

AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

November/December 2010, Issue 155

CONTENTS

2

From the
Executive Office

3

A Decade of Science

4

Journals Update

6-13

Candidate
Statements

15

Osterbrock Award
to Nathan Sivin

Back page

Washington
News

President's Column

Debra Meloy Elmegreen, president@aaas.org

As a beautiful Harvest Moon joins a brilliant Jupiter to illuminate our autumn skies and remind us why we are in this business, we have already enjoyed a half dozen AAS Decadal Survey Town Halls and about twice as many less formal Q&A sessions led by Astro2010 members around the country. We have a similar number yet to come this semester, culminating in Roger Blandford's wrap-up at the Seattle meeting Town Hall. I am grateful to the host institution folks for their efforts in organizing the events locally, and to the Astro2010 members and AAS representatives for their presentations. Hopefully these discussions have elucidated the recommendations and helped clarify the process and constraints behind the very difficult decisions. For those who could not make it to a Town Hall, Space Telescope Science Institute/Johns Hopkins recorded theirs as a service to the community, and the webcast is available on the AAS and STScI websites.

It is important to bear in mind that the decadal recommendations were carefully built upon detailed science discussions, coupled with evaluations of the costs, technical risks, and readiness factors of possible activities with which to accomplish the goals, then crafted together within the confines of tightly constrained budget guidelines from the agencies. The recommended program is a coherent integrated plan of small, medium, and large activities. The ranked recommendations were not meant to be a smorgasbord from which to pick and choose at will, nor were particular activities meant to be partially implemented. The entire decadal process is at risk if the agencies or the community choose to modify or bypass the recommendations. While we anxiously await the new Congressional budget, many from the Astro2010 committee as well as the AAS Executive Office have had discussions with relevant Congressional and agency staff. We urge immediate implementation of the report's recommendation to form an independent standing committee, the Decadal Survey Implementation Advisory Committee (DSIAC), to be "constituted to monitor progress toward reaching the goals recommended in the decadal survey of astronomy and astrophysics, and to provide strategic advice to the agencies over the decade of implementation."

As discussions about the "New Worlds, New Horizons" report continue, several comments have struck me regarding issues that concern us all. I have heard from many graduate students who wonder whether their research in astronomy should now be restricted either to dark energy or exoplanets. Absolutely not! While Cosmic Dawn, New Worlds, and Fundamental Physics of the Universe were highlighted as three key areas ripe for discovery, they were not meant to exclude other astronomical endeavors. The report and the separate panel reports, all available as free downloads from the National Academies Press, detail a wealth of exciting astronomy investigations beckoning the next generation, and they include all areas, from the Sun to planets and stars to nearby and distant galaxies, to the universe as a whole, from the smallest particles to the largest structure, across the electromagnetic and gravitational spectrum, from lab measurements to theoretical calculations and simulations, to observations from ground and from space. Be sure to read Chapter 2 in the report as well as the science and program panel reports to see the key questions and discovery areas highlighted there for each subfield, as well as a detailed discussion on the research that lies immediately ahead. Many fields are encompassed by the large projects. A key part of the WFIRST mission is the guest observer component using the wide field near-infrared imager; this general opportunity is one of the factors that led to WFIRST's number one ranking for large space missions. The LSST survey



continued on page 3

AAS Officers

Debra M. Elmegreen, President
John P. Huchra, Past-President
Christine Jones, Vice-President
Lee Anne Willson, Vice-President
Nicholas B. Suntzeff, Vice-President
Hervey (Peter) Stockman, Treasurer
G. Fritz Benedict, Secretary
Richard F. Green, Pub Board Chair
Timothy F. Slater, Education Officer
Richard Fienberg, Press Officer & Education Outreach Coordinator

Councilors

Richard G. French
Edward F. Guinan
Patricia Knezek
James D. Lowenthal
Robert Mathieu
Nancy Morrison
C. Megan Urry
Charles E. Woodward
Jennifer Wiseman

Executive Office Staff

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer
Tracy Beale, Membership Services Administrator
Chris Biemesderfer, Director of Publishing
Laronda Boyce, Meetings & Exhibits Coordinator
Kelly E. Clark, Chief Financial Officer
Kim Earle, Director of Meeting Services
Scott Garvey, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Idem, Meetings Administrator
Scott Idem, Systems & Network Manager
Judith M. Johnson, Managing Editor AER & BAAS
Kara North, Meetings Abstract Administrator
Faye C. Peterson, Manager, Membership Services
Crystal M. Tinch, Communications & Development Specialist

The *AAS Newsletter* (ISSN 8750-9350) is published bi-monthly by the American Astronomical Society, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231; Tel: 202-328-2010, Fax: 202-234-2560, aas@aas.org; www.aas.org.

The \$141.00 annual membership dues for the American Astronomical Society include \$3.00 that is applied toward a subscription to the *AAS Newsletter*. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AAS, 2000 Florida Ave, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231.

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.php. Items submitted to the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to crystal@aas.org.

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

From the Executive Office

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

As highlighted on our website and in this newsletter, the AAS Executive Office is still reeling from the tragic loss of our past president, John Huchra. I was able to attend John's funeral and was overwhelmed by the large number of his friends and colleagues, both near and far who attended to commemorate his life. John was as passionate about his service to the AAS as he was in his scientific research. During his term he helped motivate and lead the Council to draft a professional ethics statement, complete a mission/vision statement and begin to develop a strategic plan. I relied on him for sage advice and decision making on a range of challenging issues, which he always provided after listening carefully and analyzing what would be best for the Society. He served the AAS on our Council, on our Publications Board, as an elected officer and as a regular donor and meeting attendee. As his wife Rebecca shared at his funeral service, John lived his life every day at 100%, gave of his time selflessly and always sought to enjoy life. All of us in the Executive Office will miss him and his nearly constant presence in our lives for the past several years.

In mid-October, the four John Bahcall Public Policy Fellows gathered for a networking lunch near the AAS Executive offices. Pictured (left to right and in order of service) are Jeremy Richardson, Marcos Huerta, Anita Krishnamurthi and Bethany Johns. Jeremy works as a contractor for the Department on Energy in renewable energy. Marcos has just finished up his AAAS fellowship with Congressman Grijalva. Anita is working with the Afterschool Alliance, a non-profit organization working to enhance after school education programs. Bethany just began as the Bahcall fellow in September. Although the AAS can only have a single fellow at a time, over time more and more astronomers will use the fellowship as a bridge between the research and policy worlds. Along the way, the AAS benefits from their active engagement on our behalf in policy work here in Washington. I am proud of each of our Bahcall fellows and what they have accomplished and what I am sure they will accomplish. Please read Bethany's first column, which begins on the last page of this newsletter. She is also considering restarting the AAS Policy blog, is actively working on the Plutonium 238 production restart issue and is establishing her own network with policy makers in Washington.



and the science opportunities with a GSMT also span many fields. While preparing for new large missions in the future, we have more immediate opportunities for innovations across several fields via the enhanced Explorer program, the Mid-scale Innovations Program, the proposed technology development, augmentations to existing programs, and new small initiatives, many of which relate to broad observing or theory areas; for example, the Theory and Computation Networks are designed to allow multi-year, multi-institutional efforts.

Graduate student concerns naturally are also focused on the job market. Advisors owe it to their students to heed the advice in Chapter 4 of the report about mentoring, such as discussing appropriate training and alternative career opportunities. The graduate student/postdoc career stage is a difficult one in which many young astronomers are also considering the ramifications of raising children while trying to achieve their professional goals, so the report reminds the community about the advantages of adopting family-friendly policies such as the Pasadena Recommendations (posted on the AAS website for handy reference). Students (and others!) should note that the AAS website has a number of helpful articles under the Career Resources and Employment websites about different types of jobs, preparation, and networking; furthermore, various AAS committees are working on ways to help us all. Additionally, the upcoming Seattle meeting presents some wonderful opportunities for professional development. Thanks to Kevin Marvel and Kellie Cruz for their successful NSF grant, and building on their initial efforts in DC, there will be workshops and seminars on Negotiation, Leadership, Making Good Plots, and Giving Effective Talks, plus a half-day career workshop by Alaina Levine, "Advancing Your Career in Astronomy: Identifying and Seizing Opportunities, Learning and Honing Professional Skills."

While thinking about decadal goals, I would like to point out that the AAS has society-wide goals as well. The AAS Strategic Plan, developed over the past year during John Huchra's presidency, is now available as a draft on the AAS website. It lists the priorities and goals for the Society for the next five years, building on our Mission Statement. Comments on the plan are welcome as we work towards achieving the goals. The AAS community may be interested to know that the Executive Committee of the AAS (consisting of the President, Past President or President-elect in alternate years, senior VPs, Treasurer, Secretary, and CEO) meets in October each year to discuss ongoing operations and new initiatives. This fall, we will hear reports from CEO Kevin Marvel about budget and operations, from Director of Publishing Chris Biemesderfer about the journals, from Press Officer and Education and Outreach Coordinator Rick Fienberg, and from the new Bahcall Public Policy Fellow Bethany Johns (we wish outgoing Fellow Anita Krishnamurthi well in her new position), and will also meet with Division Heads to hear about their activities. We will be considering further how the infrastructure advice in the decadal report can be incorporated within the bounds of the AAS goals. Besides the professional development at AAS meetings, the Demographics Committee has now been formally constituted and is making plans for a new longitudinal study, and new outreach and mentoring efforts are being discussed.

