

AAS Newsletter

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President's Column

John Huchra, president@aas.org

As I write this we are gearing up for the January AAS meeting by preparing the Council meeting agenda and preparing for a strategic planning retreat before the Council meeting. Strategic planning has become a fixture of recent Council activities. We are examining our priorities, evaluating our resources and the match between resources and priorities, and thinking of the ways the Society can be of service to its members. I hope you will help in these activities by contacting your elected AAS Council representatives with thoughts on what we are doing right or wrong and also on what the AAS might do in the future. Don't wait for the next AAS meeting, either.

Open access to the results of scientific research is one of the cornerstones of science. In astronomy, particularly in America, we have an enviable system of journals that allows us to publish our results and ideas in an efficient and cost effective way. By all objective measures the quality of our journals is extremely high. Time to publication is short. The cost of publication, now split between institutional subscriptions and page charges, remains relatively low. Our journals even "archive" moderately large tabular datasets as part of publication.

The Society and our publishers have worked hard to keep costs down and at the same time improve service. We have a mixed business model that works, as noted above, split between subscription and page charge revenue. This model does a reasonably good job of allocating costs across the users of the journals. Sometimes librarians and authors complain that their costs are too high, but most think we're still a pretty good deal.

There is a curious threat to this model, though, that has been percolating in the government for the last few years and that may finally need to be addressed. For what we believe are the best of reasons, the administration is now pushing forward a policy to enhance public access to archived publications that result from Federally funded research.

One version of this requirement has been in place for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research for a few years now, with a legal requirement (in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act) that papers resulting from NIH funded research be placed in a publicly accessible repository (Pub Med Central). Fortunately for scholarly publishers (and that includes us!) that requirement was amended to allow a one year "proprietary" period such that journals would still have a basis for charging for subscriptions.

So here's the deal. It costs money to publish—and preserve and archive—quality journals. Most individuals have access rights to the journals through their library subscriptions (not as one might think through the ADS). The Society's current model spreads the cost between readers and writers in a closer approximation to fairness than just institutional subscriptions would. Bigger users publish more papers and thus cover more of the costs. Ultimately, for Americans, this is close to a single-payer system as library costs are part of your institutions' overhead pool. In effect the Federal government in one way or another covers our publication costs. And a reasonable fraction of the journals' costs are borne by foreign subscriptions and page charges from foreign authors. This system has been shown to work extremely well and the results of our research are distributed and cited world wide. But it may need to change. The AAS through the Publications Board, our Director of Publishing and the Council will keep an eye on the situation and act in the best interests of science and the Society.



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Items of general interest to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to crystal@aas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcome. For information about deadlines and submitting articles, see www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.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 I write this column, we are in the final organizational stages of preparing for our biggest meeting ever here in Washington, DC. If I had known I was going to become so deeply entwined in the meetings industry, you can be sure I would have taken a hospitality course in college or taken an evening or summer job at a hotel! As it is, I am learning a lot 'on the job.'

This business is highly complicated, not just because of the huge number of logistical details that have to be dealt with, but because it is a for-profit industry. As the executive director of a non-profit organization, it can be a challenge to interact with individuals and organizations only focused on the bottom line. The same motivations that resonate with our members—seeking to increase human knowledge, finding the least expensive option and staying focused on our members—do not resonate with those in the meeting industry. They want to make some money.

We are constantly working to improve our meetings and keep costs down. One way to do this is to learn from other organizations who run efficient, cost-effective meetings. I had heard for years from our DPS and SPD members that the AGU meeting was pretty impressive, so this year I decided to attend.

Each December, the AGU gathers in San Francisco for a one-week meeting. To give you some sense of perspective of the size of this meeting, more than 5,000 junior members are in attendance. The AAS has just under 5,000 full members in total. The overall meeting attendance is 15,000+. Poster sessions are split into half-day shifts. Parallel sessions go on all day long and in numbers that make our meetings seem tiny. AGU is doing a lot of things right and I brought back some ideas for improvement to our meetings group. We can't do everything that AGU can do, mainly for cost reasons, but some of their solutions will help our meetings get better.

An issue likely to be with us in 2010 is a new push by the government to take some action on open access. The Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a request in mid-December for information on the idea of government mandated open access. The open comment period was only a month and the discussion was to be held on a blog on the OSTP web page. Worse, each week a different topic would be discussed. Formal written comments are also allowed and the AAS, along with many other science societies, will respond formally in January, although we hope that the comment period will be expanded beyond the one-month, over-the-holidays period we are facing now.

Open access means different things to different people, but to me it means easy and free access to information, whether funded by the government or not. However, the desire for this easy and free access has to be tempered by the reality of costs required to carry out peer review, to copy edit author manuscripts, to enhance manuscripts to take advantage of the web and to preserve the materials for the long-term.

The AAS has found an efficient system to accomplish these goals. We have a split revenue stream, which is used to cover necessary costs. Authors pay primarily for the peer review and manuscript preparation portion of the publishing equation through page charges, while our subscribers pay primarily for the online publication and preservation components. Further, because the AAS does not use journal proceeds to pay for Society programs, we can provide our archival materials free of cost. All our journal content is freely available after two years.

A government mandate will disrupt our publishing model and require significant changes to how we manage our journals. It has taken our civilization more than 400

continued on next page

From the Executive Office *continued*

years to establish the scientific publishing system we have today and 100 years for the AAS to grow its journals to their current stature. It certainly seems to me that we should take more than 30 days over the holidays for discussion.

President's Column *continued from front page*

The International Year of Astronomy has drawn to a close. It was a good one culminating with such events as the star party on the White House lawn. Not sure how much one could really see with all those news spotlights, but we hope the positive effects of the event will continue to be felt for at least a year—or until the next White House star party. Kevin would like that to be the annual fall event like the Easter Egg Hunt.

Keep your fingers crossed. Your President and President-Elect also got to participate in an event at the Vatican commemorating IYA which included a Papal audience and the

You can count on the Council, Publications Board and our Director of Publishing to stay plugged in as this issue moves forward in 2010 and we will keep you informed in the *Newsletter* and online. Stay tuned!

opportunity to visit Castel Gandolfo and to see the wonderful IYA exhibit at the Vatican Museum.

I want to close on a positive note by highlighting one small action we have taken to make the Society more family friendly. Based on a request from the CSWA, the AAS Council has begun an experimental program of providing subsidized child care at our winter meetings. This should be a boon for all people with young families and enable young astronomers with families to attend and participate without undue hardship.

25 Things about...AAS President John Huchra



Casual clothes

5. **When I get home, I like to wear:** Jeans and a work shirt
6. **The most important thing I learned from my mother was:** How not to cook!
7. **The most important thing I learned from my father was:** Measure twice, cut once
8. **My favorite time of day is:** Sunrise, seen after a long, clear night
9. **My favorite holiday is:** Christmas (my birthday is really close!)
10. **My favorite software application is:** Firefox or the Fortran G compiler, tough choice...

