

October 2006
Issue 132

4-5
Calgary Meeting
Highlights

6
AAS Final
Election
Slate

6
2007 AAS
Renewals

13
John Bahcall
Public Policy
Fellowship

15
AAS Donations
Forum

16
Washington News



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AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

J. Craig Wheeler, aaspres@aas.org

August is a time astronomers devote to travel, meetings, and writing papers. This year, our routine is set against the background of sad and frustrating wars and new terror alerts that have rendered our shampoo suspect. I hope that by the time this is published there is a return to what passes for normalcy and some glimmer of reason for optimism.

In this summer season, the business of the Society, while rarely urgent, moves on. The new administration under Executive Officer Kevin Marvel has smoothly taken over operations in the Washington office. The transition to a new Editor-in-Chief of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Ethan Vishniac, has proceeded well, with some expectation that the full handover will begin earlier than previously planned.

The Society, under the aegis of the Executive Committee, has endorsed the efforts of Senators Mikulski and Hutchison to secure \$1B in emergency funding for NASA to make up for some of the costs of shuttle return to flight and losses associated with hurricane Katrina. It remains to be seen whether this action will survive the budget process. The Executive Committee has also endorsed a letter from the American Institute of Physics supporting educators in Ohio who are fending off an effort there to include intelligent design in the curriculum.

Interestingly, the primary in Connecticut was of relevance to the Society. Senators Cornyn and Lieberman have proposed in a draft bill that all federally-funded research be available after six months. Current policy is to make the AAS journals available electronically after a decent interval, but six months might severely alter our library subscription base and hence the whole funding structure of our journals. The Society has written in opposition to this bill. With one of its authors in a re-election battle, this issue will probably take a back seat in the near future, but it remains an item of concern.

One of my priorities has been to refresh the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy under the able leadership of Jack Burns. I am very grateful to those who have served recently on this important committee, to those who have agreed to continue, and to those who have newly volunteered their time. One of the issues that CAPP is currently considering is an offer by NASA Administrator Mike Griffin to take and answer questions from the Society by email. This is an attempt by both the Administrator and the Society to keep the lines of communication open and is, to some extent, an extension of the session we had at the January, 2006 meeting in Washington where I was charged with asking questions of Dr. Griffin in an open session. A sub-committee of CAPP is currently composing questions in what may be an on-going exchange.

Several large issues will face the Society in the Fall. The FY 07 budget is not yet settled and plans are underway for FY 08. We are likely to see the product of the NSF Astronomy Division Senior Review and to assimilate that report in the context of the American Competitiveness Initiative which has some promise of increasing NSF funding. There remains concern of adequate community input into NASA decisions as priorities are set for large and small missions, the enterprise of searching for planets and life from space, and missions in the Beyond Einstein retinue. The NRC is laying plans for the next Decadal Survey, one that I am confident will prove to be of extreme importance.

With the loss of the shuttle Columbia and the President's response contained in the *Vision for Space Exploration*, there have been immense changes in space science that affect the members of the AAS. There is a natural, but unfortunate, tendency to "circle the wagons and shoot inwards," as astronomers leap to the defense of projects that consume their professional lives. A preeminent task of the Society is to attempt to "lift all boats" in these turbulent waters. We need to stay focused and nimble. The best insurance of a bright future is to continue to do exciting and vibrant science. I wish us all good fortune in that quest.

AAS Executive Office Staff

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Items of general interest to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to crystal@aas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcome. For information about deadlines and submitting articles, see www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.html. Items submitted to the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to ela@aas.org.

Judith M. Johnson, Editor
Crystal M. Tinch, Associate Editor
Jeff Linsky, U. Colorado, Associate Editor, Letters

Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

The *AJ* and *ApJ* accept manuscripts electronically that are prepared using the AASTeX manuscript package. Following are some important addresses for obtaining information about AASTeX and electronic submission.

AASTeX Homepage:

www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX

User Support: aastex-help@aas.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript Submission:

AJ, *ApJ*, *ApJL*

www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html

AAS Email Policy

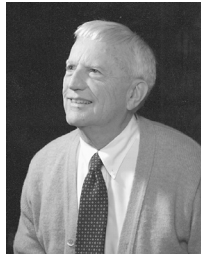
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For address changes email address@aas.org

MEMBER DEATHS

The Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members, former members and affiliate members:

John Africano **James Van Allen**



George Wetherill (1925-2006)

Carnegie Institution planetary-formation theorist, and 1997 National Medal of Science recipient, George Wetherill, died from heart failure on July 19, 2006, at his Washington, D.C. home. Wetherill revolutionized our understanding of how our planets and solar system formed through his theoretical models.

Born in Philadelphia on August 12, 1925, Wetherill served in the US Navy during World War II, teaching radar at the Naval Research Laboratory in the District. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1953 after a succession of degrees, Ph.B., S.B., S.M., and Ph.D. After receiving his doctorate, he joined Carnegie's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism as a member of the scientific staff. Between 1960 and 1975 he was a professor and department chairman at the University of California, Los Angeles. He came back to Carnegie in 1975 as director of the department, a position he held until 1991. After he stepped down, he continued his research as director emeritus.

In the 1950s, Wetherill was among a group of scientists who developed geochemical methods involving natural radioactive decay to date the Earth's rocks. Later, his interests in age-dating techniques expanded to include extraterrestrial materials, including meteorites and rock samples from the Moon. In the 1970s, he began theoretical explorations into the origins of meteorites and the terrestrial planets, developing a technique to calculate the orbital evolution and accumulation of swarms of small bodies as they coalesce into planets.

Wetherill's computations have also revealed how important Jupiter may be in protecting the Earth and other inner planets from bombardment via its enormous gravitational field. He showed that Jupiter provides a shield from orbiting asteroids and comets, scattering most of them out of the Solar System. The discoveries of planets orbiting other stars provided him with further theoretical challenges in his final years of research.

In 1997 George Wetherill received the highest scientific award in the nation—the National Medal of Science. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1971 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1974. He received the 1981 F. C. Leonard Medal of the Meteoritical Society, the 1984 G. K. Gilbert Award of the Geological Society of America, the 1986 G. P. Kuiper Prize of the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society, and the 1991 Harry H. Hess Medal of the American Geophysical Union. In 2003, Wetherill was awarded the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship, the highest honor bestowed by the AAS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor on current issues of importance to astronomers are welcomed. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 250 words. Send to Jeff Linsky, Associate Editor, Letters, (jlinsky@jila.colorado.edu; 303-492-7838 phone; or 303-492-5235 fax) one week prior to the *AAS Newsletter* deadline. Letters may be edited for clarity/length (authors will be consulted) and will be published at the discretion of the Editors.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kevin Marvel, marvel@aes.org

As this column is being written, your AAS office is preparing for a strong showing at the IAU General Assembly in Prague. We exhibited for the first time at the Sydney IAU and drew a number of queries as to why we had no international membership option. These comments were forwarded to the Council along with a proposal for a new membership class, International Affiliate. The Council approved the new membership class (with limited benefits compared to Full members) and we will unveil it fully to the worldwide astronomy community in Prague. We are hoping to grow this membership class to the 1000 member level in three years.