As always, I welcome your comments and input, since the AAS is most relevant even between meetings if we are working towards goals that make sense to the membership. And I look forward to seeing a big crowd at the Seattle meeting in January!

Honored Elsewhere

Modjaz Receives Biermann Award

Maryam Modjaz, currently Hubble Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University, received the 2010 Ludwig Biermann Award from the German Astronomical Society for her significant contributions to understanding the nature and progenitors of Supernovae and Gamma-Ray Bursts. Modjaz's research focuses on extensive and panchromatic observations of various types of massive stellar explosions, which are amongst the most powerful explosions in the universe. She further explores these stellar explosions' host environments,

in particular their metallicities, as a promising new tool for understanding their progenitors and the explosion conditions that determine the fate of massive stars. Before moving to Columbia University in September 2010, Maryam Modjaz was a Miller Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley.

The Ludwig Biermann Award was established in 1988 by the Astronomische Gesellschaft (i.e., the German Astronomical Society) to be awarded in recognition of outstanding young astronomers.

A Decade of Science

John Huchra, AAS Past-President, Vice Chair Astro2010



Well folks, our Decadal Survey has been out for a few months now and the returns are coming in from town halls, colloquia, committee debriefs and personal comments and questions. It now remains for us, the astronomical community, working with the agencies and with our public and private and international partners, to, in the immortal words of Jean-Luc Picard, “make it so.”

The Committee and Panels put together a bold yet fiscally conservative program. We received a tremendous amount of input and a tremendous number of proposals for facilities, instruments and projects. The scope of the science described ranges from the formation of planetary systems (including our own) to probing the earliest stages of the Big Bang. Students and young researchers searching for areas of research can start by looking at the 20 questions identified by the Survey’s Science Frontier Panels. These are described in Chapter 2 of the report and enumerated in the first Appendix. In addition to the leading questions, the Science Frontier Panels identified “discovery” areas: time domain astronomy, gravitational waves, astrometry, the epoch of re-ionization, and the characterization of nearby habitable exoplanets.

The Committee itself crafted a program—not just a prioritized list of projects—which can attack the questions and enable discovery. The major ground-based and space projects, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) and the Wide Field Infra-red Survey Telescope (WFIRST), combined, will enable wide-field multi-wavelength surveys that will discover near Earth objects, probe the outer solar system, survey the Milky Way and nearby galaxies, complete the demographic study of planetary systems and probe the distant universe to study its evolution. Coupled with the spectroscopic and very high resolution imaging capabilities of ALMA and JWST and later of the new generation GSMTs, these facilities should serve the field well.

The Committee also gave strong support for NASA’s Explorer program and for the establishment of an equivalent program at the NSF. The Explorer program (along with NASA’s sub-orbital program) has long been known both as the way to rapidly launch forefront astronomy missions to fill

observational needs or to respond to opportunities and as the incubator of our next generation of instrumentalists. That such programs are competed allows them to respond to science opportunities that were not locked in several years before.

The Committee’s high risk yet high return recommendation was partnering in the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA). If it flies, and there are many technological hurdles the mission must leap first, LISA will open up a new observational window that will allow probes of not only black holes but the early Universe before the epoch of recombination. Following LISA is the International X-Ray Observatory (IXO), the large area spectroscopic successor to CHANDRA, with superb capabilities to observe compact sources, hot gas in galaxies and clusters, and a myriad of other sources, some yet to be discovered.

Grounding these larger items, the Committee also recommended increased support for grants, theory, computation, data archiving, operations of existing productive facilities, laboratory astrophysics, and technology development, especially in areas where prospective missions are expected in the 2020 decade. The program overall should move astronomy forward and preserve the health of the field especially in this time of constrained resources.

And, with the right effort on our part, through strengthening the case for basic research, highlighting the role that astronomy plays in STEM education and in the public’s interest in science and technology, through partnerships, through making the case for our science, we should be able to increase the resources available to the field and to really “engage” New Worlds and New Horizons.

As this newsletter goes to press, I acknowledge with great sorrow the unexpected and untimely passing of AAS past-president John Peter Huchra on 8 October. John was one of those rare astronomers with friends and interests across the whole discipline. He was passionate about astronomy and life, full of energy and ideas. He served the Society phenomenally well during his presidency, while also serving on the Astro2010 Decadal Survey Committee and other national committees. His research and his AAS and Decadal Survey visions are a legacy for us all. He was a wonderful colleague, friend, and mentor, and always offered sage advice coupled with good humor. It was an honor and a privilege to work and laugh with him, and we will very much miss his presence at the table of past leaders of our Society.

Debra Elmegreen, AAS President

Journals Update

Chris Biemesderfer, Director of Publishing, Chris.Biemesderfer@aaas.org

Article Numbers

The scholarly community in astronomy is innovative and has been using robust digital article identifiers (DOIs and Bibcodes) for quite some time. In traditional “bibliographic coordinates,” scholars often refer to articles with triples of information: the journal abbreviation, the volume number, and the starting page number of the article. In order to determine the starting page number for each article in a volume (except for the first one), the volume has to be continuously paginated, making each article’s bibliographic coordinates dependent on all the preceding articles in the volume.

As we strive for a fully digital publications program, we wish to end the individual article’s dependency on continuously paginated volumes. The page number scheme we use now forces the identification of articles to depend on a *property*—the number of pages in the final form of the article—of the other articles in the volume. It delays the identification of articles until all the articles that precede it in the volume are typeset. We need articles to be more independent; we want to be able to identify each article without referring to a property of other articles. Beginning in 2011, we will use an article numbering scheme to identify articles within a volume, rather than relying on issue-based page numbers.

This is not hard to do, and it is easy to understand from the researcher’s point of view. We will simply assign a sequence number to each article as it is accepted into a volume. Each article will still have a unique integer number that distinguishes it from the rest of the articles in the volume; we are just going to use a different sequence of small integers to identify the articles. In reference lists, the page number attribute is replaced with the article’s sequence number.

Now, we are doing this in the real world, so there are other considerations, most importantly that the Society’s cooperating content partners are properly advised about the change. We are fully engaged with IOP, ADS, CDS, and NED, and we have made every effort to ensure that we are consistent with nominal practices in the publishing industry as well as in the astronomical community. *A&A* began using article numbers in 2010 (editorial DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/200913865). *AER* has used article numbers since its 2009 volume.

Journals’ Proprietary Period

In June, the Publications Board approved a reduction to the proprietary period for the *AJ* and the *ApJ*. Articles are currently under access control for 24 months from publication. Beginning in 2011, this period will be reduced to 12 months. This means that articles will be free to read, or open access, 12 months after they are published. The motivation for this action was the growing visibility of a number of “open government” and “public access” initiatives. The Publications Board and the Executive Office felt that an eventual mandate is inevitable, and that it made sense to take this step voluntarily in advance of such a mandate.

Member Deaths

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

J.M.A. (Tony) Danby
John Huchra
Robert H. Koch

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.

Opting In and Out of AAS Publications

If you would no longer like to receive paper copies of the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Membership Directory*, or the *AAS Calendar*, please send an email to address@aaas.org or log into your member record at aaas.org.

To unsubscribe from AAS emails, contact address@aaas.org

For address changes, email address@aaas.org

Candidate Statements

President (vote for one)

David Helfand

Nominated Office: President

Affiliation: Columbia University, Quest University Canada

Position: Chair, Department of Astronomy; President

Ph.D.: University of Massachusetts (1977)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Radio astronomy (pulsars, SNRs, surveys); x-ray astronomy (SNRs, X-ray background)

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Harlow Shapley Lecturer (1982-2002)
- HEAD (Vice Chair 1986-1987, Chair 1987-1988)
- Associate Editor, *ApJ Letters* (1987-1990)
- US National Representative to the IAU (1987-1991)
- CAPP (1988-1989)
- AAS Councilor (1996-1999)
- Investment Advisory Committee (1998-2001)
- Education Office Review Committee (Chair, 1999-2000)
- AAS Second Century Fund Committee (1999-2001)
- AAS Second Century Lecture Committee (1999-2004; Chair 2004-2005)
- AAS Committee on the Status of Women (2000-2003)
- Russell Lecturer Committee (2005-2007; Chair 2007-2008)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Chair, Dept. of Astronomy, Columbia University (1986-1992; 1994-1997, 2002-present)
- President, Quest University Canada (2008-present)
- Scientific Advisory Group/or EVLA (Chair, 2007-2009)
- Hubble Fellows Selection Committee (Chair, 2003)
- Phi Beta Kappa National Book Award Committee (2002-2004)
- Harvard-Smithsonian Visiting Committee (1999-2002)
- Editorial Committee, *Annual Reviews of Astronomy and Astrophysics* (1997-2001)
- SEU Subcommittee of CSAA (1996-1997)
- NAS Task Force on Space Astronomy (1996)
- STAC (1996)
- NASA Senior Review (1996)
- American Museum of Natural History Hayden Planetarium Committee (1992-1999)
- NAS Astronomy Survey Subcommittees (1989-1990)
- ALP Public Information Committee (1991-1994)
- Users/Advisory Committees for NAIC, NRAO, NASA ADS, ASCA, NASA HEASARC, NASA SOMWG
- Fellow, Committee/or Skeptical Inquiry (2004-present)

Statement: I snuck into my first AAS meeting while an undergraduate at Amherst College (there were no undergrad

receptions then) and joined the Society in 1976—just in time to give a paper at the Honolulu meeting the following January. Serving in various roles over the ensuing three decades, I have come to understand that the Society does more than hold meetings. It is the conscience, the convenor, and the conduit of our profession: our conscience through the work of CSWA and CSMA, and by defining our ethical responsibilities; our convenor through organizing meetings and shepherding our journals through a rapidly changing publishing landscape; and our conduit—to government, to students, and to the public through our many education and outreach activities.