1. **Device I would never give up:** Corkscrew (and my 1.5-m telescope)
2. **My favorite movie is:** Aliens (or Kung Fu Panda when with kids). "There is no secret ingredient!"
3. **When I have an extra hour at home, I like to:** Kick back and read bad SF
4. **At work, I like to wear:**

11. **Web site I spend the most time on:** The Astro2010 Portal/Amazon
12. **My first real job was:** Busboy, dishwasher and short order cook
13. **The location where I do my best thinking is:** In a dome
14. **What I would like to be the world's best at is:** Father
15. **I prefer AM or FM radio:** FM, particularly near the low end of the dial
16. **I love to:** Be on mountaintops
17. **Something that really annoys me:** Inconsiderate drivers
18. **For physical activity I like:** Kayaking
19. **I make the best:** Pumpkin Cheesecake
20. **My favorite city is:** Paris
21. **My favorite actress is:** Sigourney Weaver
22. **My favorite athlete is:** David Ortiz
23. **I used to play:** Centerfield
24. **What I really think of Twitter, Facebook, etc.:** I try not to...
25. **I think people should:** Be aware of the world around them

AAS Member Anniversaries

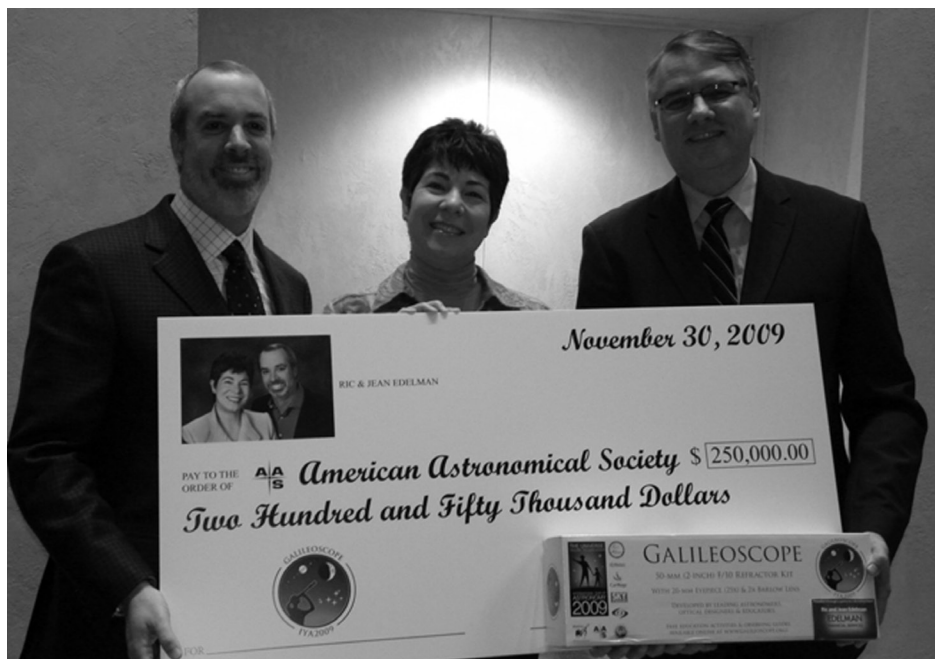
We could not have done it without you! Thank you for your commitment to the Society. As we begin 2010 what better time to acknowledge those who have been members of the AAS for 25 years or more. If your name was excluded please contact Crystal Tinch (crystal@as.org). Members are current as of 1 December 2009. Please note anniversaries are in five year terms unlike the range as in 2009.

25 Years

Abbot, Richard	Gaetz, Terrance	Martin, Peter	Urry, C.	Emslie, A.
Allen, M.	Garcia-Barreto, Jose	McCandliss, Stephan	Varsik, John	Fairman, Rita
Anderson, Scott	Garnett, Donald	McCollum, Bruce	Veilleux, Sylvain	Fang, Li-Zhi
Ayres, Thomas	Greason, Michael	McMillan, Stephen	White, Simon	Foltz, Craig
Ballester Mortes, Jose	Green, James	McNamara, Brian	Windhorst, Rogier	Fraknoi, Andrew
Barden, Samuel	Gregg, Michael	Messina, Daniel	Wolff, Michael	Freedman, Wendy
Beam, Jon	Hartigan, Patrick	Meyer, Allan		French, Howard
Becker, Robert	Hartmann, Dieter	Meyerott, Roland	30 Years	Fry, James
Benz, Willy	Hawley, Suzanne	Mitchell, Kenneth	Anderson, Edwin	Fukui, Yasuo
Bertin, Giuseppe	Hewitt, Adelaide	Mozurkewich, David	Arnold, Clifford	Geary, John
Bianchi, Luciana	Hill, Robert	Nelson, Lorne	Bai, Taeil	Gies, Douglas
Bicay, Michael	Hill, Robert	Norris, Jay	Bania, Thomas	Giovanardi, Carlo
Bloemhof, Eric	Hilton, James	Panagia, Nino	Becker, Robert	Gordon, David
Brissenden, Roger	Hoban, Susan	Park, Myeong-Gu	Benson, Priscilla	Gradie, Jonathan
Brown, Alexander	Hodgson, Gordon	Pierson, Thomas	Bignami, Giovanni	Greyber, Howard
Cannizzo, John	Hurley, Kevin	Pompea, Stephen	Binzel, Richard	Gurman, Joseph
Carroll, Timothy	Isobe, Takashi	Preston, Heather	Birkinshaw, Mark	Halliwell, Michael
Courteau, Stephane	Jackson, William	Rawlins, Dennis	Borucki, William	Halpern, Jules
Daly, Ruth	Jannuzi, Buell	Robertson, Thomas	Boss, Alan	Harpaz, Amos
Dappen, Werner	Jog, Chanda	Ruffa, Gregory	Bradstreet, David	Hayes, Jeffrey
De Vries, Hendrik	Joner, Michael	Sadakane, Kozo	Bruzual - A., Gustavo	Hoffer, James
de Zeeuw, P.	Kang, Hyesung	Sage, Leslie	Buffington, Andrew	Hoffman, G.
Dermer, Charles	Kim, Dong-Woo	Sahai, Raghvendra	Burkhardt, Robert	Holberg, Jay
Dingus, Brenda	Kron, Richard	Scharlach, Werner	Burrows, David	Hough, David
Duncan, Robert	Lada, Charles	Seltzer, Allen	Castelaz, Michael	Huenemoerder, David
Edgar, Richard	Landecker, T.	Shafter, Allen	Ciardullo, Robin	Iwasaki, Kyosuke
Eisberg, Joann	Langston, Glen	Silva, David	Claussen, Mark	Jackson, A.
Eskridge, Paul	Laubscher, Bryan	Statler, Thomas	Clayton, Geoffrey	Jennings, Mark
Fahey, Richard	Leonard, Peter	Sterling, Alphonse	Clemens, Dan	Jones, Dayton
Ferro, Anthony	Lestrade, Jean-Francois	Synnott, Stephen	Combi, Michael	Jurgens, Raymond
Fikani, Michael	Lonsdale, Colin	Takada-Hidai, Masahide	Comins, Neil	Kallman, Timothy
Fisher, George	Lucas, Ray	Tamres, David	Davies, Roger	Kaplan, George
Friedman, Scott	Luttermoser, Donald	Tatarewicz, Joseph	Djorgovski, Stanislav	Karpen, Judith
Ftaclas, Christ	Marconi, Max	Toot, G.	Drummond, Jack	Kaufmann, Pierre
	Martens, Petrus	Turnshek, Diane	Dupree, Samuel	Kelton, Phillip
	Martin, Christopher		Edwards, Suzan	Kemper, Edward