We all know that astronomy is an international endeavor. The AAS has a role to play in the development of that international community beyond publishing the leading journals in the field. One of my goals is to find ways that we can effectively and positively partner with international organizations to further our field. I also want to reach out to individuals who have no member-oriented organization that they can join (or no membership organization that provides them substantial membership benefits). Our new International Affiliate membership class provides access to our journals at a reduced rate, electronic access to AAS-produced information (like the *AAS Newsletter*) and the possibility of belonging to a much larger group of fellow researchers than might be available locally.

When this membership class reaches 500 members, we will begin an electronic newsletter specifically catering to international issues. US-based AAS members will have the option of accessing the newsletter through our Members-Only web pages. Content will be generated by the IA members and therefore, be of interest specifically to them. This kind of flexibility in provision of information content is critical as the world becomes ever more interconnected.

You can help us reach our membership goals for this new membership class by letting your International Colleagues know that it exists and recommending they join. The dues for 2007 are only \$57 and an electronic subscription to all of our journal content is only \$50 for all members. Please help your Society grow and become more international by encouraging your friends to join the AAS. We can no longer be a US-centric organization and this new membership class will allow us to expand over time to help foster astronomy research worldwide.

As always, advice, comments and criticism are most welcome. You can comment on any aspect of the AAS directly to myself (marvel@aes.org) or to any elected officer or council member (www.aes.org/governance/council/aas-coun.htm). We are in your service and can only improve our service offerings by hearing from you. Please let us know both where we are going wrong and where we have done something exceptional.

Member Spotlight

The *AAS Newsletter* will begin a new feature in 2007 focused on our members. In each issue, we will feature one member, their research or other work, a bit of their history and their picture. We will accept suggestions for this feature, but no self-nominations. If you know of a fellow member who does interesting research, came to our field through interesting circumstances or is just a fantastic person, consider submitting their story to us for possible publication (500 word limit). We will only publish stories approved by members willing to be featured. Email your suggestion to Crystal Tinch, crystal@aes.org.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

John Graham, aassec@aes.org

Committee Vacancies Need to be Filled

Vacancies for several AAS committees will be filled by Council at its meeting in Seattle in January 2007. Current committee members are listed under "Council/Committees" on the AAS homepage, www.aes.org. Committees that have vacancies, followed by the number of vacancies on each (in parenthesis) are:

Russell Lectureship Committee (2)
Heineman Prize Committee (2)
Warner and Pierce Prize Committees(3)
Annie J. Cannon Prize Committee (1)
AAS Education Prize Committee (2)
Weber Award Committee (2)
Henri Chrétien Grant Committee (2)
Van Biesbroeck Prize Committee (4)

The Council takes advice from the Committee on Appointments for committee posts, AAS Members may themselves volunteer to serve on a committee, or suggest other Members for one of the vacancies. To be most useful to the Committee on Appointments, who may not know everyone, please include the date of Ph.D., as well as a few sentences conveying to the Committee the background and area of expertise of the named individual. Please assist us with this! We need to have both quality and breadth on our committees in order to help them make wise and fair recommendations to the Council.

Input must be received in the Office of the Secretary no later than 1 December 2006. Submit suggestions to John A. Graham, AAS Secretary, by email to aassec@aes.org or at the Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015, Fax: (202) 478-8821, e-mail:aassec@aes.org.

continued on page 6

CALGARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Supplementing a brief report on the 208th AAS meeting that appeared in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, here are scenes of scientists at the meeting, captured by press room photographer Richard Dreiser. All images are AAS photos by Richard Dreiser, © 2006 American Astronomical Society.



Photo 1: The meeting was the last for Robert Milkey (far left) and Robert Kirshner (far right) in their capacities as Executive Officer and President, respectively. Milkey was succeeded by Kevin Marvel (center left) and Kirshner yielded the Presidency to J. Craig Wheeler (center right). **Photo 2:** Experts on the distant universe who participated in an AAS press conference included (l-to-r) Adam Stanford (UC Davis), Robert Nichol (U. Portsmouth), Christine Wilson, (McMaster U.), Richard Mushotsky (Independent Commentator, NASA-GSFC), Holland Ford (Johns Hopkins U.), and Mark Brodwin (Jet Propulsion Lab).



Photo 3: Participants in a session on Women in Canadian Astronomy included (l-to-r) Jo-Anne Brown (U. Calgary), Elizabeth Griffin (Dominion Astrophysical Obs.), Samid Safi-Harb (U. Manitoba), Gretchen Harris (U. Waterloo), Brenda Matthews (Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics), and Christine Clement (U. Toronto). **Photo 4:** Peter Gilman (left, High Altitude Obs.) received the Hale Prize from Solar Physics Division Vice Chair, Edward DeLuca.

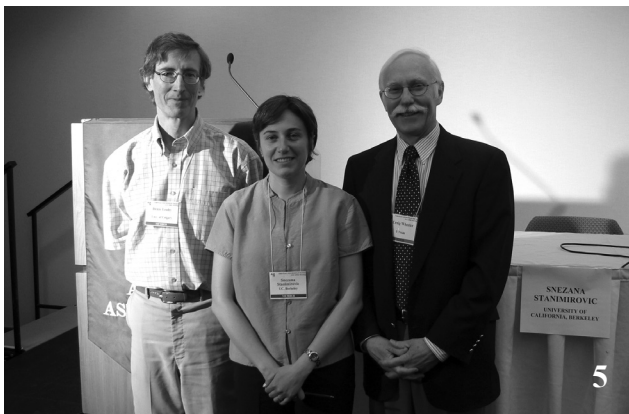


Photo 5: Snezana Stanimirovic (center, UC Berkeley) found “a glowing red ball of dust” in a 1000-year old supernova remnant in the Small Magellanic Cloud. Dennis Leahy (left, U. Calgary) reviewed recent work on the Cygnus Loop. President-Elect J. Craig Wheeler commented on the findings of both astronomers. **Photo 6:** Guests at the undergraduate reception included (l-to-r) Teresa Ashcraft (Louisiana State U.), Nyssa Yeager, (Temple U.), Emily McNeil (Middlebury College), Tyler Lenhardt (U. Calgary), Mubdi Rahman (U. Toronto), and Sharina Haynes (Tennessee State U.)

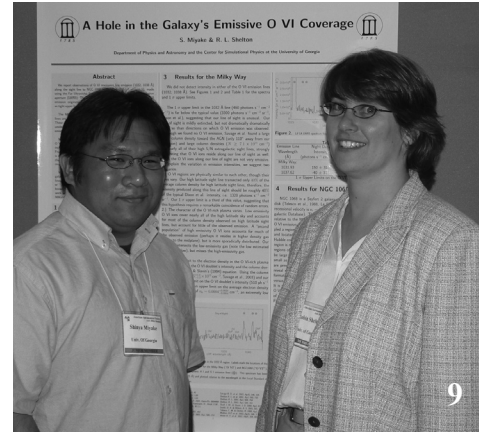


Photo 7: Exoplanet investigators at the meeting included (l-to-r) Ralph Pudritz (McMaster U.), Subhanjoy Mohanty (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA), and Ray Jayawardhana (U. Toronto). **Photo 8:** AAS President Robert Kirshner presented the certificate for the Henry Norris Russell Lecture to Bohdan Paczynski (seated, Princeton U.). **Photo 9:** Shinya Miyake (left) and Robin Shelton (both, U. Georgia) found a “surprising shortage of hot gas” in NGC 1068 through observations with FUSE.