In all these spheres, we face serious challenges.

In 2008, I was asked to assume the Presidency of a highly innovative, new university in British Columbia—Quest University Canada—after it had suffered a near-death experience at the beginning of its second year in existence. This has been the most rewarding experience of my career. While the AAS is hardly near death, it too faces challenging times, including the need to sustain support for the Decadal Survey priorities in the face of unprecedented fiscal constraints. We require a Society that is nimble, energetic, creative, and ready to draw on the individual strengths of its members to provide for the citizens of this planet the inspiration that comes from our uniquely human quest to understand the universe. I would be honored to lead this effort.

Paul Vanden Bout

Nominated Office: President

Affiliation: National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Position: Senior Scientist

Ph.D.: University of California, Berkeley (1966)

Areas of Scientific Interest: interstellar matter, star formation, high redshift galaxies

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Member, Publication Board (2010-2013)
- Vice-President (2005-2008)
- Councilor (1990-1993)
- Henry Norris Russell Lectureship Committee (2002-2004)
- Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris (2001-2004)
- Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (1995-1999, 2001-2005)
- Nominating Committee (1984-1987)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- NRAO Director (1985-2002)
- ALMA Director, interim (2002-2003)
- Member, Decadal Survey Committee (Astro2010)
- NAS Committee on Radio Frequencies (2005-2009)
- Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC), (2010-2013)
- Past service on numerous advisory and review committees.

Statement: As members of the AAS, we can take pride in our professional society. The AAS journals are the leading astronomical journals in the world. Meetings of the Society bring together thousands of astronomers to present and learn the latest results, exchange ideas, and gather in town meetings of observatories and funding agencies. The AAS conducts programs that facilitate the employment of astronomers, foster improvements in astronomy education, and support efforts for a more diverse workforce. The Society speaks for astronomy in Washington, tracks developments of interest, and keeps the membership informed. This is particularly important with the release of the latest decadal report, which presents a strategy for the next ten years that needs and deserves broad support from AAS members. The success of our plans is essential to the creation of opportunities for young people, whose ideas, energy, and fresh perspectives are vital to the future of astronomy. Fortunately, the public shares our excitement over astonishing discoveries and our anticipation of further surprises. I believe we can realize our plans if we represent astronomy to the public and to government as effectively as possible. If elected, I would work for the AAS members to achieve our common goals.

Vice-President (vote for one)

Edward Churchwell

Nominated Office: Vice-President

Affiliation: University of Wisconsin

Position: Professor Emeritus

Ph.D.: Indiana University (1970)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Interstellar Medium; Massive Star Formation

AAS Positions & Dates:

- USNC-IAU (December 2008- December 2010)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS

Office:

- Department Chair: University of Wisconsin (1989-1992)
- Head Astronomy Group: Arecibo Observatory (February-December 2010)

Statement: As a Vice-President, I would endeavor first and foremost to insure that the AAS continues to promote creative research and education policies. I feel it is especially important to provide whatever support it can to young scientists who are just beginning their careers in research, teaching, or both. It is essential that AAS members become actively involved with the Society by running for one or more of its elected offices; this is one of the best ways to understand how it works.

I would like to see the AAS become more involved in promoting a scientifically better informed public who can more readily recognize scientific distortions and myths. All too often science seems to be distorted to serve political, religious and/or economic agendas. When blatant distortions of science are propagated by the mass media, especially in cases that may affect important political or economic decisions, I believe the

AAS and other scientific disciplines need to speak out clearly and forcefully about what science can actually say about a particular issue.

Joshua Frieman

Nominated Office: Vice-President

Affiliation: Fermilab and the University of Chicago

Position: Scientist (Fermilab) and Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics (University of Chicago)

Ph.D.: University of Chicago (1985)

Areas of Scientific Interest: cosmology observation and theory, supernovae, large-scale structure, dark energy

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Committee on Employment (2010-present)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS

Office:

- Astro 2010 Decadal Survey Committee (2008-2010)
- Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC, 2010-2013)
- APS Division of Astrophysics Executive Committee (2002-4)
- APS DAP Nominating Committee (1998, 2006)
- Director, Dark Energy Survey (2010-2013)
- Trustee, Aspen Center for Physics (2006-2012)
- Team Leader, SDSS-II Supernova Survey (2004-209)
- Chair, SDSS Collaboration Council (1998-2001)
- Panel on Particle, Nuclear, and Gravitational-wave Astrophysics of the Decadal Survey (1999-2000)
- Organizer of AAS Special Sessions (2007, 2011)
- Co-organizer of 20 workshops and conferences over the last decade

Statement: The AAS plays a central role in enabling the astronomy community to thrive, through its meetings and journals, the job register, its advocacy for the field, and the activities focused on public policy, education, public outreach, prizes, and the health of the profession. The recently released AAS Strategic Plan lays out important goals for the Society for the next five years in each of these areas. I see the role of the Vice-Presidents as helping to implement those goals, in part by laying out effective programs for the meetings and working to improve their usefulness and attractiveness for astronomers at all levels in the workforce, and more generally by serving on the AAS Council. The Astro2010 Survey, on which I served and which had unprecedented community involvement, envisions a decade of extraordinary discovery in astronomy, albeit one tightly constrained by budgetary realities. I believe the AAS has an important role to play in advocating for the program laid out in the Survey Report. While media attention has focused on the ranking of the large projects, just as vital to our colleagues are the many other issues highlighted in the report, including the balance between different parts of the program, the maintenance of and access to forefront facilities, support for research grants, the changing public/private and international landscape, the continuing need to improve diversity, and a growing awareness that astronomers work in a wide variety of environments. The community, aided by the AAS, can flourish in the coming years, and I would welcome the opportunity to work with the members on these and other concerns.

Treasurer

Hervey S. (Peter) Stockman, Jr.

Nominated Office: Treasurer

Affiliation: Space Telescope Science Institute

Position: Deputy Project Scientist, JWST Project

Ph.D.: Columbia University (1973)

Areas of Scientific Interest: The Earliest Galaxies, Space Instrumentation

AAS Positions and Dates:

- Treasurer (2005-2011)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Vice President, Board of Trustees, Walters Art Museum (2002-present)
- JWST Mission Head (STScI) (1996-2007)
- Deputy Director, STScI (1988-1995)

Statement: To accomplish its mission (http://aas.org/about/mission_and_vision), the AAS organizes the semi-annual meetings of its members, publishes the *AJ* and *ApJ*, and supports five active divisions. The Society also communicates the goals of its members to government and seeks to improve science education. Support for these activities comes primarily from members in the form of dues, meeting registrations, and page charges. Library journal subscriptions, gifts for prizes, and grants from US agencies complete the revenue stream. Since the Society is a non-profit, the annual challenge is providing our members and other stakeholders with high quality meetings, journals, and education programs without excessive fees or incurring losses. As a member of the Council and Executive Committee, I share a fiscally conservative view in approving new initiatives, meeting venues, and journal policies. As Treasurer, I work closely with the Executive Officer and staff to ensure that appropriate budgeting, accounting and reporting processes are followed. Their professionalism has helped the Society deal successfully with the impacts of the recession and the change in publishers. I also chair the Budget, Investment, and Strategic Planning committees.

Councilors (vote for three)

Taft Armandroff

Nominated Office: Council

Affiliation: W. M. Keck Observatory

Position: Director

Ph.D.: Yale University (1988)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar Populations, Globular Clusters, Astronomical Instrumentation

AAS Positions & Dates: N/A

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Observatory Council, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), (2009-present)
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)

Advisory Committee, National Science Foundation (2009-present)

- TMT External Advisory Panel (2010)
- Gemini Science Committee, Gemini Observatory (2000-2006)
- Board of Directors and Board Secretary, WIYN Consortium Inc. (1999-2002)
- Scientific staff member, NOAO (1987-2006)
- Associate Director, NOAO (2002-2006)

Statement: The American Astronomical Society is a cornerstone of U.S. astronomy. The Society has evolved as the needs of the U.S. astronomy community have changed. One aspect of the Society's mission that strikes me as particularly important at the current time is advocacy for the opportunities in astronomy as the compelling Astro2010 Decadal Survey is considered by the funding agencies and Congress. I am very interested in this aspect of the Society's mission, alongside other critical AAS functions, such as the Society's meetings, career services, and journals. As a research astronomer who has devoted his career to advancing major optical observatories, I would hope to bring a somewhat diverse perspective to the Council. A significant fraction of the Society's membership has spent part or all of their career at an observatory, be it radio, x-ray or optical/IR, space-based or ground-based. Such facilities and their staffs look to the AAS for many functions, particularly meetings, publications, career services, and advocacy. As a Society, it is our responsibility to showcase the opportunities for transformative discoveries that investments in astronomy and astronomy facilities will yield. If elected, I would be honored to serve as a Councilor.