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Thank You Ric & Jean Edelman



The AAS thanks Ric and Jean Edelman for their generous gift to the Galileoscope project. Through this donation of \$250,000, the AAS, in partnership with the National Optical Astronomy Observatories and the Galileoscope program will provide more than 10,000 telescopes to teachers nationwide and train them in their use in the classroom. By removing the financial barrier for participation for these teachers, the impact and scope of the Galileoscope effort has been significantly enhanced. Thanks very much to Ric and Jean for their support of this important project.



President-elect Debbie Elmegreen and Executive Officer Kevin Marvel attended the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives annual Chief Elected Officer - Chief Executive Officer workshop. The two-day workshop provides focused training on the operation of non-profit member societies in the sciences and engineering and provides opportunity for one-on-one communication. Debbie developed a prioritized list of what she would like to accomplish during her two year term as President, while discussing with Kevin how AAS resources can be targeted to achieve these goals. Note Debbie is wearing one of the newly-available AAS logo items, available through a link on the AAS web pages from Lands' End.

Member Deaths

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

Dave Burstein
Timothy G. Hawarden
Darrel Hoff

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.

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Kennicutt, Robert
 Knapp, Gillian
 Konigl, Arieh
 Kowalski, Michael
 Kulkarni, Shrinivas
 Lacasse, Marc
 Marshall, Herman
 Matthews, Larryl
 Mewaldt, Richard
 Moody, Elizabeth
 Morabito, David
 Nomoto, Ken'ichi
 Oliverson, Ronald
 Pacharin-Tanakun,
 Pornchai
 Packer, Irene
 Patterson, Robert
 Percival, Jeffrey
 Pierce, James
 Plambeck, Richard
 Preston, Robert
 Prince, Thomas
 Probst, Ronald
 Rose, Louis
 Rosner, Robert
 Safko, John
 Saio, Hideyuki
 Sakurai, Takashi
 Schmitz, Marion
 Schreur, Barbara
 Seab, C.
 Shull, Peter
 Sion, Edward
 Snowden, Steven
 Spear, Gordon
 Stoeger, William
 Trauger, John
 Turner, Michael
 Wilking, Bruce

Wolfson, Richard
 Young, Judith
 Zelle, Joseph

35 Years

Anderson, Kurt
 Applebaum, David
 Apruzese, John
 Augensen, Harry
 Baan, Willem
 Backus, Peter
 Baker, Neal
 Bangert, John
 Barker, Timothy
 Bohannon, Bruce
 Bord, Donald
 Brown, Bryan
 Buff, James
 Burns, Jack
 Campbell, Murray
 Carswell, Robert
 Cash, Webster
 Chan, Kwing
 Charles, Philip
 Coffey, Helen
 Conrath, Barney
 Cudworth, Kyle
 Deming, Drake
 Doepke, Lawrence
 Dwek, Eli
 Eaton, Joel
 Elmegreen, Debra
 Erickson, Richard
 Feigelson, Eric
 Flasar, F.
 Fraquelli, Dorothy
 Frye, Glenn
 Gautier, Thomas

Geller, Margaret
 Glackin, David
 Goldsmith, Paul
 Graber, James
 Graham, William
 Haisch, Bernard
 Halbedel, Elaine
 Hankins, Timothy
 Hansen, J.
 Harris, Alan
 Hathaway, David
 Haynes, Martha
 Heckert, Paul
 Helfand, David
 Hodge, Philip
 Hulse, Russell
 Illingworth, Garth
 Jones, Christine
 Kemic, Stephen
 Kielkopf, John
 Klein, Richard
 Kwitter, Karen
 Langer, William
 Lattimer, James
 Lea, Susan
 Long, Knox
 Loren, Robert
 Lucke, Robert
 Marscher, Alan
 Mather, John
 McLaren, Robert
 Modali, Sarma
 Nakano, George
 Nelson, Jerry
 Nousek, John
 Oka, Takeshi
 Peterson, Ruth
 Pravdo, Steven

Puetter, Richard
 Reid, Mark
 Romanishin, William
 Romney, Jonathan
 Rots, Arnold
 Ryter, Charles
 Schechter, Paul
 Schroeder, Daniel
 Silverberg, Robert
 Smethells, William
 Snell, Ronald
 Soderblom, David
 Spangler, Steven
 Stencel, Robert
 Stern, Robert
 Stevenson, David
 Stone, Remington
 Suess, Steven
 Suntzeff, Nicholas
 Taam, Ronald
 Thuan, Trinh
 Timothy, J.
 Troland, Thomas
 Tyson, J.
 van der Hucht, Karel
 Van Pelt, David
 Wasserman, Lawrence
 Webbink, Ronald
 Wiita, Paul
 Wilson, Robert
 Wollman, Eric
 Wootten, Al
 Worek, Thaddeus
 Wright, Edward
 Zeilik, Michael
 Zizka, Eugene
 Zych, Allen

40 Years

Aksnes, Kaare
 Allen, Marc
 Brecher, Kenneth
 Chevalier, Roger
 Clark, Frank
 Clark, T.
 Costero, Rafael
 Cotton, William
 Craft, Harold
 Dalgarno, A.
 Dinger, Ann
 Doschek, George
 Dudek, David
 Dufour, Reginald
 Dunn, Anne
 Elvius, Aina
 Faber, Sandra
 Forman, Miriam
 Foukal, Peter
 Garrett, Henry
 Geldzahler, Barry
 Golden, Lawrence
 Hammond, Gordon
 Hilgeman, Theodore
 Hills, Jack
 Hoffman, Alan
 Holt, Stephen
 Jacoby, Margaret
 Janes, Kenneth
 Karp, Alan
 Kormendy, John
 Kronberg, Philipp
 Krupp, E.
 Lester, John
 Lo, Fred
 Lockman, Felix
 Luebke, William