Photo 10: Jean Turner (left, UCLA), Andrew Blain (center, Caltech), and Douglas Johnstone (Herzberg Inst. of Astrophysics) addressed a session on Imaging Star Formation in the Cosmos with ALMA. **Photo 11:** Former NRAO Director Paul Vanden Bout (left) stood with Tyler Foster (center, NRC Canada), who presented a new way for measuring distances in the Milky Way, and Ethan Vishniac (Johns Hopkins U.), who asserted that “magnetogenesis does not require an exotic seed mechanism in the early universe.” **Photo 12:** Jan Staff (U. Calgary) calculated that the core of a highly magnetized heavy neutron star can turn into quark matter within a few hours of its birth.

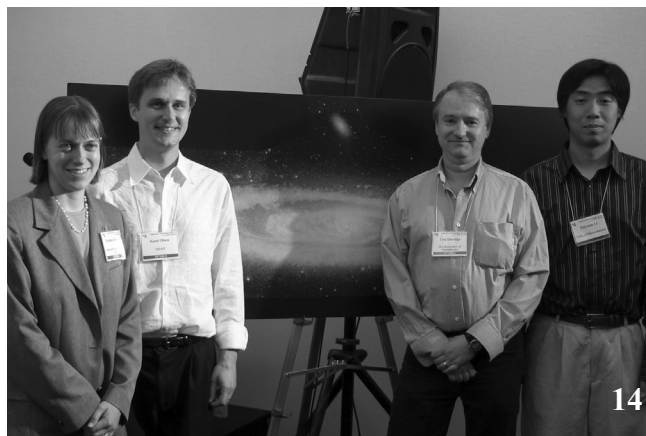


Photo 13: Julia Deneva (Cornell U.) found that pulsars that actually pulse may be in the minority. **Photo 14:** A Spitzer Space Telescope infrared mosaic of the Andromeda galaxy, at center, was displayed by Pauline Barmby (far left, Harvard-Smithsonian CfA), who was joined in a press conference on the galaxy by (l-to-r) Knut Olsen (Cerro Tololo Inter-American Obs.), Timothy Davidge (Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics), and Zhiyuan Li (U. Massachusetts, Amherst). **Photo 15:** NASA HQ representatives at the meeting included (l-to-r) Jennifer Wiseman, Eric Smith, Doris Daou, and Hashima Hasan.

Message to Associate Members

Only (Full) AAS Members have the right to hold office or to chair committees of the Society. Many Associate members who are eligible to upgrade to Full Membership and whose expertise could benefit the Society, cannot serve. Associate members, please consider upgrading, and becoming more involved with Society activities! There is no increase in dues! (See a description of the different membership classes in the Bylaws, Article I.1, or on the membership application form.) If any of you have questions, please contact me at aassec@as.org.

2007 Membership Invoices

AAS members will be receiving their 2007 Membership Invoices soon after this issue of the *AAS Newsletter*. Since virtually everyone eventually does pay their dues, please consider prompt payment! Prompt payment saves the Society staff considerable effort and time in reminders, which translates into saving money for all of us!

2006 AAS Elections Final Slate

The following people have been nominated for office; most of the terms begin June 2007. Either an election ballot or details on voting electronically will be included in the December *AAS Newsletter*. The election will close 31 January 2007.

President	Roger D. Blandford John P. Huchra
Vice-President	Stefi A. Baum Lee W. Hartmann
Secretary	John A. Graham
Publications Board Chair	Richard F. Green Bo Reipurth
Councilors	Gloria Koenigsberger Chryssa Kouveliotou Felix J. Lockman George Sonneborn Nicholas B. Suntzeff Jill C. Tarter
USNC-IAU, Cat. I	Edward B. Churchwell Robert L. Millis
Nominating Committee	W. Miller Goss Tod R. Lauer David L. Meier Mercedes T. Richards Faith Vilas

2007 AAS RENEWALS

The 2007 renewal period is here; and we are excited to introduce our new online renewal procedure. Many members told us they wanted the convenience of renewing their membership online at www.aas.org, and we have worked diligently this year to meet the needs of our membership.

Shortly, you will receive your dues invoice. Please read it over carefully and follow the directions. The AAS Membership Department will be available to help with any problems at membership@as.org or by calling us at 202-328-2010.

After 1 October 2006, to pay your dues online:

- Login to <http://members.aas.org/>
- Select "e-Billing Reminder"
- Your 2007 invoice and instructions will appear.

Additionally you will be able to support The Society's activities and prizes with an online contribution.

- Go to: <http://members.aas.org/Contributions/>
- Select a prize or activity that contribution by clicking on it.
- If you are a member, type your last name, first name, email address, and then click "Search."
- Your name should show up. Click "This is me."
- Type your name and credit card payment information.
- If you are not a member, just click "Skip Search" and type your name and credit card payment information.
- Click "Submit Credit Card Information."

Prizes and Awards

To foster excellence, the Society awards prizes for outstanding contributions to astronomy. Through the Second Century Fund, the AAS is currently raising monies for existing prize endowments and for several new prizes.

Henry Norris Russell Lectureship - lifetime achievement

Newton Lacy Pierce Prize in Astronomy - early career, observational

Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy - early career, observational or theoretical

Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize - especially innovative research

Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation - instrumentation

Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics - mid-career

George Van Biesbroeck Prize - extraordinary service

Education Prize - contribution to education

Annie J. Cannon Award in Astronomy - distinguished contribution by a woman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Las Cumbres Observatory Speakers' Bureau

The World Year of Physics Speakers' Bureau is now the Las Cumbres Observatory Speakers' Bureau, but its goal remains the same: to provide outstanding visiting speakers, especially for four-year colleges, and especially at places that are far from major research centers. Topics available include history of physics & astronomy, general relativity and its applications in astrophysics, other topics in astronomy/astrophysics, and various aspects of Einstein's work and life. About half of the 150 talks so far have been at four-year colleges, but there have also been some at two-year colleges, community groups, high schools, and even a few PhD-granting universities.

If you would like to arrange a talk at your institution, visit www.phys.utb.edu/WYPspeakers/REQUESTS/howto.html. There is also a link from the Las Cumbres site, www.lcogt.net/. Some money is available to bring speakers to truly impoverished institutions.

If you are interested in speaking, please contact Virginia Trimble at vtrimble@uci.edu. Include your name, coordinates, topics you would be willing to address and the level. Visitors often interact informally with students, faculty, and administrators as well as making a formal presentation, but typically don't stay over night unless the institution visited is far from home.

Call for Papers

The Forum on History of Physics of the American Physical Society welcomes contributed talks (or posters) on history of astronomy/astrophysics at its 2007 April meeting (14-17 April, Jacksonville FL). Two students giving talks there will be designated Rolf Glover students and receive \$600 each toward their travel expenses. Registration and abstract entry will be available from early November to early January at www.aps.org/meet/APR07.

