered by the Adler Planetarium. Ralph Mansfield visited the Adler as a youngster in the 1930s and worked at the Adler in its early days. In 2006, Mr. Mansfield and his wife, Hilda, provided an endowment gift to the Adler in support of promoting astronomical and historical research and encouraging innovative ways to increase the public's awareness of the universe. The endowment's description reads as follows: "An Adler-Mansfield prize shall be awarded each year at a professional scientific meeting hosted at the Adler that year, or (in the absence of a suitable meeting at the Adler) at a meeting elsewhere of one of the following organizations:

- a. ASP: Astronomical Society of the Pacific
- b. IPS: International Planetarium Society
- c. AAS: American Astronomical Society
- d. HSS: History of Science Society
- e. Notre Dame History of Astronomy Workshop

This year, we award the Adler-Mansfield Prize for contributions to the Biennial History of Astronomy workshop held jointly at the University of Notre Dame and at the Adler Planetarium. In the past few days, we have enjoyed the keen insights and wonderful scholarship highlighting the human and international character of the history of astronomy, one that will enable us to tell more fully and more richly the human stories that reflect our intellectual and cultural engagement with the universe. Astronomy is the oldest science, and one of the pursuits common to all cultures throughout history.

To recognize the outstanding efforts to make possible this conference, and the smooth operations of its meetings for the past decade, we are delighted

to award the 2011 Annual Adler-Mansfield prize of \$1000 to Matt Dowd. Matt has provided extraordinary service to the community of historians of astronomy, and has done so not as part of his work portfolio but in addition to it.

Last evening, at the conference banquet, conference founder Michael Crowe mentioned that the smartest thing he had ever done (with respect to the conference) was to enlist the services of Matt Dowd. Matt's willingness and ability to take over Mike's role speaks volumes of his competence, and his fearlessness to follow in the footsteps of Mike, one of the leading scholars of our field (whom I described yesterday as the dissertation advisor than which none greater can be conceived).

Now located at the University of Notre Dame Press, Matt has, over the years, taken on the responsibilities of every aspect of organizing this conference: local organization, funding, scheduling, and all-around problem-solving, in addition to giving papers on his own research. He is also the moderator of H-Astro, following in the footsteps of another giant in our field, Steve McCluskey, thereby fostering communication among historians of astronomy around the world and others interested in the discipline.

We are proud to award the 2011 Adler-Mansfield Prize to Matt. I would like this audience to recognize his important contributions to this community. Thank you, and congratulations, Matt.