Luhmann, Janet
Mahoney, William
McCutcheon, William
Mickelson, Michael
Nickas, George
Osborn, Wayne
Pierce, Sam
Press, William
Rather, John
Richards, David
Richer, Harvey
Routledge, David
Sgro, Anthony
Shulman, Seth
Slabinski, Victor
Tingle, Evan
Turner, David
Ulmer, Melville
Webster, William
Weekes, Trevor
Weisskopf, Martin
Weissman, Paul
Wells, Donald
Williams, James

45 Years

Aller, Hugh
Argo, Harold
Beebe, Herbert
Berg, Richard
Boesgaard, Ann
Burkhead, Martin
Chaffee, Frederic
Coyne, G.
Crampton, David
Cruikshank, Dale
Dulk, George
Dunham, David

Dupree, Andrea
Earl, James
Finzi, Arrigo
Garmire, Gordon
Garrison, Robert
Goss, W.
Hardebeck, Harry
Harris, Gretchen
Hesser, James
Hoffmann, William
Ianna, Philip
Janiczek, P.
Kovach, William
Latham, David
Leckrone, David
Legg, Thomas
Lillie, Charles
Linsky, Jeffrey
Mathews, William
Mintzer, David
Namba, O.
Ormes, Jonathan
Ostriker, Jeremiah
Peebles, P.
Peterson, Deane
Racine, Rene
Rogers, Alan
Scoville, Nicholas
Seeds, Michael
Simon, Michal
Stein, Robert
Stockton, Alan
Whitaker, William
Williams, Robert

50 Years

Anders, Edward
Bartko, Frank

Cayrel, Roger
Colgate, Stirling
Cowley, Anne
Fliegel, Henry
Galt, John
Gray, D.
Heeschen, David
Kellermann, Kenneth
Kundu, Mukul
Malville, J.
Marsden, Brian
McIntosh, Patrick
Miller, Richard
Moore, Elliott
Mumford, George
Olson, Edward
Parker, Robert
Poveda, Arcadio
Sargent, Wallace
Walker, Russell
Wehinger, Peter
West, Frederick
Westerman, Cynthia
Weymann, Ray
Wilson, Robert
Wood, H.
Zirker, Jack

55 Years

Burbidge, Geoffrey
Cowley, Charles
Crawford, David
Doherty, Lowell
Field, George
Heiser, Arnold
Jones, Charles
Kaftan-Kassim, May
Maxwell, Alan

Parker, James
Protheroe, William
Solomonides, Panos
Stecher, Theodore
60 Years
Cameron, Winifred
Dennison, Edwin
Ghaffari, A.
Liller, William
Linnell, Albert
Locke, J.
Motz, Lloyd
Sawyer, Constance
Schatzman, Evry
Weston, Edwin
Yoss, Kenneth

65+ Years

Arp, Halton
Athay, R. Grant
Bahng, John
Barnhart, Philip
Baum, William
Bell, Barbara
Bidelman, William
Blanco, Victor
Bogges, A.
Bogges, Nancy
Brotten, N.
Brownlee, Robert
Burbidge, E.
Chamberlain, Joseph
Cox, Arthur
Davis, Robert
Duncombe, R.
Flaughter, Brenna
Fredrick, Laurence

Fujita, Yoshio
Gehrels, Tom
Gingerich, Owen
Gleim, James
Halliday, Ian
Henriksen, S.
Herbig, George
Horak, Henry
Howard, William
Jaffe, M.
Johnson, Hugh
Johnson, Fred
Jugaku, Jun
Kraft, Robert
Lippincott, Sarah
Malitson, Harriet
Mathews, Robert
McCarthy, Martin
Meinel, Aden
Menon, T.
Parker, Eugene
Pecker, Jean-Claude
Roberts, Morton
Roemer, Elizabeth
Roman, Nancy
Savedoff, Malcolm
Schiffmacher, Edward
Seligman, David
Skumanich, Andrew
Smith, Bradford
Steel Lillibridge, Helen
Tifft, William
Wade, Campbell
Wehlau, Amelia
Wilson, Albert

Honored Elsewhere

Jayawardhana Awarded 2009 Steacie Prize

Ray Jayawardhana (University of Toronto) has been awarded the 2009 Steacie Prize, one of Canada's most prestigious honors for rising stars in science and engineering.

Jayawardhana is the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics in the Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, where he explores the origin and diversity of planetary systems and the formation of stars and brown dwarfs. His discoveries have made headlines on several occasions, including last year when he and his Toronto collaborators captured the first direct image of what is likely a giant planet revolving around a young sun-like star.

The Steacie Prize, with a value of \$10,000, is awarded annually to recognize exceptional research contributions from a scientist or engineer aged 40 or younger. Winners are selected by a panel appointed by the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fund, a private foundation dedicated to the advancement of science and engineering in Canada.

2009 New DAP Fellows

Congratulations to the following AAS members who were named American Physical Society (ASP) Fellows nominated by the Division of Astrophysics (DAP):

Roger Blandford - For his seminal contributions to theoretical astrophysics, including black hole astrophysics, the astrophysics of relativistic plasmas, cosmic ray acceleration and propagation, and cosmological applications of gravitational lensing.

John Blondin - For extensive contributions to the study of accreting systems, stellar outflows, supernovae, and supernova remnants through hydrodynamic simulations, and for his authorship and maintenance of the VH-1 hydrodynamic code.

W. Niel Brandt - For his leadership of and numerous contributions to deep extragalactic X-ray surveys and active galaxy studies, which have advanced understanding of the physics and evolution of accreting supermassive black holes and other cosmic X-ray sources.

John Carlstrom - For his pioneering measurements of the Cosmic Microwave Background polarization and the Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect to study the early universe. For using these measurements to constrain models of the constituents of and the physical processes in the early Universe.

Alexander Heger - For important contributions to the understanding of massive star evolution, nucleosynthesis, supernovae, and X-ray bursts.

Craig Hogan - For his innovative research in diverse areas of astrophysics, including the constituents of the universe, dark

energy, gravitational waves, cosmological phase transitions, and cosmic background radiation.

Chung-Pei Ma - For her important contributions to theoretical astrophysics, particularly in the areas of relativistic evolution of density perturbations, constraints on dark matter properties in structure formation models, and the dynamics of galaxy and dark matter halo mergers.

John Raymond - For his outstanding contributions to the understanding of a broad range of astrophysical processes in the solar corona, supernova remnants, X-ray binaries, and other objects.

Nicholas White - For his visionary leadership of data archiving for astrophysics missions and activism in initiating and promoting new missions in NASA's astrophysics program.