Candidates for the studentships are asked also to contact the Forum chair, Virginia Trimble, vtrimble@uci.edu, when they have entered their abstracts.

Michelson Fellowship Program

The Michelson Science Center invites applications to the Michelson Fellowship Program for postdoctoral and graduate student fellowships in exoplanet research at a US institution. Fellowship applications are encouraged for a topic related to exoplanet science or detection technology, including:

- Astronomical interferometry & coronagraphy
 - Comparative exoplanetology
 - Exoplanet transit detection and characterization
 - Exoplanet atmosphere modeling
 - Radial velocity exoplanet detection
 - Other advanced exoplanet detection & characterization techniques
- Proposing technology development and/or astronomical applications of optical/IR interferometry and/or coronagraphy is particularly encouraged; proposals relevant to the technology development or science of NASA Navigator Program projects, both experimental and theoretical, will also be considered.

Details are available online at <http://msc.caltech.edu>.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 November 2006 for the first quarter of 2007. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nsokp@nso.edu). Instructions may be found at www.nso.edu/general/observe/. A web-based observing-request form is at www2.nso.edu/cgi-bin/nsoforms/obsreq/obsreq.cgi. Users' Manuals are available at <http://nsosp.nso.edu/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt.

Proposers are reminded that each quarter is typically oversubscribed, and it is to the proposer's advantage to provide all information requested to the greatest possible extent no later than the official deadline. Observing time at National Observatories is provided as support to the astronomical community by the National Science Foundation.

CARMA – First Call for Proposals Deadline: 14 October 2006

Proposals for observations using CARMA (Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy) at 3 mm in the C and D configurations (beam sizes 1.8 and 4 arcseconds respectively) during the period 1 January to 30 June 2007 are due on 14 October 2006. CARMA is the merger of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory millimeter array and the Berkeley-Illinois-Maryland Association array, and comprises 15 antennas on a 2200m elevation site, Cedar Flat, in the Inyo Mountains of California.

CARMA is operated by the Universities of California (Berkeley), Illinois, and Maryland, and the California Institute of Technology, under a cooperative agreement with the University Radio Observatory program of the National Science Foundation. Approximately 30% of the observing time will be awarded to PIs outside the partner universities.

Proposals should be submitted using the electronic form at <http://carma.astro.uiuc.edu/proposals/> before 17:00 CDT 14 October, 2006. Detailed information, including sensitivities and proposal submission instructions, may be found at the CARMA website, www.mmarray.org. Questions may also be addressed to Dr. Douglas Bock (dbock@mmarray.org).

There will, in the future, be twice yearly calls for 1 and 3 mm in all antenna configurations.

NRAO Archives

NRAO and the NRAO Archives are pleased to announce the publication of *Two Paths to Heaven's Gate*, a memoir by Nan Dieter Conklin. Dr. Conklin was a prominent figure in what was 50 years ago an entirely new science, radio astronomy. She was the first American woman whose PhD dissertation used radio astronomy data and, in 1952, the first American woman to formally publish original research in the field. Further description and ordering information may be found at www.nrao.edu/archives/Conklin/bookorder.pdf.

NEWS FROM...

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Eileen D. Friel, efriel@nsf.gov

Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences

Staff Changes at AST and MPS

The Division is pleased to welcome Dr. Brian Patten to NSF on a visiting scientist appointment from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Brian will have primary responsibility for the Education and Special Programs within the Astronomy Division, which include the CAREER and REU programs as well as NSF-wide programs with an emphasis on education and broadening participation. He will also contribute to the management of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants programs, where the Division will draw on his scientific interest and expertise in stellar astrophysics, galactic structure and stellar populations.

In August, Dr. Bob Dickman began a year of professional development leave; he will spend his time pursuing personal research at the University of Virginia and with the CARMA group at Caltech. With Bob's departure, Dr. Phil Puxley will become the acting Staff Associate for ALMA.

Beginning in October 2006, Dr. Tony Chan, Dean of Physical Sciences at UCLA, becomes Assistant Director for the Math and Physical Sciences Directorate at NSF. Tony is a mathematician whose interdisciplinary research includes image processing and computer vision, multiscale computational methods, and computational geometry for brain mapping. He is quickly becoming familiar with Astronomy at NSF, and is already scheduled to visit Gemini and the ALMA site in Chile in November.

NSF Senior Review Update

The Senior Review committee plans on making its report and recommendations to the Astronomy Division in early November 2006. Once the report has been accepted by the MPS Advisory Committee, we will make it public, and post it on the AST web site. We will also begin a series of town meetings across the country, as we did last fall, but this time to bring the report, its recommendations, and our development of an implementation plan to the community.

The January 2007 AAS meeting will provide an important opportunity for the Division to present the report's conclusions and recommendations. We will be holding a special session in Seattle to discuss the report, its recommendations, and the development of an implementation plan with the community. We encourage you to attend both this special session and the regular NSF town meeting in Seattle. Please check the AAS program for time and location of these sessions.

Reminder - Upcoming Program Deadlines

11 October 2006: NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (AAPF). See program announcement NSF 03-578

1 November 2006: Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI)

15 November 2006: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG) in all areas, including the Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program. See program announcement NSF 05-608 for the AAG (www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf05608) and NSF 00-144 for RUI proposals

AAG SUBMISSION WINDOW is 15 September through 15 November: The end date of the annual AAG submission window, 15 November, is a deadline date after which proposals will not be accepted for review. In submitting proposals to the AAG Program in FastLane, proposers must identify the AAG Program Announcement number, NSF 05-608, in the "Program Announcement/Solicitation Number" block on the NSF Cover Sheet.

FY2006 CAREER Awardees

The Division of Astronomical Sciences is pleased to announce the FY 2006 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program recipients. This NSF-wide program is the Foundation's most prestigious award for support of the early career-development activities of junior faculty members. The intent of the program is to provide stable support at a sufficient level and duration to enable awardees to develop careers as outstanding teacher-scholars in the context of the mission of their organization. The FY 2006 CAREER recipients are:

Dr. Aaron Barth, University of California, Irvine: "CAREER: The Highest and Lowest-Mass Black Holes in the Nuclei of Nearby Galaxies" (AST-0548158);

Dr. Greg Bryan, Columbia University: "CAREER: Simulating cosmological galaxy formation with adaptive-mesh refinement" (AST-0507161);

Dr. Frederick Jenet, University of Texas, Brownsville: "CAREER: Detecting gravitational waves using radio pulsars and training the first generation of gravitational wave astronomers" (AST-0545837);

Dr. Kelsey Johnson, University of Virginia: "CAREER: Probing the Birth of Super Star Clusters" (AST-0548103);

Dr. Brian Keating, University of California, San Diego: "CAREER: The Birth Pangs of the Big Bang: Detecting Primordial Gravitational Waves with Microwave Background Imaging of Cosmic Extragalactic Polarization (BICEP)" (AST-0548262);

Dr Kevin Luhman, Pennsylvania State University: “CAREER: Characterizing the Process of Planet Formation around Low-Mass Stars and Brown Dwarfs” (AST-0544558);

Dr. Jason Prochaska, University of California, Santa Cruz: “CAREER: Enriching the Universe—Investigating Nucleosynthesis and Galaxy Formation in the First Few Billion Years” (AST-0548180).