Bruce Balick

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: University of Washington

Position: Professor

Ph.D.: Cornell (1971)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Advanced Stellar Evolution and Planetary Nebulae

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Councilor (late 1990s)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee (2006-2010)
- NASA: Wide Field Camera 3 Scientific Oversight Committee (1998-2009)
- Chair, Faculty Senate, University of Washington (2009-2010)

Statement: My campaign is about enhancing the national influence of the AAS on significant issues of broad interest to the U.S. astronomical community. AAS leadership is the only elected representative body of U.S. astronomers. Thus the AAS holds a special political position. The President of the AAS should have the gravitas to express the authoritatively developed will of the Society based on the advice of member-

elected representatives of a Senate-like body. I propose that the Senate develop and debate resolutions (via internet polling and meeting tools) that authoritatively express this will, and to provide its imprimatur as a thoughtful and collegial basis for speaking for the AAS on key issues. My goal in seeking the position of Councilor is to engage the Council to work with the Presidents, the Vice Presidents, and the AAS officers and staff to develop and analyze the pros and cons of such a body and to start the legislative, infrastructure, and resource planning.

I am willing to serve if elected for office in the American Astronomical Society.

Platform: My campaign is primarily about enhancing the prestige and more importantly, the national influence of the AAS on significant issues of broad interest to the AAS community.

Motivation: The leadership of the AAS is the only elected representative body of the community of U.S. astronomers. It can and should play a prominent role in national decision-making. However, the voice of the AAS has become muted in the past 25 years. Why? One answer is that the Decadal Survey has assumed growing responsibility for guiding our strategic investments. (That is a huge and very effective step forward since the D.S. panelists thoughtfully match the research needs and the investment priorities within our community.) Secondly the AAS became increasingly occupied with ongoing services to members, from publications to meetings and newsletters; from managing topical divisions to the central node for job shopping and career development to education—and much, much more. These are useful services, many of them vital to a vigorous, youthful community. Still, there are now 18 standing committees and 14 prize committees within the AAS to administer. Are we simply too preoccupied with a panoply of service functions to find our potentially influential all-community voice? Are we separate communities in search of a common society?

Change is upon us at every level. For example, nettlesome decisions driven by budget constraints at the national observatories and their funding agencies are inevitable in the decade ahead. The legitimacy needed to recommend key operational priorities lie beyond the purviews of the Decadal Survey, the AAAC and the NRC, and advisory committees that report separately to each institution and agency. Frankly, this is exactly the time when the community should be focusing on large issues and articulating community interests and priorities.

Vision and Goals: The President of the AAS must have the basis and the tools to speak authoritatively in behalf of the Society. The President should be able to speak with the considered advice and authority of elected representatives to a “College of AAS Representatives.” The role of the College will be to develop and debate resolutions that authoritatively express our will and wisdom on community issues as defined by the AAS Council and President, and to provide President and the Council with a thoughtful and constitutional basis for defining a public position. (The College does not consider legislation.)

My vision of the process is that (1) key community issues will be developed and explained by the President (as they arise) in our Newsletters; (2) large-scale feedback will be solicited of the community (via electronic polls) and digested by ~30 regionally elected representatives; (3) consensus will be developed by the College through debate using internet meeting tools; and (4) with the help of the Secretary of the AAS, resolutions that express the will of the community will be adopted by vote and transmitted from the College to the President and Council for action.

If elected I’d endeavor to engage the President, the Council, and AAS officials in legislative, infrastructure, and resource planning for such a consultative voting body within the AAS.

Eileen Friel

Nominated Office: AAS Council

Affiliation: Boston University

Position: Adjunct Professor, Astronomy Department

Ph.D.: University of California, Santa Cruz (1986)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Galactic structure and evolution, star clusters, stellar populations and abundances

AAS Positions & Dates:

- AAS Employment Committee (2010-2012)
- NSF Representative to IAU US National Committee (2000- 2009)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- ESO Observing Programmes Committee, Stellar Evolution panel chair (2009-2011)
- OPC Vice-Chair (2010-2011)
- NOAO Galactic TAC, Chair (November 2009)
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (elected 2009)
- Director, Lowell Observatory (2009-2010)
- Executive Officer, NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences (2000-2009)
- Gemini Board of Directors (2008-2009)
- Executive Secretary to Gemini Board (2000-2008)
- Member Interagency Working Group on the Physics of the Universe (2003-2009)
- IAU Organizing Committee, Commission 29 (2001-2004)
- Program Officer, NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences (1996-1999)
- Shapley Lecturer (1996-2006)
- NASA Categorization Committee (1996)
- HST Stellar Populations Panel Review (1996)
- AAS REU grants review panel (1995)
- NOAO/CTIO TAC (1992-1994)
- NSF panel reviews in Division of Astronomical Sciences and Directorate for Education and Human Resources (1991-1995, 1999)

Statement: The new Decadal Survey provides a clear and eloquent vision of what our science can become over the next ten years. It is ambitious, but its goals for new facilities, instruments, and programs are achievable. In a similar spirit, the AAS Council’s newly released Draft Strategic Plan can

substantially improve our effectiveness at public policy and advocacy, scholarly publications, education and outreach, and facilitation of discussion on matters of interest and concern for our profession. Perhaps more remarkable than the documents themselves are the on-going, open, and inclusive processes through which they are being created. Inclusiveness is essential because twelve years at the National Science Foundation have taught me that for us to accomplish ambitious goals we must act as a community.

Never has the science of astronomy been so exciting. Never has it held so much promise. The AAS has an essential role in the continuing dialogue between our community, public and private funding agencies, Congress, and the White House. Its success depends on our support.

I would be honored to serve on the Council for an organization that is now positioned to accomplish so much for all of us.

Inese I. Ivans

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: The University of Utah, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Position: Assistant Professor

Ph.D.: The University of Texas at Austin (2002)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Galactic formation and evolution, stellar populations, origin of the elements, stellar chemical compositions, stellar spectroscopy

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Member since 1997 (converted to full membership in 2002)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS

Office:

- NOAO Galactic TAC (2005- 2008)
- NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG) Proposal Panelist/Reviewer
- Research Corporation Award Reviewer
- CFHT TAC Proposal Reviewer
- Member of the scientific organizing committees of a number of meetings (2008-present)
- Member IAU Division IV, Commission 29 (2003-present)

Statement: Cosmic origins, new horizons, physics of the universe—with the decadal review employing such exciting terms to describe some of the current and future prospects for producing new knowledge and discoveries in our field, it's no wonder we enjoy such a high profile with the public. But, does that directly translate into sufficient support for our science? Lobbying, public education and outreach are more important than ever before. Continued support requires, on our part, continual education of our fellow citizens and our governments. Despite astronomy being arguably the least practical of all the natural sciences in the day-to-day lives of most people, it is among the most successful at inspiring career paths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Now, more than ever before, the world needs inspired and educated people to tackle global problems. Scientific literacy has become an absolute necessity. Through lobbying, premier Journals, annual meetings, and distribution of available financial resources, our Society has done, and continues to do, an excellent job of serving the needs of its membership. I am keenly interested in helping to continue those efforts, while seeking out opportunities for the Society to expand its role in engaging the public, and increasing the support for our profession.

Leonidas Moustakas

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: JPL/Caltech

Position: Research Scientist

Ph.D.: University of California at Berkeley (1998)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Observational Cosmology, Galaxy Formation & Evolution, Gravitational Lensing, Dark Matter Particle Astrophysics.

AAS Positions & Dates: None to date

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- MAST Users' Group (MUG) committee (2006-2008, Chair 2007-2008) Spitzer Fellowship Committee (2007)
- Spitzer Review Panel (2009)
- JPL Palomar TAC (2009-)
- Hubble Telescope Allocation Panel (2010)
- Board Member and Treasurer of Adam's Forge, a Non-Profit Blacksmith Artist Collective (2010-)
- Conference Scientific Organizing Committee Chair or Organizer: OXCAM4 (2001)
- Massive Galaxies over Cosmic Time (2004)
- Massive Galaxies over Cosmic Time II (2006)
- Photo-z Accuracy Testing (PHAT) Workshop (2008)
- Keck Institute for Space Studies' Shedding Light on the Nature of Dark Matter (2009) Pasadena Galaxy Formation Workshop (2010)
- Mission Development Leadership Roles: Joint Efficient Dark-Energy Investigation (JEDI) Flagship, JPL Study Scientist (2005-2006)
- Observatory for Multi-Epoch Gravitational Lens Astrophysics (OMEGA) Explorer, Principal Investigator (2009-)

Statement: As astronomers, we are all apprentices and mentors, sharing and fostering that ineffable thrill of search and of discovery. Our Society gives structure to these intangibles. The impact is real, through our journals, meetings, and policy. As a Councilor, I would embrace the opportunity to apprentice to the needs of the Society. As we enter the decade anchored by the Astro2010 Report, these needs are great. I will advocate for healthy ground- and space-based projects, which look to the future and inspire. I strongly support our mission in education and outreach, directed not only to the young and young at heart but also to our Agencies and our political leaders. I support a responsive AAS Strategic Plan, which can strengthen our effectiveness.