Strelnitski Honored with Presidential Award

Vladimir Strelnitski, Director of Astronomy for the Maria Mitchell Association, attended a special ceremony in the White House to receive a special honor for the Maria Mitchell Association on 5 January. The Association was one of 22 recipients of the 2007-2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

This award is presented each year to individuals or organizations, recognizes the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying science or engineering and who belong to minorities that are underrepresented in those fields. Candidates for the Presidential mentoring award are nominated by colleagues, administrators, and students from their home institutions. The mentoring can involve students at any grade level from elementary through graduate school.

As many AAS members know, the Maria Mitchell Association (MMA) is dedicated to furthering science education, encouraging women in science, and serving as a science resource for Nantucket, MA. MMA honors America's first professional woman astronomer who believed that students learned best through conducting real research projects. The Association recently celebrated its centennial (1908-2008) and the fiftieth anniversary of its outstanding undergraduate mentoring program. The career paths of MMA astronomy alumnae/i show remarkable and ever improving results. In particular, the percentage of MMA astronomy alumnae/i attaining the Ph.D. level increased from approximately 20 percent in the first two decades of the program to about 60 percent in the last decade (approximately equal for male and female astronomy interns). This is a remarkable and promising achievement, given the relatively small numbers of Ph.D.-level women researchers and professors in American astronomy and physics.

11 AAS Members Elected as AAAS Fellows

Eleven members of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), including its Executive Officer, Kevin B. Marvel, have been awarded the distinction of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Election as a Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

This year 531 AAAS members have been awarded this honor by the AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. New Fellows are being announced in the AAAS News & Notes section of today's issue of the journal *Science*. They will be presented with an official certificate and a rosette pin on Saturday, 20 February 2010, at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2010 AAAS Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

James M. Cordes, Cornell University: For his contributions to the astronomical community, making his mark as an observer of radio pulsars to understand pulsar physics, wave propagation in high-energy plasmas, and using pulsar observations to probe the interstellar medium in the Galaxy.

Eileen D. Friel, Lowell Observatory: For distinguished service to the astronomical community as Executive Officer of the Astronomical Section at the National Science Foundation (NSF), and for diligently mentoring many young scientists in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program.

Philip R. Goode, Big Bear Solar Observatory: For path breaking research in helioseismology and climate; and building the world's most capable solar telescope and the country's largest academic solar physics program.

Alyssa A. Goodman, Harvard University: For distinguished contributions to the field of star formation, particularly the physics of molecular cloud cores, and for fostering the public engagement in astronomical science.

Christopher Impey, University of Arizona: For distinguished contributions to astronomy education, research, and outreach.

Mario Livio, Space Telescope Science Institute: For distinguished contributions to astrophysics through research on stars and galaxies and through communicating and interpreting science and mathematics to the public.

Kevin Marvel, American Astronomical Society: For outstanding service to the American astronomical community as Executive Officer of American Astronomical Society and for ongoing efforts to strengthen the alliance between the AAS and the AAAS.

Ramesh Narayan, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: For distinguished contributions to the field

of theoretical astrophysics, particularly for understanding accretion disks around black holes.

Patrick S. Osmer, Ohio State University: For pioneering searches for quasars that established their rapid evolution with cosmic time and for enormous leadership contributions to observational astronomy in the United States.

Saeqa Dil Vrtilek, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO): For extraordinary service to the AAAS Section on Astronomy as its secretary, for dedicated efforts in public outreach, and for research on disk accretion and X-ray binaries.

David H. Weinberg, Ohio State University: For distinguished contributions to the field of cosmology, particularly our understanding of dark matter and its role in formation of galaxies and other gaseous structures.

Thuan Wins 2009 Kalinga Prize

Professor Trinh Xuan Thuan has received the 2009 Kalinga Prize for Popularization of Science. The prize will be awarded by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura at the World Science Forum in Budapest (Hungary) on 5 November.

Professor Trinh Xuan Thuan (Vietnam) is an astrophysicist internationally recognized for his research in extragalactic astronomy (concerning objects beyond the Milky Way). He is the author of more than 230 articles on the formation and evolution of galaxies, in particular of dwarf galaxies, and on the synthesis of light elements in the Big Bang. His articles are widely cited.

For his astronomical research, Professor Trinh Xuan Thuan makes use of the largest telescopes on Earth (Kitt Peak, Hawaii, Chile...) and in space (Hubble, Spitzer...). In late 2004, thanks to observations made with the Hubble Space Telescope, he discovered the youngest known galaxy in the universe (I Zwicky 18), a discovery that was amply discussed in the international press.

The UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science, the oldest UNESCO Prize in Science, was awarded for the first time in 1952. It is made possible by a generous donation from the Kalinga Foundation Trust in India, the Orissa State Government of India and the Indian Government.

Committee News

Status of Women in Astronomy

Joan Schmelz, CSWA Chair, University of Memphis, jschmelz@memphis.edu

Addressing Unconscious Bias

The Women in Astronomy III conference was held at the University of Maryland, 21-23 October 2009. With 281 registered participants and dozens of talks and posters, the meeting was a worthy continuation of the highly successful Women in Astronomy conference series.

One of the highlights was the invited talk by Dr. Abigail Stewart from the University of Michigan on “Addressing Unconscious Bias.” We all have biases, and we are (for the most part) unaware of them. In general, men and women BOTH unconsciously devalue the contributions of women. This can have a detrimental effect on grant proposals, job applications, and performance reviews.

Sociology is way ahead of astronomy in these studies. When evaluating identical application packages, male and female University psychology professors preferred 2:1 to hire “Brian” over “Karen” as an assistant professor. When evaluating a more experienced record (at the point of promotion to tenure), reservations were expressed four times more often when the name was female. This unconscious bias has a repeated negative effect on Karen’s career. Ref: Steinpreis, Anders, & Ritzke (1999) Sex Roles, 41, 509.

More recently, the unconscious bias against motherhood was evaluated. Resumes for Jane Smith were identical except of one small detail: Active in the PTA. This line indicated that Jane was a mother, and she was rated significantly lower than “non-mother” Jane. When evaluating identical applications: Evaluators rated mothers as less competent and committed to paid work than non-mothers; prospective employers called mothers back about half as often as non-mothers; and mothers were less likely to be recommended for hire, promotion, and management, and were offered lower starting salaries than non-mothers. Ref: Correll, Benard and Paik (2007) American Journal of Sociology, 112 (5), 1297-1338.

There were also results for “father” and “non-father” John. As above, the resumes were identical except of one line: Active in the PTA. But this time, “father” John got higher ratings than “non-father” John! Fathers were not disadvantaged in the hiring process and were seen as more committed to paid work and offered higher starting salaries than non-fathers. What’s a mother to do? Ref: Correll, Benard and Paik (2007) American Journal of Sociology, 112 (5), 1297-1338.