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

Mike Bennett, Executive Director, mbennett@astrosociety.org

New ASP Directors Elected

Congratulations to Carol Christian, Jack Newton, Tim Slater, and Mark Sykes on their election to the ASP Board of Directors.

Carol is a scientist with the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) and also serves as the Education Director for the National Virtual Observatory Project. Formerly the head of STScI’s Office of Public Outreach, Carol is now on partial detail to the State Department as a Science and Technology Policy Advisor.

Jack is a world-renowned astro-photographer whose work has appeared in major publications worldwide. A past ASP director and recipient of the ASP’s Amateur Achievement Award in 1988, Jack divides his time between his astronomy bed and breakfast in British Columbia and the Arizona Sky Village in southeastern Arizona.

Tim, beginning his second term as director, is Associate Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona, where he conducts research in the teaching and learning of astronomy, focusing on identifying student difficulties. He is also the elected Education Officer of the American Astronomical Society.

Mark, Director of the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, researches asteroids, comets, and the origin of interplanetary dust using space-based and ground-based telescopes. He is a member of the AAS Committee for Astronomy and Public Policy and has served as Chair of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences.

The new directors began their three-year terms on 1 September 2006.

The ASP extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to retiring Board members Debra Fischer, Jim Kaler, and Terry Mann. Jim continues to serve the ASP as Vice-President.

First Emmons Award Goes to Leo Connolly

Dr. Leo Connolly of the California State University, San Bernardino is the first recipient of the newly-created Richard H. Emmons Award for Excellence in College Astronomy Teaching.

The award citation reads in part, “Dr. Leo Connolly has devoted his life to science education in astronomy and physics, as a teacher for over 32 years, an observatory director for 6 years, a fund raiser, writer, public speaker, and mentor to students and faculty at seven institutions of higher learning. He has concentrated on introductory courses for non-science majors, engaging thousands of students in astronomy over the years. In 1995, the International Astronomical Union recognized him by naming asteroid 1988 LC 6479 LEO CONNOLLY, a rare honor that is most befitting of his contributions to science education.”

The Richard H. Emmons Award was inspired by a very generous gift from Dr. Jeanne Bishop and her late husband Allan, in honor of her father Richard Emmons. A well-known Ohio astronomy educator in her own right, Dr. Bishop wished to honor her father—an astronomer with a life-long dedication to astronomy education—by creating an annual award that recognizes and celebrates outstanding achievement in the teaching of college-level introductory astronomy for non-science majors.

Search Continues for New ASP Executive Director

The ASP continues to solicit applications for the position of Executive Director, to replace Mike Bennett who earlier this year announced his desire to phase into semi-retirement.

For full details and job description, to the ASP web site at www.astrosociety.org and click on “About Us.

I would like to express my thanks to all of my friends and colleagues who wrote messages of congratulations on my retirement. The response through the AAS web submission was so overwhelming that I cannot begin to answer these individually. Thus, I opt for collective thanks and once again take the opportunity to state that it was my pleasure to be able to serve the astronomical community through the AAS. It is very rewarding to know that so many people appreciated my contributions.

Bob Milkey

HONORED ELSEWHERE

AAS Members Elected to the NAS

The National Academy of Science announced the election of new Fellows in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Election to the Academy—is regarded as the one of the highest honors in American Science.

Congratulations to the following AAS members:

Robert C. Kennicutt, Jr.; Plumian Professor of Astronomy, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Robert P. Lin; Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, and Director, Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley

Charles C. Steidel; Dubridge Professor of Astronomy, Department of Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena

Stanford E. Woosley; Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of California, Santa Cruz

Zaritsky Named Guggenheim Fellow

Dennis Zaritsky (Professor of Astronomy, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona) has been named a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow for his studies in astronomical image analysis. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

2006 AAAS Class Includes Two Astronomers

AAS members **Robert Peichung Lin** (University of California at Berkeley) and **Anneila Isabel Sargent** (California Institute of Technology) have been named American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows for 2006.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an international learned society composed of the world's leading scientists, scholars, artists, business people, and public leaders. The current membership includes more than 170 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners. An independent policy research center, the Academy undertakes studies of complex and emerging problems. Current Academy research focuses on science and global security; social policy; the humanities and culture; and education.

Low Awarded 2006 Jansky Lectureship

The Associated Universities, Inc., and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory have announced that the 41st annual Karl G. Jansky Lectureship has been awarded to AAS member **Frank J. Low**, a pioneer in the development of millimeter and infrared astronomy.

Low has received numerous prestigious awards, including AAS Helen B. Warner, and the Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation Prizes, the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement, the Rumford Prize of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Prof. Low was most recently awarded the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's 2006 Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal for lifetime achievement. He is also president and founder of Infrared Laboratories, Inc.

The Karl G. Jansky Lectureship is an honor established by the trustees of Associated Universities, Inc., to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of astronomy. First awarded in 1966, it is named in honor of Karl G. Jansky who, in 1932, first detected radio waves from a cosmic source.

AAS Members Win Pirelli Award

A team under the leadership of AAS member **Roeland van der Marel** of Space Telescope Science Institute won both the Physics Category and the Top Prize of the Pirelli Awards competition. The winning team also includes AAS Member Gijs Verdoes Kleijn of Groningen University in The Netherlands and the company Educational Web Adventures of St. Paul Minnesota. The team was honored for their website "Black Holes: Gravity's Relentless Pull," which can be found on the internet at <http://hubblesite.org/go/blackholes/>.

The Pirelli Awards are an international competition for the best multimedia/internet work devoted to the communication of science and technology. There are more than 1000 entries each year from more than 50 countries, with 70 per cent of the submissions coming from universities and educational institutions. Winners in several categories are picked by an international jury that contains two Nobel Prize winners. The prestigious awards have an annual prize budget of \$160,000, with \$30,000 going to the Top Prize. More information about the awards can be found at www.pirelliaward.com/.

Shaw Prize Winners

AAS Members **Saul Perlmutter**, **Adam Riess**, and **Brian Schmidt** were awarded the Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2006, in recognition of their leadership roles on the two teams that made the remarkable discovery of an acceleration in the rate of the expansion of the universe. Such an effect had been known theoretically since shortly after Einstein applied his theory of general relativity to cosmology, but the general belief, including Einstein's own assessment, was that the cosmological constant had no basis in reality. Thus, the 1998 announcement of the acceleration of the universe by the Supernova Cosmology Project and the High-z Supernova Search teams electrified the scientific community. The simplest interpretation, that the vacuum has energy even in the absence of matter and radiation, has profound implications that may revolutionize our understanding of the nature of the physical world and its ultimate fate. It is an achievement that is already taught to schoolchildren.

COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek

CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory, knezek@noao.edu

CSWA Membership Changes

I want to welcome incoming CSWA members Geoffrey Clayton (LSU/Baton Rouge, LA), John Feldmeier (Youngstown State/Youngstown, OH), and Hannah Jong-Condell (DTM/Washington, DC). I am also honored and delighted to announce that I was approved by the AAS Council to serve a fourth term as CSWA Chair. Geoff, John, and Hannah will all be serving from 2006 to 2009. They join continuing members Francesca Primas (ESO/Garching, Germany; 2004-2007), James Rhoads (ASU/Phoenix, AZ; 2005-2008), Joan Schmelz (U. Memphis/Memphis, TN; 2004-2007), Amy Simon-Miller (GSFC/Greenbelt, MD; 2004-2007), Kim Venn (UBC/Victoria, Canada; 2005-2008), and myself. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to outgoing members, James Ulvestad, Stephanie Wachter, and Kimberly Weaver for their many contributions to the committee. They all played key roles in authoring the Pasadena Recommendations, along with organizing many of the CSWA activities at the AAS meetings. Jim has also served as a very able co-editor of AASWOMEN during his tenure on CSWA, and Stephanie will be continuing her involvement in women's issues by participating on the committee organizing the AAS longitudinal study of the career paths of astronomers (see below for more details on this). We thank them all!

We encourage you to contact one of the CSWA members if you have comments, questions, and/or suggestions. We also suggest that you check out the CSWA web site, which is superbly maintained by Amy Simon-Miller, see www.aas.org/~cswa/. Among the new additions to the web site is a link to the talks given during the "Canadian Women: Their Status & Science" special session held during the June 2006 AAS meeting in Calgary. Details on the CSWA activities at the June 2006 AAS were included in the August 2006 *AAS Newsletter*.

Update on the Pasadena Recommendations

The CSWA has been focused on two main areas related to the Pasadena Recommendations. First, we have sent to Kevin Marvel (AAS Executive Officer), and AAS President Craig Wheeler the draft of a letter to be sent to the departmental chairs and division heads of colleges, universities, and institutions encouraging them to publicly endorse the Recommendations, and implement

those recommendations that apply to their institution for their review. Second, the CSWA is facilitating the development of a longitudinal study of the career paths taken in astronomy. As noted in the August 2006 *AAS Newsletter*, a committee was formed to work on defining and carrying out this study. The committee currently consists of myself, Audra Baleisis (U. Arizona), Susana Deustua (AAS), Rachel Ivie (AIP), Jennifer Neakrase (ASU), and Stephanie Wachter (IPAC). We have been hard at work defining both what we hope to achieve by this study, and the steps we should take to move forward. We identified as a first step a survey that will target graduate students studying astronomy. We have nearly completed the draft of that survey, and anticipate by the time this *AAS Newsletter* is published that the draft will have been circulated to the entire CSWA for review and comment. The AIP has agreed to partially fund this study, and the committee is preparing a proposal to the AAS for additional funds for this initial survey. We will post further information once that review is complete.

STATUS OF MINORITIES IN ASTRONOMY

Keivan Stassun

Chair, keivan.stassun@vanderbilt.edu

Special Session on Mentoring at January 2007 AAS/AAPT Meeting

As efforts to increase the number of women and minorities pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in astronomy and physics are having some success, college and university faculty need to become aware of some of the unique and often unexpected challenges encountered when mentoring these students. Together with Tim Slater (U. Arizona), the CSWA is co-hosting a special session at the January 2007 Joint Meeting of the AAS and AAPT that will present educational research data recently available on the needs of women and minority students and discuss effective mentoring strategies for mentoring women and minority students in astronomy and physics.

Speakers will include: Daryl Haggard (University of Washington), who will discuss the Pre-Majors Advising Program (Pre-MAP) there; Kartik Sheth (Spitzer Science Center), who will describe a CSWA program for distance mentoring of women and minority undergraduates by postdocs and young faculty; and Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt University), who will present the Fisk-Vanderbilt Masters-to-PhD Bridge Program, an alliance between an Historically Black University and a Research-I University for enhancing diversity in the physical sciences.

Washington News continued from back page

letter, stating up front what you are writing about and that you are a constituent (if applicable) is the best and most effective way to convey your message.

I ask each AAS member reading this article to take the time to send one letter to one member of Congress (more if you can). It constantly amazes me at how a relatively small number of communications can make a huge impact. For a field that most people love, like Astronomy, we do not need many advocacy letters to have a positive impact. Take the time to help your field. Take the time to help yourself.

CNSF Lobbying Effort

The AAS is a member of a broad-based coalition of science societies that work actively to improve the funding situation for NSF. Called the Coalition for National Science Funding, this loose-knit group of science advocates has initiated a fall visitation day. This year, a number of AAS members will be participating on behalf of the Society. We each owe them our thanks for helping out. Their names will appear in the December *AAS Newsletter*.

GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIPS FOR AAS MEMBERS:

Experience a unique year in Washington, DC as an American Institute of Physics State Department Science Fellow!

Make a personal contribution to U.S. foreign policy while learning how the policy-making process operates. This Fellowship is open to qualified members of AAS and other AIP Member Societies, of all ages and career levels. By sponsoring at least one Fellow a year in the State Department, this program benefits the government, the science community, and the individual Fellows.

Qualifications include U.S. citizenship; AIP Member Society membership; and PhD or equivalent in physics-related field. Applicants should possess interest or experience in scientific or technical aspects of foreign policy. APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2006.

For details on how to apply, please visit www.aip.org/gov/sdf.html or contact Audrey Leath at aleath@aip.org

DIVISION NEWS

Alan Harris, Chair of LOC for the DPS 2006 meeting
awharris@spacescience.org

DIVISION ON DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY (DDA)

Brouwer Award Presentation to Jim Williams at the DPS Meeting, 10 October

James G. Williams, the 2006 recipient of the DDA Brouwer Award, will be presented with the award in Pasadena on 10 October, at the annual DPS meeting, since he was unable to travel to Halifax to receive his award.

Jim did give his Brouwer Award Lecture, by telephone, at the Halifax meeting, so the DPS ceremony will consist of a presentation of the award, and some brief remarks from Jim, not a full lecture. On behalf of the members and officers of the DPS, it is my pleasure to invite all DDA members who can do so to attend the ceremony. It will be during a prize lecture session of the DPS, on Tuesday, 10 October, from 1:30 PM to 3:15 PM, in the Pasadena Convention Center, Conference Building. The actual presentation should be from 2:30 to 2:45 PM, if we keep on schedule.

If you are coming just for the Brouwer Award presentation, you do not need to register for the DPS meeting, just tell the ushers at the door that you are a DDA member attending the Brouwer Award presentation and you will be admitted without a badge to that one plenary session (all of it if you want). If you wish to attend the rest of the meeting (we cordially invite our DDA colleagues to do so), you will need to register in the usual way. You can find complete meeting details, program, and registration information on the DPS web site at www.aas.org/~dps/dps.html or you can go directly to the meeting home page at <http://adams.dm.unipi.it/~dps06/>. I hope to see many DDA members in Pasadena to wish Jim well as he receives his award.

EDUCATION NEWS

Susana E. Deustua, Director, Educational Activities

Education at the IAU General Assembly in Prague 14-25 August 2006

While the debates waged over the definition of a planet and Pluto's status, the education sessions at the IAU concentrated on more prosaic issues like how to ensure that astronomy is taught in primary and secondary schools, and whether and how to train graduate students.

