

AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

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President's Column

Debra Meloy Elmegreen, president@aaas.org

Moon over Miami, palm trees, and a riverwalk set the perfect scene for our 216th meeting, a typically intimate summer gathering with about 800 attendees. Kudos and thanks to Kevin and his Marvel-ous staff for another smooth and well-executed gathering. It was all the more special because of meeting jointly with the Solar Physics Division, which happens every three years. It is nice when the smaller divisions are able to overlap with the general meeting, to foster more interactions among astronomers who work in a variety of fields. Dramatic results from new missions such as Herschel, Hinode and SDO, WISE, CoRoT, Cassini-Huygens observations of Titan, CMB observations from the South Pole, progress on ALMA, and solar tales from SPD Hale prize winner Marcia Neugebauer and Harvey prize winner Brian Welsch were among the many exciting presentations.

Three newly funded opportunities were announced: the Doxsey Award for thesis-presenting graduate students to travel to the AAS, the Lancelot Berkeley Prize for meritorious recently published research to be presented at the AAS, and the Kavli Award to a distinguished plenary AAS speaker, as discussed elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

I was thinking about what makes AAS meetings special. We gather for the science, of course; the general meetings provide opportunities to get a firsthand update on key advances, which help inform not only our research but also our teaching. The short talks give us highlights, while plenary talks give us an overview of a field. It is a great opportunity for undergraduates and graduate students just entering the field to get a taste of the diversity of research going on, in a way that specialized meetings cannot. But AAS meetings offer many opportunities beyond the exchange of research results. In Miami, there was a panel meeting on International Partnerships in Astronomy. The Committee on the Status of Women hosted sessions on mentoring, on the future of astronomy careers, and on gender bias. As always, there were Town Halls to hear about the latest news from our funding agencies and science centers, from NSF to NASA to NOAO and NRAO, and how they are looking forward to the upcoming Decadal report. There were also the usual teaching workshops for introductory astronomy. Informal networking is a major benefit to attendees. And where else can you shake a leg at Gina Brissenden's and Jake Noel-Storr's legendary parties, like the one we just enjoyed!

The summer meeting is also about transition. I am honored and excited to take over at the helm, and appreciate your confidence in electing me. I thank our outgoing President John Huchra for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. As president, John spearheaded the AAS Ethics Policy, as well as the development of a Strategic Plan to help us achieve the goals accompanying our Mission Statement. I am especially grateful to John for his guidance over the past year, and look forward to his advice as past president. Special thanks too to retiring AAS Secretary John Graham for his extensive service to the Society, as we welcome Fritz Benedict into the fold. Also thanks to our outgoing Councilors Chryssa Kouveliotou, Jay Lockman, and Nick Suntzeff (now incoming VP) and outgoing VP Lee Hartmann; it was a pleasure to serve with them.

We have an energetic incoming Council, and lots of ideas for executing the goals of the AAS. The Strategic Plan draft will be posted on the website, and I urge everyone to read it and provide comments. All members should be familiar with our policies and statements, and check in regularly as we begin to explore new projects; the AAS only works if the plans suit the members. There are

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AAS Officers

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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

The Miami meeting worked out well and we received many positive comments from attendees. AAS summer meetings, traditionally smaller, make connecting with colleagues easier simply because there are fewer attendees. Upcoming summer meetings will be held in Boston next summer and Anchorage in 2012. We are avoiding the transit of Venus in 2012, not because of the hype from the movie, but so members who wish to travel to a cloud-free location to view this rare event can do so. None of us alive now will see another.

Not all AAS members know that the scientific content of the meetings is planned by our dedicated vice presidents. Each year a new vice president is elected and we say goodbye to our senior VP. This is always disappointing for AAS staff, as at the end of a three-year term, each VP has become an expert in how to work with our electronic abstract system, distribute invitation letters to invited speakers and interact with the AAS meeting staff. This year we say goodbye to Lee Hartmann and hello to Nick Suntzeff. Christine Jones will be overseeing the Seattle and Boston meetings and Lee Anne Willson will be overseeing the Austin and Anchorage meetings. Although the VPs (and president and president-elect or past-president) have the final say on the content of the meetings, members can help them with suggestions for invited speakers and, of course, submitting their own contributed presentations.

The publications board directed me to move the BAAS into a fully digital format beginning in 2011. We are well on the way to implementing this and I wanted to share a few key things about this change. First, the BAAS will no longer accept contributed scholarly articles. A small number of scholarly articles has appeared in the BAAS since its inception, primarily focused on our discipline or journal statistics. There were never many submissions and in the past several years, the number has dropped off precipitously. Therefore the publications board agreed that we no longer need to serve as a publication vehicle for this class of article. Obituaries will now be published digitally and made available online either through our own website or the website of a publisher and of course made available through ADS. We will assign and register Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to the obituaries and curate them with the same care and attention we focus on our research journals. The AAS Annual Report will appear as a downloadable digital PDF file through our website, matching most non-profit member organizations. For several years the BAAS had not been publishing observatory reports as with the rise of the web, the usefulness of these reports waned for many people and most uses. This was reflected in the rapid decline in the number of observatories or departments submitting reports for publication in the BAAS. Finally, the BAAS' primary role is to capture the submitted abstracts of presentations at AAS meetings and the meetings of its Divisions. We will continue to receive and process abstracts digitally and will publish these abstracts on line via a hosting solution either through our current abstract vendor, our own website or another solution. Abstracts will be given DOIs and, as they are now, submitted to ADS. We will also institute proper curation of this digital content moving forward.