As a research scientist at JPL, in addition to academic pursuits, I work on developing concepts for space-based astrophysics missions. This is a process that involves forging complex & constrained facets into an elegant and coherent whole, while keeping the scientific goals firmly in sight. I believe that this experience, and my deep commitment to thoughtful leadership qualify me to be an effective Councilor. I am honored by the nomination, and I am excited by what is possible.

Angela Speck

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: University of Missouri

Position: Associate Professor of Astrophysics

Ph.D.: University College London (1998)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Cosmic Dust, Infrared Astronomy, Stellar Evolution, Galactic Chemical evolution, Astronomy education

AAS Positions & Dates: N/A

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Director of Astronomy at University of Missouri
- Member of NOAO Users Committee since 2004, Chair since 2009
- Member of US Gemini Science Advisory Committee (2007-2009)
- Member of search committee for KPNO Director (2010)
- Member of steering committee for (Missouri) statewide higher education initiative since 2007
- Served on numerous TAC and proposal review committees including Spitzer, NRAO and NSF
- Co-chair of a SOFIA Workgroup (Chemical Evolution of the Galaxy; 2008) and contributed to the “Science Vision for the SOFIA” book

Statement: Education, Education, Education! Don’t get me wrong—I love research and it’s what most of us enjoy doing. But what is research if not us educating ourselves? From improving scientific literacy amongst the tax-paying populace that ultimately support us, to ensuring there is a next generation of astronomers, the need for education is clear. Our challenges include conveying the importance of cutting-edge science to a recession-burned public and ensuring that our new generations of professional scientists are equipped for the changing technologies and modes of research. For example, as observational astronomy becomes increasingly archival and/or space-based, there is a need to ensure that the art of observing is not lost. Furthermore, at the public level, astronomy is an outstanding tool for conveying the intricacies and joys of science. It provides ample opportunity to explain what science really is to a poorly scientifically-educated public. Moreover, astronomy is one of the best ways to get kids interested in science. The AAS’s core mission is to promote astronomy at all levels and to all people, and I want to contribute to this mission by promoting education at levels ranging from grade school through postdoc and professional/faculty.

Publications Board Chair (vote for one)

Anne P. Cowley

Nominated Office: Chair of the Publication Board

Affiliation: Arizona State University

Position: Professor (Emerita)

Ph.D.: University of Michigan (196

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar Spectroscopy, X-ray

Sources, Binary Systems

AAS Positions and Dates:

- AAS Publication Board Member (2008-2011)
- AAS Vice President (1983-1985)
- AAS Councilor (1979-1982)
- AAS Warner Prize Committee (1999-2001)
- AAS Centennial Committee (1995-1999)
- AAS Russell Lectureship Committee (1993-1995)
- AAS Committee on the Status of Women (1978-1981)
- plus numerous other AAS committees over the years

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS Office:

- Co-Editor of *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific* (PASP) 1998-2006
- Scientific Editor, *Astrophysical Journal*, 1993-1998 (title then was Associate Editor of *ApJ*; there were only four)
- Editorial Committee for *Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 1994-1998 and 2003

Statement: Publication of the AAS journals is one of the most important activities that the Society carries out. They are the premier journals in our field, and it is very important that they continue to be so. With the advent of electronic publishing and the push toward open access, many aspects of journal publication have changed dramatically and are still evolving in ways that are affecting the AAS, not the least of which is financially. My experiences as an editor for both the *ApJ* and *PASP* as well as my role on the Publication Board provide me with considerable experience with many aspects of journal publication. The Publication Board is working hard to provide support and leadership for the AAS journals in this challenging time. I would be honored to serve as Chair of the Publication Board. If I am elected I will do everything I can to help each of our journals in this rapidly changing time for scientific publications.

Lisa Storrie-Lombardi

Nominated Office: Publications Board Chair

Affiliation: Spitzer Science Center, Caltech

Position: Manager & Assistant Director for Community Affairs

Ph.D.: University of Cambridge (1995)

Areas of Scientific Interest: high-redshift quasars, galaxy evolution

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Committee on Employment (2004-2007)
- Publications Board (2008-present)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- James Webb Space Telescope Advisory Committee (2009-present)
- NRAO User's Committee (2008-present)
- Chandra User's Committee (2005-2008)
- Space Telescope User's Committee (2002-2004)
- Astrophysics Data Center Executive Committee (2002-present)
- Proposal review panels for NOAO, Hubble, Palomar, NASA ADP and NSF Astrophysics

Statement: Peer-reviewed publications are the life-blood of the astronomical community. Though the way we read and share publications has changed dramatically in recent years, this doesn't diminish the importance of the publications or the processes we use for peer review. Given the ease with which anyone can now distribute information it is even more important that we continue to support peer-reviewed publications. I have substantial experience with the peer review process having managed the Spitzer proposal and fellowship selection process for many years. The Society has a vital role maintaining the integrity of the peer-review process and the high quality of the journals. The Publications Board must continue to provide guidance so that the journals retain their high standards yet evolve as technology and public policy drive changes. I welcome the opportunity to serve as the Board chair.

Nominating Committee (vote for two)

Daniel Evans

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: Elon University & Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Position: Assistant Professor of Physics at Elon University; Research Associate in Astrophysics at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Ph.D.: University of Bristol, UK (2005)

Areas of Scientific Interest: X-ray Astronomy, in particular of jets, winds, and outflows in accreting black holes.

AAS Positions & Dates: N/A

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Served on numerous peer review panels, including Chandra, XMM-Newton and Swift
- Contributor to Chandra submission for 2010 NASA Senior Review

Statement: In this age of harsh financial realities, near-impossible economic decisions, and falling numbers of science graduates, it is more important than ever that the AAS continue to be the strongest advocate of the direct and indirect benefits of astronomy to the nation. A weak voice at

this critical juncture will lead to the inevitable question: Why should the U.S. fund a discipline that is (incorrectly), yet so often, portrayed as being esoteric?

My experience as an astrophysicist in both the largest research institutions and smaller universities in the United States gives me a strong ability to gauge how well the AAS is representing the diversity of its members' views, communicating its science policy, and engaging the public. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I will ensure that candidates for Office in the AAS never take their eyes off the fact that the public is the taxpayer, and that failure to communicate the excitement of our discoveries to the broadest base possible will ultimately lead to reduced funding levels for professional astrophysics research and development. This is a time when our country needs to produce more, not fewer, new scientists and educators, and I will do my utmost to make certain that our AAS Officers safeguard the principles and benefits of astronomy for these new generations.

Anthony Gonzalez

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: University of Florida

Position: Associate Professor

Ph.D.: UC Santa Cruz (2000)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Galaxy Evolution, Galaxy Clusters, Observational Cosmology

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize Committee (2007-2009, Chair 2009)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Gran Telescopio Canarias Science Advisory Committee (2007-2009)
- UF Graduate Coordinator (2007-)
- NSF Postdoctoral Fellow (2002-2005)
- CfA Postdoctoral Fellow (2000-2001)
- SOC for "CL J2010: From Massive Galaxy Formation to Dark Energy" and "From Stars to Galaxies" meetings (2010)
- NSF, NOAO, HST, Chandra, and Spitzer review panels

Statement: The AAS has done an outstanding job in recent years representing the scientific, educational, and political interests of our community. This success and the balanced vision laid-out in the current strategic plan are a credit to the officers who have served the Society. The future strength of the organization is founded on continued skilled leadership, particularly in light of the current challenging fiscal environment. It would be an honor to serve as a member of the nominating committee to help ensure that we have slates of dedicated candidates who reflect the diverse interests of our Society and can strongly represent the interests of the community.

Terry Oswalt

Nominated Office: Nominations Committee

Affiliation: Florida Institute of Technology

Position: Head of Physics & Space Sciences, Associate Provost for Research

Ph.D.: The Ohio State University (1981)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Binary Stars, Stellar Evolution (white dwarf stars), Minor Planets & Comets, Astronomy education

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Bok Award Judge (1990-2007)
- Shapley Lecturer (1990-present)
- Van Biesbroeck Award Committee (2006-2009)
- Founding member of Working Group on Amateur-Professional Collaboration (2000-2004)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office

- Council on Undergraduate Research, Physics & Astronomy Councilor (2000-present), (CUR P/A Nominating Committee chair and CUR liaison for AAS statement on undergraduate research)
- NSF, Program Officer for Stellar Astronomy & Astrophysics (1998-2000)
- Director, SARA Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program (1995-1998)
- Chairman, Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy (1990-present)
- Member IAU (1989-present), (Com. 26 Binary Stars; 46 Variable Stars; 52 Astron. Ed.)
- Member, AAS & AAS Division of Planetary Science (1980-present)
- Historical Astronomy Division (2008-present)

Statement: As a member of the Nominations Committee, I will seek candidates for AAS office that are committed to increasing member involvement in AAS activities and especially to cultivating an appreciation for the science of astronomy among our political leaders, students and the general public. I have a special interest in improving AAS representation among institutions of all sizes, especially those that have not historically been engaged in AAS activities. In addition, we need to increase the AAS interaction with other professional organizations, national labs, university consortia, and funding agencies. As the astronomical community begins to implement the new Decadal Survey, it will be especially important for the AAS to elect officers that can make the priorities we have identified clear to our policy makers.