Special Session 2, organized by Michael A. Bennett (USA), Julieta Fierro (Mexico), Michele Gerbaldi (France), Petr Heinzel (Czech Republic), Bambang Hidayat (Indonesia), Syuzo Isobe (Japan), Edvard V. Kononovich (Russian Federation), Margarita Metaxa (Greece), Jay M. Pasachoff (USA, co-Chair), John R. Percy (Canada), Rosa M. Ros (Spain, co-Chair), Magdalena Stavinschi (Romania), and Richard M. West (Germany) focused on innovation in methods for teaching and learning astronomy. The topics addressed by the speakers included general strategies for effective teaching, effective use of instruction and information technology, learning science by doing science, informal science education and some of the practical issues associated with implementing the 2003 IAU Resolution. This two-day session was a good reminder that many of the issues we in the United States grapple with—underpreparation of science teachers, minimal instruction in astronomy in schools, students' conceptual difficulties, preparing undergraduates for graduate work—are common world-wide, irrespective of educational systems and continent. One aspect that I personally found very encouraging is that in every country there are truly dedicated astronomers attempting to find creative and workable solutions.

Special Session 5, titled, *Astronomy for the Developing World*, was organized by John Hearnshaw (New Zealand, Chair), Athem Alsabti (UK/Iraq), Julieta Fierro (Mexico), Michele Gerbaldi (France), Hans Haubold (Germany), Barrie Jones (UK), Ajit Kembhavi (India), Hugo Levato (Argentina), Peter Martinez (South Africa), Jayant Narlikar (India), Jay Pasachoff (USA), John Percy (Canada), Boonsrucksar Soonthornthum (Thailand), Peter Willmore (UK), and Jay White (USA). Here the issues were broader, ranging from the training of astronomers in developing countries, using virtual and remote observatories and distance learning, public outreach program, and, the nurture and nature of astronomy in the developing world, e.g. Iraq, South Africa and Africa, Thailand, Cuba, the Caribbean, Uzbekistan just to name a few.

Program and abstracts for both of these sessions are available on the IAU website at <http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/innovation2006/> and <http://sps5.saao.ac.za/> respectively.

Latin American Astronomical Education Journal

RELEA: Revista Latino-Americana de Educação em Astronomia is an online journal for astronomy education which published its first issue in 2004. Its principal objectives are to serve as a forum for refereed education papers in Latin America, provide educators, researchers and students with pedagogical, methodological and content tools for astronomy education at all levels and promote the development of astronomy education research in Latin American countries. Submitted papers may be written in either Portuguese, Spanish or English and are sent to two referees. *RELEA's* Editorial Board has nine members, Managing Editors are Paulo Sérgio Bretones (Inst. Sup. de Ciênc. Aplic.), Luiz Carlos Jafelice (Depto. Fís./Univ. Fed. Rio Grande do Norte) and Jorge Horvath (Inst. Astr., Geof. e Ciênc. Atm./Univ. São Paulo). You can find *RELEA* at <http://www.iscafacaduades.com.br/relea/>.

Participate in a Research Project

Rachel Connolly is a graduate student at Columbia University Teachers College working on her PhD in Astronomy. She has a small education research project surrounding the current discussion on Pluto and planetary status and wants to capture the opinions of the scientific and educational community during this historic time, through a very short, anonymous, survey regarding the definition of a planet and Pluto's status.

The survey is at: www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=776832519335

Data collected will inform educational research. This is not a popular vote, so please do NOT take this survey multiple times. Upon completion, you will see a summary of the current results.

JOHN BAHCALL PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The AAS council has approved the establishment of the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship of the AAS. The fellowship will be a half-year postdoctoral level position with the first fellowship planned to begin in January of 2007.

In partnership with the Executive Officer, the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow will be responsible for a wide range of AAS public policy activities.

Applications for the position are due on 15 October 2006. Interested applicants holding a Ph.D. should send a resume, names and contact information of three professional references and a one or two page summary of why the position is interesting to them. Candidates will be interviewed in late October. The salary will be \$22,500 plus benefits for six months.

Send resumes to: Executive Officer, AAS Executive Office, 2000 Florida Ave, NW, #400, Washington DC 20009.

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

209th AAS Meeting (joint with AAPT)

6-10 January 2007, Seattle, WA
Contact AAS Executive Office
(gilmore@as.org)

Other Events

Massive Galaxies over Cosmic Time 2

1-3 November 2006, Tucson, AZ
Contact: MGCT2 SOC/LOC
(mgct2@noao.edu)
www.noao.edu/meetings/mgct2/

Astro-Viz '06 Workshop

6-8 November 2006, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Gordon Squires
(squires@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/astroviz06/>

Extragalactic Surveys: A Chandra Science Workshop

6-8 November 2006, Cambridge, MA
Contact: Paul Green
(xsurveys06@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/xsurveys06/>

Cool Stars 14

6-10 November 2006, Pasadena, CA
Contact: John Stauffer
(stauffer@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/cs14/>

Formation of Low-Mass Protostars and Proto-Brown Dwarfs (CS14 Splinter Session)

7 November 2006, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Juergen Steinacker (stein@mpia.de)
www.mpia-hd.mpg.de/homes/stein/CS14FormationSpl/

Second UN/NASA Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year and Basic Space Science

27 Nov-1 Dec 2006, Bangalore, India
<http://ihy2007.org>

The Workshop on Early Planetary Differentiation: A Multi-Planetary and Multi-Disciplinary Perspective

8-10 December 2006, Rohnert Park, CA
Contact: Charles Shearer (cshearer@unm.edu)
www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/epd2006/

IAU Symposium No. 241 Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies

10-14 Dec 2006, Canary Islands, Spain
Contact: Alexandre Vazdekis
(vazdekis@ll.iac.es)
www.astro.rug.nl/~peletier/IAUS241.html

*NAS Sackler Colloquium: Evolution and Exploration of Solar Systems

5-6 January 2007, Irvine, CA
Contact: Dave Stevenson (djs@gps.caltech.edu)
www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SACKLER_solarsystems

Supernova 1987A: 20 Years After Supernovae and Gamma-Ray Bursters

19-23 February 2007, Aspen, CO
Contact: Richard McCray (supernova1987a@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov)
<http://universe.gsfc.nasa.gov/conferences/supernova1987a/>

*Probing Gravity at All Scales: From the sub-mm to the Size of the Universe

5-7 March 2007, Tucson, AZ
Contact: Dimitrios Psaltis
(gravity@physics.arizona.edu)
www.physics.arizona.edu/gravity

2007 Planetary Defense Conference

5-8 March 2007, Washington, D.C.
Contact: William Ailor (william.h.ailor@aero.org)
www.aero.org/conferences/planetarydefense/index.html

IAU Symposium No. 242 Astrophysical Masers and their Environments

12-16 Mar 2007, Alice Springs, Australia
Contact: Jessica M. Chapman
(Jessica.Chapman@csiro.au)