This talk also gave a list of recommendations on how to begin to eliminate unconscious bias. Increasing the proportion of women raises the ratings of all women. Here’s an example for a faculty search committee:

-Awareness: we all want to hire someone who is just like us, so start by shining a light on the problem. Make sure the search committee is as diverse as possible. Recruit from a wider range of institutions. Use open searches with the broadest possible job descriptions;

-Policy: do NOT ask each committee member to find the top three applicants; rather, outline the characteristics for a successful applicant and make an extended short list of the applicants that satisfy those characteristics;

-Practice: insert a phone interview step into the selection process and interview all those applicants on the extended short list;

-Accountability: it is the job of the search committee to create a more diverse department. Cultivate practices that mitigate bias. Monitor both processes and outcomes. Create policies that support fair evaluation processes. Build in accountability for outcomes. Link rewards to outcomes. Link evaluation of leaders to outcomes.

CSWA is hoping to invite Dr. Stewart to speak at an upcoming AAS meeting, perhaps even as a plenary speaker. Would you attend such a talk?

The Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy was established in 1979 and consists of eight rotating members with 3-year terms. Our charge is to recommend to the AAS Council practical measures that can be taken to improve the status of women in astronomy and encourage their entry into this field. We have several print and electronic publications and have held two international meetings about the status of women in astronomy. We encourage you to look around, and to submit articles and items of interest about women in science and related topics. Women are especially urged to enter their information in the Women in Astronomy database, which can be used to search for colloquium or conference speakers and job applicants.

Committee on Employment

Blake Bullock, Blake.Bullock@ngc.com

Bush-Whacking a Career Trail

Like many of us, I knew I wanted to work in the field of astronomy from the time I could first look up. When asked to draw a picture of what I wanted to do when I grew up, I turned in a sheet of paper to my pre-school teacher covered from corner to corner in black crayon: space. As I made my way through jobs in academics, government, and industry, my enthusiasm to learn and contribute never changed, but my notion of where I fit in evolved significantly. Here are five things I learned on my personal path.

People Want to Help: When I first looked for a job outside the standard academic path, it seemed impossible. I had a sneaking feeling that websites weren't going to hire me – a person was going to hire me. I asked myself: who do I know who does what I'd like to do? When I found someone whose career inspired me, I asked them for fifteen minutes to talk. People want to help, but see below.

People are Busy: Make it easy for people to help – ask for insights, don't ask for a job. If I only had fifteen minutes, I wasn't going to spend it asking questions better suited for Google. As an astrophysics undergraduate at Cal Berkeley, my first summer internship was at NASA Ames working on the Kepler Mission. The PI needed someone who could write and get the word out to the public. Could I do that? Answer: yes.

Be Flexible: I hadn't expected it, but that summer I learned I loved writing about science. The following summer I was hired to write at the Lawrence Berkeley National Labs magazine. I kept in touch with the people who'd offered me ideas before, and one of my physics professors recommended me for the AAAS Mass Media Fellows program (www.aas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/) where I covered the science beat in a newsroom.

Problem Solvers are in Demand: After I finished my master's thesis in astronomy at Wesleyan University, I wanted to work on a mission from the policy side. I applied for the Presidential Management Fellowship program (www.pmf.opm.gov). I was hired as a NASA civil servant. As a Presidential Management Fellow, I served at NASA Headquarters, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Strategic and Space Programs Directorate. I was most enthralled with the opportunity to work on the James Webb Space Telescope at NASA, but what shocked me the most was to learn that with my degree in

astronomy, I was being offered jobs in areas I never expected, such as: intelligence, federal law enforcement, and energy.

A Perfect Fit is Over-rated: How can I apply for a job at an engineering company if I'm trained as a scientist? I did a quick survey of the people around me here at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems in Redondo Beach, CA: the lead for a new mission proposal, our chief scientist, and a program's science liaison to NASA. How many of them are specializing in the exact area in which they were academically trained? Zero. A strong technical background is best for learning how to learn. In industry, where technology, processes and the needs of the science community are all constantly in flux, on the job training is paramount. The best way I've learned what I want to do is by doing. Often times the perfect job for me didn't exist until I got there.

As I continue on my career path, I've learned that with every step I take in a new direction, I learn something that might be helpful for someone just starting out. It's just as important to reach out to others through resources like the AAS Non-Academic Astronomer's Network (www.aas.org/career/nonacademic.php). Working on the James Webb Space Telescope has opened my eyes to just how many people we need to keep our missions

going, including inside government, industry, academia, the media, and non-profits, to name a few. In my current role as a business development manager for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, my academic background is fundamental to working with astronomers on missions in every stage. I find it very fulfilling to have a position that allows me to be part of the astronomy community, while also contributing through writing, public speaking, and translating technical and scientific information to the broader public. I've learned as the scientific, technical, and political environments evolve, so do the opportunities to contribute and create new paths.

The AAS Committee on Employment is pleased to highlight useful resources for astronomers, and welcomes your comments and responses to this and previous columns. Please check out our website (www.aas.org/career/) for additional resources or contact the committee chair (Travis Metcalfe, travis@ucar.edu).

■ As I made my way through jobs in academics, government, and industry, my enthusiasm to learn and contribute never changed, but my notion of where I fit in evolved significantly. ■

of them are astrophysicists. So we have friends on the Hill who understand what we are about. But they still need to hear from us because their portfolios cover much more than astronomy and astrophysics.

Become familiar with the AAS “Contacting Congress” pages and talk to your Congressperson(s). Maybe we can all make a new year resolution that each of us will make at least one phone call or write at least one letter to Congress and/or the press this year advocating for basic research and astronomy funding.

Stay informed about news and events that could affect astronomy policy through our various channels of communication. Urgent actions are communicated via the Action Alerts that are issued by email to the membership mailing list. Informational emails let you know about events as they are occurring. There are more frequent updates on our Public Policy Blog (blog.aas.org). Finally, you can also follow us on Facebook by becoming a fan.

News from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP)

James Manning, Executive Director

Communing in Boulder

*It's Colorado Rocky Mountain high
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky
Friends around the campfire and everybody's high
Rocky Mountain high . . .*

Rocky Mountain High – John Denver

First, let me make something perfectly clear: while the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's 122nd annual meeting will be held in early August in Colorado, and the mood we hope to achieve is indeed that of friends around the campfire, the only “high” we're promoting is high spirits. That said, we at the ASP invite you to join us in John Denver's Rocky Mountains for a meeting that will bring both college instructors of introductory astronomy classes and the education and public outreach (EPO) community together for an opportunity to hone their craft, share their skills and experiences, and make vital connections with like-minded professionals.

This year's meeting, to be held on the campus of the University of Colorado – Boulder, 31 July-4 August, will encompass both the ASP's every-three-year convening of Cosmos in the Classroom—a hands-on symposium on teaching introductory astronomy—and the EPO conference with the theme of “Making Connections in Education and Public Outreach.” The meeting proper will run Monday, 2 August through Wednesday, 4 August, with the prior weekend (31 July-1 August) reserved for workshops and special events.