Joan Schmelz

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: Univ. of Memphis

Position: Professor

Ph.D.: Penn State (1987)

Areas of Scientific Interest: Solar & Stellar Astrophysics; X-ray Spectroscopy

AAS Positions & Dates:

- Chair, Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (2009-present)

- Treasurer, AAS Solar Physics Division (2001-2010)
- Member, Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (2004-2009)
- Editor, AASWOMEN (2005-present)

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Member, Astro 2010 Demographics Study Group (February 2009)
- Vice Chair, COSPAR Commission E: Astrophysics (July 2010-2012)
- Committee Member; NASA Solar-Heliophysics Mission Operations Working Group (2008-2010)
- Member, Coronal Loops Workshop Steering Committee (2010-2012)
- Chair, COSPAR Sub-Commission E.2: Sun as at Star, (Jul 2006-2010)
- Chair SOC, Coronal Loops IV Workshop – Florence, Italy (June 2009)
- Member SOC, Coronal Loops V Workshop – Mallorca, Spain (June 2011)

Statement: As a member of the demographics study group for Astro 2010, I have learned first hand how diverse the AAS has become. From outreach to pure research, from education to administration, from instrumentation to theory, from small colleges to government labs, from radio to gamma rays, astronomers embrace a wide range of professional activities. A diverse Society needs diverse representation, and our leaders need to reflect that diversity. My own career has done just that. I have worked at a small college, a major university, and a NASA center. During my research experience I have studied the Sun, stars, interstellar matter, and active galaxies and, as a result, have published papers that cover the spectrum from radio to hard X-rays. (Before I retire I hope to add gamma rays to the list!) I edit a weekly newsletter specializing in gender issues and run an astronomy outreach program for 10-year-old inner city kids. If elected to the nominating committee, I will use my diverse background to bring a creative and representative slate of candidates to AAS elections.

The AAS conducts its elections using an electronic ballot. When the balloting opens each AAS eligible member for whom we have an e-mail on file will receive an e-mail request to vote. Voting will be accomplished through the “members-only” area of the AAS website which requires your ID and password.

Members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses will receive a paper ballot by first class mail.

You may verify your email address at members.aas.org/directory and if necessary send corrections to address@aaas.org.

Any other member wishing to use a paper ballot may request one by fax to (202) 234-2560 or by e-mail to ballot@aaas.org. Please include your member number with your request.

Committee on Employment

Liam McDaid (McDaidL@scc.losrios.edu)

Single Player Jobs

This semester is the first time at my college where the financial aid line trumped the registration line. Even a month later, it still snakes across the building every day while the registration folks have enough time to peruse their World of Warcraft lives ☺. With the continuing contraction of the economy—the latest threat/fear as I write this is a “massive shadow inventory” of houses lurking at the edge of many of our major cities, it makes sense to look at where we stand and where it’s going.

Our perception is that the government in one form or another is the single largest employer of astronomers. If you consider where most funding for private positions and contractors comes from, this may be true. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos052.htm#employ>), astronomers hold 1500 jobs compared to physicists who hold 17,100 jobs as well as 15,500 faculty positions (overlap is not mentioned). The same website also projects job growth for both professions over the next decade. That’s good news, but it is alloyed with some grim implications I will return to.

Figures that are usually credited to the AAS itself (<http://aas.org/education/careers.php#jobs>) claim that about 55% of astronomers are faculty (presumably this is at all types of colleges and includes part-time as well as full-time). About one-third work directly for the government and about 10% work in the private sector. These figures are for professional astronomers and likely don’t include the folks who work in other fields with astronomy training. Since that is almost certainly a larger group, it’s unknown how many folks with astronomy backgrounds get their paycheck from the government in one form or another. In past columns I’ve spoken of astronomers who have taken their careers in very different directions. If these figures are from the AAS, I suspect that many E/PO positions are not included. [Ed note: These statistics cited are from the AAS Career Guide. The best current data on employment of astronomers can be found at the AIP’s statistical research center, aip.org/statics.]

However one chooses to look at the numbers, the government seems to be the only game in town. That doesn’t necessarily always imply the Federal Government, however. Many teaching jobs in colleges and various E/PO positions such as working for a museum or working in a planetarium are funded by state and local governments. This sounds like good news, but revenue from taxes is dropping in many places at state and local levels as well.

Returning to the grim: if the government is one way or another the sole employer of most astronomers, then politics will play an even larger role as a sword of Damocles over our heads. It’s the only game in town and to outsiders looking in, it seems hard to win or even get a seat at the table. Given the recent penchant for pruning “Big Government” and constant claim that the largest problem we face is the national debt

(while bankrolling multiple large military actions), the tea leaves trend toward “ominous.” In spite of people being very favorably disposed toward what we do (astronomy is the “sexy science”), that doesn’t always translate into a willingness to increase their taxes on our behalf. One small thing every astronomer can do is make that connection clear to as many taxpayers as you can. We have many friends in Congress, but **they** need to know that they are not alone.

This makes it more important than ever before to work on those job hunting skills, as no one can be certain where they may end up. Given our traditionally low unemployment rate, my money’s still on not too many in this field being fully unemployed. But flexibility is a must. Sometimes even people who have enviable media profiles in our field have to scramble to bring in money—texts and book sales can no longer support a career by themselves even with good sales. On top of that, with rare exceptions, science books rarely become best-sellers. Given the future of the textbook industry, expect fewer happy returns coming from that direction.

As I have stated before, most people with astronomy backgrounds do not have a job on the “traditional” path. For those who are searching in this direction, please check out the Non-Academic Astronomer Network (AKA: Most astronomers) which can be found at <http://members.aas.org/career/nonacademic/bycareertype.cfm>. Use it for contacts, ideas of how to build your own path, or just people to talk to who have been through making their own way—which is always hard to do when you have to reinvent who you are professionally. Many examples abound of people who have done just that, and perhaps you will become one of them. I await Brian May’s entry in the AAS’ network (even if he is British), as he’s had perhaps the most amazing non-traditional path of any living astronomer. Our network will only work, of course, if it is used so if you are a job seeker or thinking of changing your career a bit (or a lot) contact any of the fine folks who have already signed up. Also, if you are already in a non-traditional path consider adding your own profile. Future job seekers will thank you.

The AAS committee on employment exists to help our members with their careers. Your ideas are important, so let’s hear them!

The AAS Committee on Employment is pleased to highlight useful resources for astronomers, and welcomes your comments and responses to this and previous columns. Check out our website (www.aas.org/career/) for additional resources and contact information for the committee members. If you have an idea for this column, please contact the Employment Column Editor, Liam McDaid (mcdaidl@scc.losrios.edu).

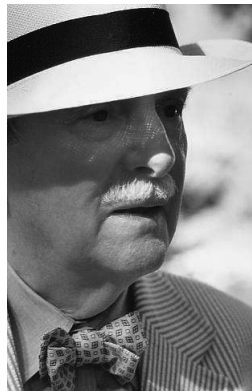
Division News

Historical Astronomy Division (HAD)

Sara Schechner, Harvard University, Chair, HAD Prize Committee

Osterbrock Award to Sivin

The Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize of the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) is a new biennial award that recognizes the author(s) of the book judged to best advance the field of the history of astronomy or to bring history of astronomy to light. The first prize will be awarded in 2011 to Nathan Sivin for *Granting the Seasons: The Chinese Astronomical Reform of 1280, With a Study of Its Many Dimensions and an Annotated Translation of its Records* (New York: Springer, 2009). Sivin is Professor of Chinese Culture and of the History of Science, Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania.

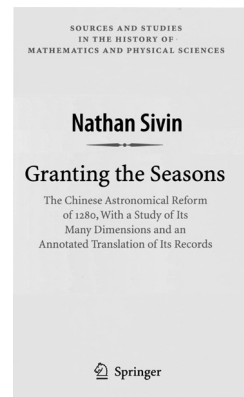


Based on forty years of research, the book offers readers a nuanced and intricate exploration of what is considered to be the most important and sophisticated Chinese astronomical treatise, the “Season Granting System [shou shi li].” This treatise contained a new set of methods for generating annual almanacs. It took its name from the ritual of the emperor officially promulgating these almanacs and bestowing the seasons on the people each year as an official act of maintaining harmony between the cosmos and the state.

The “Season Granting System” dates from the early years of Mongol rule over China. Khubilai Khan used the ambitious astronomical reform project as a symbolic means to inaugurate the Yuan Dynasty (1276-1368) and more critically to legitimize Mongol rule over the conquered Chinese.