IAU Symposium No. 243 Star-Disk Interaction in Young Stars

1-5 April 2007, Grenoble, France
Contact: Jérôme Bouvier
(jbouvier@laog.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)

From Stars to Planets: Connecting our Understanding of Star and Planet Formation

11-14 April 2007, Gainesville, FL
Contact: Jonathan Tan
(starstoplanets@astro.ufl.edu)
<http://conference.astro.ufl.edu/STARSTOPLANETS/>

Multiplicity in Star Formation

16-18 May 2007, Toronto, Canada
Contact: Prof. Ray Jayawardhana (msf@astro.utoronto.ca)
www.astro.utoronto.ca/msf

IAU Symposium No. 244 Dark Galaxies and Lost Baryons

25-29 June 2007, Cardiff, UK
Contact: Jonathan I. Davies
(jid@astro.cf.ac.uk)

Bioastronomy 2007: Molecules, Microbes and Extraterrestrial Life

16-20 July 2007, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Contact: Karen Meech
(meech@ifa.hawaii.edu)
www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/bioast07.htm

*IAU Symposium No. 245 Formation and Evolution of Galaxy Bulges

16-20 July 2007, Oxford, UK
Contact: Martin Bureau
(bureau@astro.ox.ac.uk)
www-astro.physics.ox.ac.uk/~iaus245/

*Nuclear Astrophysics: Beyond the First 50 Years

24-28 July 2007, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Stan Woosley (woosley@ucolick.org)
www.na2007.caltech.edu/

*40 Years of Pulsars: Millisecond Pulsars, Magnetars and More

12-17 August 2007, Montreal, Canada
Contact: Vicky Kaspi
(vkaspi@physics.mcgill.ca)
www.ns2007.org

IAU Symposium No. 246 Dynamical Evolution of Dense Stellar Systems

5-9 September 2007, Capri, Italy
Contact: Enrico Vesperini
(vesperin@physics.drexel.edu)

IAU Symposium No. 247 Waves and Oscillations in the Solar Atmosphere: Heating and Magneto-Seismology

17-21 Sept 2007, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela
Contact: César A. Mendoza-Briceño
(cesar@ula.ve)

IAU Symposium No. 248

A Giant Step: from Milli- to Micro-arcsecond Astrometry

15-19 October 2007, Shanghai, China

Contact: Imants Platais (imants@pha.jhu.edu)

IAU Symposium No. 249

Exoplanets: Detection, Formation and Dynamics

22-26 October 2007, Suzhou, China

Contact: Ji-Lin Zhou (zhoujl@nju.edu.cn)

12th Latin-American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM-2007)

26-30 Nov 2007, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Contact: Gustavo A. Bruzual (bruzual@cida.ve)

IAU Symposium No. 250

Massive Stars as Cosmic Engines

10-14 December 2007, Kauai, HI

Contact: Paul A. Crowther

(Paul.Crowther@sheffield.ac.uk)

Note: Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention (new or revised listings noted with an asterisk). Due to space limitations, we publish notice of meetings 1) occurring in North, South and Central America; 2) meetings of the IAU; and 3) meetings as requested by AAS Members. Meeting publication may only be assured by emailing crystal@aaas.org. Meetings that fall within 30 days of publication are not listed.

A comprehensive list of world-wide astronomy meetings is maintained by Liz Bryson, Librarian C-F-H Telescope in collaboration with the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre, Victoria, BC. The list may be accessed and meeting information entered at <http://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings>.

The AAS continues to make authoring papers in its journals easier. See the "Astronomer Tools" link on the AAS homepage.

AAS DONATION FORUM

Howard H. Lanning, Donation Archive Coordinator

Seven years ago, the AAS began hosting the Donations Web Page providing an opportunity for members and interested facilities to offer, or request, astronomical journals, books and equipment. Numerous individuals, universities and observatories have benefited from the generosity of AAS members over the years. In 2004, the AAS sponsored a very successful gathering of donated journals and books to aid the rebuilding of the Mount Stromlo Observatory Library following the devastating fire that destroyed many of the Observatory's facilities. Nearly two tons of books and journals were shipped as part of that campaign. Individuals and libraries have continued to offer their collections to Mount Stromlo.

The Journal Donation program is still going strong. Even in this age of electronic access, there are still colleges and libraries around the world in need of hard copies of astronomical journals and books. Most recently, William Baum, University of Washington, sent a shipment of 74 boxes of journals to the University of Split in Croatia providing valuable support for their newly created astronomy department. Members continue to post their collections on the AAS Donation Web Page and we are actively assisting in coordinating donations and updating the web site frequently. Unfortunately, nearly 50% of the posted donations during the last few years have ended up in the recycle bin. We would like to encourage all members to continue to offer their collections for donation. There is definitely still a need out there. Those who wish to donate or request journals, books or equipment may visit the Donation Forum at www.aas.org/donation. We appreciate your support.



We're DONE (almost!!) Pay attention to the number of boxes (74 in total!) -- 1.3 tons of astronomical journals donated by B. Baum!!!! Standing (left to right): Amy Kimball, Bill Baum, Ester Baum, Marko Pavic, Oliver Fraser; lower row (left to right): Zeljko Ivezić, Jill Meyer, Branimir Sesar. Photo: Mirela Obric.



American Astronomical Society
2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009-1231

Periodical
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Newsletter 132 October 2006



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WASHINGTON NEWS

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer
marvel@aaas.org



It is unlikely that a budget for FY 2007 will have been enacted (as it must be by law) by 30 September 2006. Some people have said that the way our government operates is “no way to run a business.” Part of this sentiment is certainly true. Our government is certainly not a business and, that said, it certainly doesn’t run like one.

How is it exactly that Congress is not bound by its own rules (a.k.a. the law of the land)? Well, it ends up that the body that makes the laws can also bend them to the point of breaking. In election years, like 2006, it has become common practice to delay the passage of the budget or other controversial bills until after the elections in November have concluded. That way, incumbents do not have to answer tough questions on the campaign trail. Best to stick to comments on the quality of the pancakes or fried chicken.

However, even though the Congress will not pass the spending bills before the election, we cannot rest in our efforts to improve the funding situation for Astronomy and science research in general. The normal procedure for years in which particular appropriations bills do not pass is for Congress to negotiate a massive “Omnibus” spending bill, which includes all spending bills in one huge piece of legislation. The negotiations among legislators that produce

this enormous ream of paper are often hurried and involve only key players, though champions for particular spending measures make sure their voice is heard. This is where AAS members can make a difference.

It is important to inform your legislator, especially your Senator, that Astronomy research is funded through NSF, NASA and DOE. It is important that they know that the planned appropriations level for NSF and DOE (increased under the President’s American Competitiveness Agenda) is a good thing and that they should support any increases above and beyond the President’s proposed funding level. It is important that they know that the planned cuts in the NASA budget will have a detrimental and instantaneous impact on astronomy and space science research (to say nothing of the impacts on astrobiology and other smaller portions of the NASA research budget).

So take a few minutes this September and fire off a letter to your members of Congress and especially the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the appropriate subcommittees for Science. Addresses can, as always, be found through the AAS’ website (public policy => contact congress) or through the Senate or House web pages. A short