As in previous Cosmos in the Classroom symposiums, attendees will participate in hands-on workshops that practice what we preach. There will also be panel discussions, poster sessions, a “share-a-thon” room for sharing favorite materials, and time

for formal and informal networking with people who teach in settings similar to your own as well as those who teach in other settings who may also have many things of value to share with you.

Attending astronomy instructors typically run the gamut from high school and community colleges to liberal arts colleges, state and private universities, research universities, and informal science institutions. These instructors combined teach some 250,000 students across the U.S. each year—most of them non-science majors, but many of them future teachers, opinion-makers, and voters. And it's in everyone's best interests to give them the best and most effective science experience we can. Come join us in Boulder, to practice some new techniques, share what works well for you, and make useful connections with others.

At the same time, EPO professionals from around the country and the world will gather for three days of professional development and networking experiences, through interactive sessions demonstrating effective EPO programs and techniques, posters, panels, oral reports and opportunities to connect and partner with their peers. Professionals from NASA- and NSF-funded programs, formal and informal educators, and others involved in education and public outreach efforts are expected to attend—in astronomy-related efforts as well as earth science and other sciences as we make connections across the sciences and share best practices we all can use. Come join the party as we build on the legacy of IYA and the Year of Science and join forces to improve science literacy, education, and aspiration in our future science workforce.

What's especially nice about this summer's meeting is the opportunity for astronomy instructors and EPO professionals to make connections with each other. There will be many

opportunities for bridges to be built and partnerships to be forged.

To learn more about the meeting, to sign up for various alerts, and to register and submit abstracts as the web site grows, visit us at: <http://www.astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html>. It will be a tad early to see it “rainin’ fire in the sky,” as John

sang, but we hope you’ll come and join us around the campfire all the same for good fellowship, good work, and to solidify connections that will benefit us all as we advance our science and consider how we can forge a more science literate society and secure the next generation of science adventurers. See you there?

News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences

Nigel Sharp, Acting Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences, nsharp@nsf.gov

Staff Changes in AST

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Gary Schmidt, from the University of Arizona, has agreed to join our team as a permanent Program Director, with initial responsibilities in the areas of instrumentation and facility management, plus, as always, “other duties as assigned.”

Current staff and their approximate responsibilities can usually be found, when we have the list up-to-date, by going to the NSF web site at www.nsf.gov. From the drop-down menu on the left marked “Program Areas,” choose “Math, Physical Sciences,” then “Astronomical Sciences.” On the left, select “View AST Staff” and, the crucial final step, the button at the top marked “Expand This List.”

National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center

Those of you waiting for the solicitation for the management and operation of NAIC will have noticed its continuing absence. This is due to continued technical complexities. We continue to push this forward and can only ask for patience as we press for the soonest possible release.

Advanced Technology Solar Telescope

We are delighted to note that the NSF Director, Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr, signed the ATST Record of Decision on 3 December 2009. This completed the Federal compliance

process for construction at the Preferred Mees Site, thus allowing AST to go forward with funding.

More information on the ATST can be found at <http://atst.nso.edu>.

Upcoming Deadlines for FY2010 funding

4/5 February 2010: the program for Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI) no longer requires pre-proposals. The submission window for full proposals closes on February 4th for Type I (roughly, individual investigator) proposals, and on 5 February for Type II (small team) proposals. Unfortunately, due to restricted funding, the previously announced Type III proposals will continue not to be accepted in FY2010. For details, see http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503163&org=MPS&from=home or contact Nigel Sharp (nsharp@nsf.gov).

Major Research Instrumentation (MRI). As of this writing, a final decision has not yet been reached on running the MRI program competition in FY2010. Check NSF’s web pages regularly for an announcement from the Office of Integrative Activities (<http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=OIA>).

Announcements

NSO Observing Proposal Deadline

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 February 2010 for the second quarter of 2010. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nsokp@nso.edu). Instructions may be found at <http://www.nso.edu/general/observe/>. A web-based observing-request form is at <http://www2.nso.edu/cgi-bin/nsoforms/obsreq/obsreq.cgi>. Users' Manuals are available at <http://nsosp.nso.edu/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt.

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

Hubble Space Telescope Cycle 18 Call for Proposals

NASA and The Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) are pleased to announce the Cycle 18 Call for Proposals for Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Observations and funding for Archival Research and Theoretical Research programs. Participation in this program is open to all categories of organizations, both domestic and foreign, including educational institutions, profit and nonprofit organizations, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies.

This solicitation for proposals will be open through 26 February 2010 8:00pm EST. The Astronomer's Proposal Tools (APT), which is required for Phase I Proposal Submission will be made available/released for Cycle 18 Phase I use during the 1st week of January 2010. Results of the selection will be announced in early June 2010.

All programmatic and technical information, as well as specific guidelines for proposal preparation, are available electronically from the STScI World-Wide Web site at the Announcement Web Page with URL: <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/proposing/docs/cycle18announce>

Questions can be addressed to the STScI Help Desk (email: help@stsci.edu; phone: 410-338-1082).

Young Astrophysicists' Prizes

Commission 19 (Astrophysics) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics plans to present two young scientists' prizes in astrophysics for 2009 and 2010 at the 25th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics in Heidelberg in December 2010. Each prize will consist of 1000 Euros, a medal, and a chance to speak at the conference.

Criteria include: outstanding contributions by the individual; fewer than eight years of post-PhD research by December 2009 (for the 2009 prize) or by December 2010 (for the 2010 prize). Interruptions for military service, family emergencies, etc. (but not teaching) are allowed.

The nomination package consists of: a letter from the nominator outlining the reasons for the nomination; a complete CV and list of publications; two supporting letters, at least one of which must come from someone not at the nominee's institution and not a mentor or significant collaborator. Self-nominations are not permitted, but a candidate could ask a mentor or colleague to provide a nomination.

Nomination packages should be sent either electronically to the C19 chair, Victoria Fonseca (fonseca@gae.ucm.edu) or as paper to the selection committee chair Virginia Trimble (Physics Dept, Univ. of California, Irvine CA 92697 USA) so as to arrive by 1 June 2010. The winners will be selected and notified over the next few weeks.

New "Discoveries in Planetary Science" Classroom PowerPoints Available

The DPS Education Subcommittee announces the 2nd release of "Discoveries in Planetary Science" Classroom Powerpoints, covering six new topics:

- Discovery of a Rocky Exoplanet
- Lunar Water
- Jupiter Impact Event
- Oceans on Enceladus
- The TC3 Meteorite
- 2012 Doomsday Rumors

These are succinct summaries of discoveries too recent to appear in "Intro Astronomy" college textbooks; each set consists of just three slides to be shown: the discovery itself, a basic explanation based on good planetary science, and the "big picture" context. Another page for further information is provided as well. Powerpoints and pdf's can be downloaded from <http://dps.aas.org/education/dpsdisc>.