In the first half of the book, Sivin delves deeply into the cultural, political, bureaucratic, personal, and technical aspects of the astronomical project. “I aim,” Sivin says, “to portray the technical methods of astronomy as part of a continuum that enfolds every dimension of human activity, from algorithms to political maneuvering.” To this end, he examines the reform from the vantage points of Chinese astronomers and mathematicians, monks and political advisors, timekeepers and students, editors and printers, and “civil-service generalists.” Sivin explores how and why Khubilai Khan

invested unprecedented resources in astronomy at the urging of his Chinese advisors. He describes the Chinese methods of computation and observation, the layout of the observatory and the development of new instruments, the nature of ancient astronomical records, and the previous history of astronomical reforms in China. Along the way, Sivin offers comparisons with contemporary European and Muslim astronomical work and considers whether there were exchanges between Islamic and Chinese astronomers.



In the second half of the book, Sivin translates and offers technical commentary on the “Season Granting System.” The text contains instructions in new mathematical methods and the use of instruments, which Sivin carefully lays before the reader. The “Season Granting System” also contains a long “evaluation” section describing in detail the astronomical and mathematical methods endorsed

by prior astronomical reforms. This section preserves over 1000 years of astronomical thought and activity, and Sivin’s translation makes this history accessible to a wide audience.

Sivin’s work is a monumental weaving of many historical threads and a study of the social and scientific fabric they create. This book will be a standard reference on Chinese astronomy and a starting point for many further studies in astronomy, society, and history. Sivin, moreover, throws down a gauntlet to Western and Eurocentric scholars urging them to pay more attention to Indian, Muslim, Asian, and non-European traditions in astronomy and consider their role in the formulation of Western modern science.

Sivin will accept the award and present his prize lecture, “Astronomy with a Difference: China” from 2:45-3:30 during the afternoon HAD session on Monday, 10 January 2011.

HAD is grateful to those who have contributed toward the establishment of the Osterbrock Prize. Contributions are still being accepted.

News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)

Jim Ulvestad, Division Director, julvesta@nsf.gov

Astro2010 Response

AST is taking steps to respond to the recommendations of the decadal survey; our thinking as of early October will be in the presentation that was made to the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee on 7 October. Specifically, two of the large projects that were recommended, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) and the Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope (GSMT), are of a scale that would require entry into the NSF-wide Major Research Equipment and Facility Construction line. Funding through this line requires a number of specific steps, including assessment of priority and timing relative to other high-priority projects within the NSF. In order to oversee these steps, Nigel Sharp has now been named as program officer with primary responsibility for LSST, while Don Terndrup has been named as program officer with primary responsibility for GSMT.

For many of the Astro2010 recommendations, we can only counsel patience; the recommendations are assumed to be phased in during the decade, and cannot all be funded in the first year or two. Further, the recommendations were based on the Astro2010 “optimistic” scenario, with a 4% increase in AST purchasing power every year for the next decade. This is a hypothetical situation in which the AST budget approximately doubles over the decade, with a 7% increase per year partly offset by about 3% in annual inflation. In contrast, the President’s budget request for AST for Fiscal Year 2011 was for a 2.5% increase over the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, well below this hypothetical 7% increase. Thus prudence dictates that AST plan for a future in which budgets are less than the

optimistic scenario, while making every effort to respond to the highest priority recommendations of Astro2010.

Proposal News

In the AAS e-newsletter in early October, we reminded proposers of some of the required elements of NSF proposals, and how to avoid having proposals returned without review because of violations of NSF-wide proposal policies. We remind all proposers to consult the Grant Proposal Guide, available at http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg, in order to ensure that their proposals conform to NSF policies.

A separate data-management plan will be required for all proposals submitted, or due, on or after 18 January 2011. This plan may be up to two pages in length, and must be included in FastLane as supplementary documentation. Proposals submitted on earlier dates should not include this supplementary document, but should incorporate any data-management discussion within the main project description.

The contents of the data-management plans will be incorporated in the overall merit review of all proposals. Guidelines for data-management plans are being developed by the individual NSF research divisions rather than as a set of NSF-wide requirements, so that they are consistent with the normal practices in different disciplines. Please see the web pages of the NSF Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate as well as the AST web pages for more information about the guidelines.

News from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP)

James Manning, Executive Director

Tapping into the “Am” in “Pro-Am”

The notion of professionals and amateurs getting together to share their craft is not a new concept. Golfers and tennis players do it all the time, usually for charity events. But while the concept is big in sports (at least the non-contact ones), it is not so big in the “professions” per se. There aren’t really many amateur doctors or lawyers, and one probably wouldn’t really want them assisting in operations or court trials.

The sciences, however, are different. Science is an area where amateurs abound in a number of fields, and this is certainly true in the field of astronomy, thanks to that democratizing tool, the telescope. And professionals and amateurs in astronomy

get together for more than charity—amateurs make serious contributions to the field, and partnerships can be satisfying and helpful.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is very familiar with this notion, for the Society itself was founded as a “pro-am” organization—by professional astronomers from Lick Observatory and amateur photographers fresh from witnessing the total solar eclipse passing just north of San Francisco back in 1889. The Society has welcomed and nurtured this eclectic mix of members ever since, providing forums in which the groups can meet, and providing services for both.

In recent years, the ASP's service to amateurs has crystallized into creating a national network of clubs called the Night Sky Network (NSN), which we manage and grow for our NASA sponsor, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, with the support of JPL and many NASA missions. We provide materials, hands-on activities, training and infrastructure that amateur astronomy clubs can use to enhance their public education and outreach efforts at star parties and other public events. The network provides lots of opportunities for providing NASA resources and for engaging the professional astronomer, and with NSF funding, we are testing new approaches to help clubs enhance their outreach efforts.

One way we are doing this is by providing tools to find them, and to find out what they are doing. The ASP has developed an online utility whereby you can go to a particular NSN web page (<http://www.astro.society.org/education/nsn/nsn.html>), enter a location in the U.S., and have displayed on a map all NSN clubs within one hundred miles of the location.

Furthermore, you can click on the club icons displayed and bring up any public events the selected club has currently scheduled.

This is one way to tap into this marching army of enthusiasts who do so much to advance our profession. Clubs are regularly on the lookout for speakers, for connections to professionals, and for "citizen science" activities that provide real contributions to the field. If you are of a mind to consider such things, check out the site, and check out what clubs in your area are doing and how you might nurture valuable relationships of your own.

If you would like to learn about other ways we are working with amateurs and leveraging their national impact, or have new ideas for us to consider, give us a buzz at the ASP. We are always up for new professional contacts ourselves, and it will help us to contribute further to advancing the pro-am approach that has served astronomy so well.

News from NASA Astrophysics Division at HQ

Ilana Harrus (for the Astrophysics Division) and Kristen Erickson (for the Planetary Division)

Decadal Survey

The 2010 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey was released on 13 August.

The Astrophysics Division will begin planning its response to the survey this fall. NASA thanks all the members of the community for their hard work putting together a comprehensive report to guide the research strategy and priorities over the next decade. NASA will work with the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department Of Energy (DOE) and the Executive Office of the President (EOP) on an overall response to Astro2010 and coordination of ground-based and space-based initiatives. Members of the community interested in participating in mission and technology planning activities should watch for the community announcements and solicitations that will be coming out this fall.

For more information on Astro 2010, please go to: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/bpa/BPA_049810

Change of Personnel

The division keeps changing and evolving: J. D. (Dan) Blackwood, JWST Program Executive, has left HQ and is now the Assistant Director of the Flight Projects Directorate at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). The newly appointed JWST Program Executive is John Gagosian. Mr. Gagosian was the Associate Chief of the Mission Engineering & Systems Analysis Division at GSFC.

Dr. Rita Sambruna is the new Physics of the Cosmos (PCOS) program scientist. She is replacing Dr. Michael Salomon who left NASA to join DOE. Dr. Sambruna is an expert in high-energy observations and interpretation of Active Galactic Nuclei (jets and radio-loud sources). She was, until her appointment at HQ, acting Chief of the Science Proposal Support Office at GSFC.

Dr. David Leisawitz is returning to GSFC following a detail assignment as the Division's Acting Assistant Director for Policy and Planning. He will resume his responsibilities as WISE Mission Scientist, Chief of the Science Proposal Support Office, and PI of the Wide-field Imaging Interferometry APRA project.

News from NASA Planetary Division at HQ

- The division began the evaluation procedures for reviewing the 28 submitted Discovery-12 proposals. Anticipated announcement in early 2011.

Personnel Assignments

- Dr. Jonathan Rall now leads PSD's Research and Analysis (R&A) Program group
- Dr. Jeff Grossman is the New Frontiers Program, Program Scientist

outside of academia, I hope to work more on the issue of young astronomy professional development.

I will be working to advocate the recommendations from the Astro2010 Decadal Survey in Washington. However, if you are in the DC area and would like to speak to a Congressman about the importance of supporting research and funding for the Decadal Survey, the AAS will be setting up a program to organize AAS member congressional visits. Stay tuned for more information.

During my first weeks on the job I have been thrown into the middle of the political debates regarding astronomy and astrophysics and learning as I go along. I have attended many of the astronomy committee meetings at NASA and NSF; listening mostly to reports on the Decadal Survey. I have also starting planning the Science, Engineering and Technology Congressional Visits Day.