Feedback from the community on how these slide sets are used and received is welcomed, and will be used to improve future releases. Planetary scientists with recent or upcoming results of broad interest are encouraged to submit them for consideration by providing an initial draft using the template provided on the website. For more information, contact Nick Schneider & Dave Brain at dpsdisc@aas.org

AAS on Facebook

You can become a "fan" of the AAS and receive occasional updates and news via our Facebook page. Find us by simply searching for the American Astronomical Society.

Calendar of Events

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

HEAD Meeting

1-4 March 2010, Big Island, HI
John Vallergera (info@eurekasci.com)
www.confcon.com
www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/

*8th International Conference on High Energy Laboratory Astrophysics (HEDLA-2010)

15-18 March 2010, Pasadena, CA
Paul Bellan (pbellan@caltech.edu)
http://hedla2010.caltech.edu/

DDA Meeting

25-29 April 2010, Brookline, MA
LOC Chair: Matija Cuk (cuk@eps.harvard.edu)

Other Events

First Stars and Galaxies: Challenges for the Next Decade

8-11 March 2010, Los Alamos, NM
Daniel Whalen (dwhalen@lanl.gov)
http://www.as.utexas.edu/~fsgcon

KPNO@50: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of our National Observatory

http://www.noao.edu/kp50

*9th Annual International Astrophysics Conference

14-19 March 2010, Maui, HI
Gary P. Zank (garyp.zank@gmail.com)
http://icnsmeetings.com/conference/9thannual/index.html

Workshop 1: From First Light to Newborn Stars

14-17 March 2010
Lori Allen (lallen@noao.edu)

Symposium: Looking to the Next 50 Years of NOAO and NSO

17 March 2010
Buell Jannuzi (jannuzi@noao.edu)

Workshop 2: An Eventful Universe

17-20 March 2010
Tod Lauer (tlauer@noao.edu)

SNOWPAC & SNOWCLUSTER

23 March – 2 April 2010, Snowbird, UT
Frank van den Bosch (vdbosch@physics.utah.edu)
www.physics.utah.edu/snowpac

*Opportunities for Astrophysics and Planetary Science from the Outer Solar System

25-26 March 2010, Irvine, CA
Asantha Cooray (acooray@uci.edu)
http://physics.uci.edu/5AU/

From Stars to Galaxies: Connecting Our Understanding of Star and Galaxy Formation

7-10 April 2010, Gainesville, FL
Jonathan Tan (starstogalaxies@astro.ufl.edu)
http://conference.astro.ufl.edu/STARSTOGALAXIES/index.html

Astrobiology Science Conference 2010: Evolution and Life: Surviving Catastrophes and Extremes on Earth and Beyond

26-29 April 2010, League City, TX
Linda Billings (abscicon@lpi.usra.edu)
http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/

*Magnetic Fields: From Core Collapse to Young Stellar Objects

17-19 May 2010, Ontario, Canada
Shantanu Basu (basu@astro.uwo.ca)

Meteoroids 2010

24-28 May 2010, Breckenridge, CO
Diego Janches (diego@cora.nwra.com)
http://www.cora.nwra.com/Meteoroids2010/

*6th Solar Polarization Workshop

30 May-4 June, Maui, HI
http://kopiko.ifa.hawaii.edu/spw6/

IAU Symposium 270: Computational Star Formation

31 May-4 June 2010, Barcelona, Spain
SOC co-chairs, J. Alves, B. Elmegreen, V. Trimble
http://www.iaus270.org

*Twelfth Synthesis Imaging Workshop

8-15 June 2010, Socorro, NM
Amy Mioduszewski (amiodusz@nrao.edu)
http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/events/synthesis/2010/

The First Galaxies, Quasars & Gamma-Ray Bursts

6-10 June 2010, Pennsylvania St Univ
Yuexing Li and Derek Fox (yuexing@astro.psu.edu)
http://www.astro.psu.edu/firstgalaxies

*ASTRONUM-2010: The 5th International Conference on Numerical Modeling of Space Plasma Flows

14-19 June 2010, San Diego, CA
Nikolai Pogorelov (Nikolai.Pogorelov@uah.edu)
icnsmeetings.com

UP: Have Observations Revealed a Variable Upper End of the Initial Mass Function?

21-25 June 2010, Sedona, AZ
Mark Seibert (up2010@obs.carnegiescience.edu)
http://up2010.obs.carnegiescience.edu

IAU Symposium 271

Astrophysical Dynamics: From Stars to Galaxies

21-25 June, 2010, Nice, France
Allan Sacha Brun (sacha.brun@cea.fr)
http://irfu.cea.fr/Projets/IAUSymp271

SPiE Astronomical Telescopes and Instrumentation 2010

27 June – 2 July 2010, San Diego, CA
customerservice@spie.org
http://electronicimaging.org/?WT.mc_id=Cal-EI

*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@aas.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

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Washington News

Anita Krishnamurthi, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow, anitak@as.org



Happy New Year everyone! Here's hoping 2010 is kind to us all.

The AAS meeting in Washington was exciting and I hope you attended some of the policy sessions held at this meeting. They were very interesting and I have summarized them on the AAS public

policy blog at blog.aas.org.

Well, another year begins and so will another budget negotiation. We will have to wait and see what the President's budget request looks like this year. There are many pressing issues the country is facing in the short-term. So we will have to make a strong case that funding basic research and thinking about the long-term is still important. These investments pay off for the country—in addition to enhancing our knowledge, they result in technological innovations and entirely new industries that become the economic engines that drive society.

This Administration and Congress are generally very supportive of science. But at the time we go to press on this column, we are still waiting to hear the Administration's decision for the human space flight program at NASA and how that might affect (or not) the science program at NASA. Astrophysics funding at NASA is trending downwards. It is not clear how

the available resources will match up with the priorities spelled out in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey. The stimulus funding this year increased the award rate for astrophysics proposals at NSF from 21% to 36%. That is a healthy success rate but unlikely to be sustained without the Recovery Act funding.

We know that job creation is going to be a big focus this year—and remember, it is an election year! It will be important that we do not miss opportunities to tie science funding to jobs and economic recovery. The ScienceWorks website (<http://www.scienceworksforum.org/>) is tracking the impact of Recovery Act funded university research projects across the country. This site debuted with a splash on the Hill with many in Congress attending. Staffers will be looking at this site as the year goes on—is your stimulus grant represented here?

Several active missions are producing wonderful science and a few new missions are proceeding with development as planned. The Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey will be released in the summer. We will have to stay focused on our priorities and get involved in advocacy. A general rule in Congress is that if they don't hear from you, they assume you don't need anything. As you may have seen in the December 2009 issue of *Physics Today*, there are many Congressional Fellows on the Hill with PhDs in physics-related fields. Several

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