One important issue right now is the restart of production of Pu-238, which is used in NASA planetary science missions. The current language in the 2011 Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill (S. 3635) states that they recognize the importance of restarting production of Pu-238 but will not fund the project. We are currently working with the American Geophysical Union, the Association of

American Universities, American Institute of Physics and the AAS Division of Planetary Sciences on the issue. We are also working with the Senate Appropriation Committee staffers on changing the language and the funding status.

Currently, the Hill is quiet with Congress out of session to campaign before the November election. Not much is expected to be done in Congress during the lame duck session between Election Day and swearing in of the 112th Congress. The AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) has agreed to endorse a letter to Congress encouraging passing the Reauthorization of the COMPETES Act this year. The COMPETES Act is designed to address the concerns of the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," regarding how America can compete in the global economy by investing more in science and technology.

I will be restarting the AAS Public Policy Blog to keep members updated on all these issues and more. If you would like to contribute to the blog, please send me your article through by email. The site is <http://blog.aas.org/>.

¹ p. 4-19 *New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics*, National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2010

Announcements

2011 Carnegie Observatories Graduate Research Fellowship

We announce the inauguration of the Graduate Research Fellowship at the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California. This Fellowship provides a stipend to graduate students interested in carrying out all or part of their thesis research under the supervision of a Carnegie Staff member, in residence at Carnegie. We encourage applications from current Ph.D. graduate students in astronomy from an accredited (US or non-US) university, pursuing thesis research in observational astronomy, theoretical astrophysics, or instrumentation development. The student must have completed all requisite coursework and examinations prior to arriving at Carnegie. The Fellowship, beginning in September, 2011, will be awarded for one year and may be renewed for two additional years.

Carnegie Observatories provides a vibrant environment for vigorous scientific research and academic excellence. Major areas of research include cosmology and the distance scale, physics of active galactic nuclei, searches for massive black holes, galaxy formation and evolution, galaxy groups and

clusters, intergalactic medium, star formation, supernovae, star clusters, and nucleosynthesis and chemical abundances of stars.

Carnegie observing facilities at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile include the two 6.5-meter Magellan telescopes, the 2.5-meter du Pont telescope, and the Swope 1.0-meter telescope. In addition, the scientific Staff actively pursues research using a wide range of ground-based and space-based facilities, across the electromagnetic spectrum from radio to X-rays.

The application should include a curriculum vitae, bibliography, brief essay describing the applicant's current research, research proposal based on a project sponsored by a Carnegie Staff member, transcript of grades, approval letter from the department head of the applicant's home institution, and three letters of reference. Applications are due by 15 April 2011, 17:00 PST. Full details of the program and application instructions can be found at this web site: <http://obs.carnegiescience.edu/gradfellowships/>. Email inquiries may be sent to Dr. Luis Ho at gradfellowships@obs.carnegiescience.edu.

Calendar of Events

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

12th Divisional HEAD Meeting

7-11 September 2011, Newport, RI
John Vallergera (info@eurekasci.com)
<https://www.confcon.com/head2011/>

Other Events

Texas 2010: 25th Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics

6-10 Dec 2010, Heidelberg, Germany
www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/texas2010/

Essential Cosmology for the Next Generation

10-14 Jan 2011, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Eric Linder (bccpcotb@lbl.gov)
http://bccp.lbl.gov/beach_program/index2011.html

ALMA: Extending the Limits of Astrophysical Spectroscopy

15-17 Jan 2011, Victoria, British Columbia
Gerald Schieven
(gerald.schieven@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)
www.almatelescope.ca/Spectroscopy2011

*RR Lyrae Stars, Metal-Poor Stars and the Galaxy. A conference to honor the 80th birthday of George W. Preston, III

23-25 January 2011, Pasadena, CA
Andrew McWilliam
(andy@obs.carnegiescience.edu)
<http://gwp80.obs.carnegiescience.edu/>

Galaxy Clusters: the Crossroads of Astrophysics and Cosmology

31 Jan-22 April 2011, Santa Barbara, CA
Dan Marrone
(dmarrone@oddjjob.uchicago.edu)
<http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/dbdetails?acro=gclusters11>

*Telescopes from Afar: An international conference on remotely operated, automated or ground telescopes

28 Feb-3 March 2011, Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Hawaii
tfaloc@cfht.hawaii.edu
<http://tfa.cfht.hawaii.edu/>

The Prompt Activity of Gamma-Ray Bursts: their Progenitors, Engines, and Radiation Mechanisms

5-7 March 2011, Raleigh, NC
Davide Lazzati (davide_lazzati@ncsu.edu)
http://grb.physics.ncsu.edu/GRB_2011/WEB/

Signposts of Planets

12-14 April 2011, Greenbelt, MD
Marc Kuchner (Marc.Kuchner@nasa.gov)
<http://science.gsfc.nasa.gov/667/conferences/signposts.html>

*IAU Symposium 279 - Death of Massive Stars: Supernovae & Gamma-Ray Bursts

18-22 April 2011, Nikko, Japan
Pete Roming (proming@swri.edu)
<http://www.hp.phys.titech.ac.jp/iau279>

42nd Canadian Astronomical Society Meeting

30 May-2 June 2011, London, Ontario, Canada
Dr. Sarah Gallagher (sgalla4@uwo.ca)

Exploring Strange New Worlds: Gas Giants to Super Earths

1-6 May 2011, Flagstaff, AZ
Charles Beichman
(Charles.A.Beichman@jpl.nasa.gov)
<http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov/flagstaff2011/>

Frontier Science Opportunities with the James Webb Space Telescope

5-7 June 2011, Jackson Lake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park
Massimo Stiavelli (mstiavell@stsci.edu)
<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/jwst2011>

*8th International Planetary Probe Workshop

6-10 June 2011, Norfolk, VA
David H. Atkinson
(atkinson@uidaho.edu)

*Stellar Polarimetry: Birth to Death

27-30 June 2011, Madison, WI
starpol@etsu.edu
<http://arwen.etsu.edu/starpol>

*4th Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium Workshop

11-15 July 2011, Boulder, CO
Travis Metcalfe (travis@hao.ucar.edu)
<http://www.hao.ucar.edu/KASC4/>

Accretion Processes in X-Rays: From White Dwarfs to Quasars

13-15 July 2011, Boston, MA
Paul Green (accr10@cfa.harvard.edu)
cxc.harvard.edu/cdo/accr10

*2011 Sagan Summer Workshop: Exploring Exoplanets with Microlensing

25-29 July 2011, Padasena, CA
Dr. Dawn Gelino
(Sagan_Workshop@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2011/>

Extreme Solar Systems II

11-17 Sept 2011, Jackson Hole, WY
Fred Rasio (rasio@northwestern.edu)
<http://ciera.northwestern.edu/Jackson2011/>

*Cosmology with X-ray and Sunyaev-Zeldovich Effect Observations

19-22 September 2011, Huntsville, AL
Max Bonamente, bonamem@uah.edu
<http://icnsmeetings.com/conference/xray/index.html>

*IAU Symposium 285: New Horizons in Time Domain Astronomy

19-23 September 2011, St. Catherine's College, Oxford, UK
Mark Sullivan (sullivan@astro.ox.ac.uk)
<http://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/IAUS285/>

*New or revised listings

Note: Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention. 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@as.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 cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings.



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

Periodical
Postage
Paid
Washington DC

Newsletter 155 November/December 2010

Washington News

Bethany Johns, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow, bjohns@aaas.org



Hello. My name is Bethany Johns. I am the new AAS John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow. I started as the fellow in mid-September.

I will get my PhD this December from Clemson University in South Carolina.

My research focused on Galactic positron annihilation and I have a general interest in high-energy astrophysics. I got my undergraduate degree in physics at Kenyon College. I also worked on getting a certificate in public policy while at Clemson.

I became very active in policy while a graduate student at Clemson University. I was a Graduate Student Senator for the Physics and Astronomy Department for three years. The Clemson Graduate Student Government (CGSG) worked on issues such as graduate student stipends, health insurance, parking, and international/family/grad student housing. CGSG is for graduate students at Clemson, however we also reached out to other colleges and universities in the state of South Carolina with graduate programs who did not have official graduate policy representation to help them either create an association to deal with graduate student issues or help lobby on their behalf.

During my three years as CGSG Senator I worked on and became passionate about graduate student professional development. I specifically worked as Chair of the Professional Enrichment Grants, which is an internal university program run by CGSG that offers grants to graduate students to help them develop their careers. When I started, the program had only \$10,000 a year, about 50 applicants and exclusively used paper applications. The program has now gone completely online with over 250 applicants per semester and \$100,000 to give annually.

The Astro2010 Decadal Survey mentions the need for young astronomer professional development. The recommendation is that, “The American Astronomical Society and the American Physical Society, alongside the nation’s astronomy and astrophysics departments, should make both undergraduate and graduate students aware of the wide variety of rewarding career opportunities enabled by their education, and be supportive of students’ career decisions that go beyond academia.”¹

I encourage faculty and advisors to recommend to their graduates and undergraduates to attend the AAS Meeting in Seattle, WA on 9-13 January 2011, which will have professional development workshops and networking events. As a young astronomer who has successfully pursued a career

continued on page 18