Another change is coming in the way we create and disseminate member-focused information, like the content in the Newsletter or our mailing lists. At the present time, I can't provide much detail as our focus-group on communications is still meeting and planning. What I can safely say is that we want to develop a system that allows members to get the information they want from the AAS, when they want it, at the frequency they want it and in the format most comfortable to them. I've challenged a team of AAS staff and members to figure out the best way forward for us in this area and they are making good progress. We are still hopeful that some changes can be implemented just after the winter AAS meeting in 2011.

Another team is working through the membership renewal and registration processes, with the goal of smoothing out the rough edges and making both processes easier for members to understand and complete. Good ideas are being generated and many improvements are already in place.

Both efforts were motivated by members' comments, critiques and input, so keep the good ideas coming! You can contact me directly at Kevin.Marvel@aas.org. Enjoy your summer!

several issues of ongoing concern to the Society. Coming down the pike are revisions to the Shapley Lectureship program. We want to restructure it in a way that will be more proactive; for example, to help target minority institutions and institutions (such as community colleges) that might not know to request a lecturer. We will continue to strive for a more diverse and representative membership, and a new working group on demographics will develop an ongoing database. I look forward to working with the AAS members to make sure the Society is what you want it to be. Please feel free to send me your thoughts about what we as a society might do to help improve our profession. We will also consider ways to facilitate easier two-way communications between members and the Council.

Astronomers of my generation automatically joined the AAS as a sort of entry into the profession. In Miami, Terry Oswalt gave an inspiring talk about recognizing the diversity of astronomy-related jobs and reaching out to astronomers beyond research universities to become part of the AAS. I encourage current members to make an effort to get their non-AAS colleagues and students to join as well.

Besides semiannual meetings, the AAS manages some of the most important publications in astronomy, and provides advocacy for astronomical issues of concern to all of us. But, if the meetings and journals and advocacy are not

sufficient reasons to join, I am particularly interested in hearing about what the AAS means to you, and what other benefits to membership that we might explore.

Looking ahead, clearly a major upcoming event for astronomers is the roll-out of the Astro2010 Decadal report. It has been sent off to reviewers, and will be presented in pre-release to the agencies in August, and to the public two weeks afterwards. Thanks to the Decadal process, the astronomical community enjoys a reputation among government officials as being well-organized and united. It is imperative that we all support the recommendations, so that Congress will take us seriously in providing the funding we need to implement the priorities. Council is considering ways to discuss the Decadal recommendations so that everyone can hear the rationale for the difficult decisions that were made by the Survey Committee. Town Halls were very successful in engaging a broad cross-section of the community in discussions and in stimulating White Paper inputs to the Decadal Survey, so we would like to use that format for the roll-out as well. We envision that local institutions could host regional Town Halls, with an AAS councilor to lead the gathering and a Decadal Survey committee member to present the results and stimulate discussion. Please consider hosting such a Town Hall, and contact me or a member of Council if you are interested; we will provide more details later as the plans evolve. Stay tuned for a busy fall.

Journals Update - Data, Please

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

We've been endeavoring for more than a decade to provide access to digital data through our journal articles. The Publications Board and our journals' editors believe this is an important way to make our online journals even more useful as research tools.

There have always been data in the journals, from the Zodiac of Hygea, published in the *AJ* in December 1849, to results of AGN monitoring, published in the *ApJ* in June 2010. For the past twenty years, we have been particularly interested in making it possible to move from the literature about celestial objects and models directly to the data that support or give rise to their study. We have accepted machine-readable tables (more than 5000 of them!) for our journals for over ten years, and we have devised ways of referring to datasets with formal dataset identifiers; the journals have always maintained healthy relationships with the data centers at ADS, CDS, and NED. Much of the data that the journals handle is explicitly tabular, and is therefore easy to exchange and manage using the wide array of mature systems available to the community. We are

happy to have more of this – with the proviso that the journals are not data centers, so large data sets should be submitted to a suitable data repository and referred to from articles.

There is a kind of data we would like to have more of – and that would be the numerical data that underlie figures in the journals, figures that represent highly reduced and analyzed results. I'm referring here mostly to figures that we might call “graphics” or “line art,” rather than images or halftones. (We already know what to do with FITS images of “plates.”) If the data that you used to make your plot can be represented in a tabular form—wavelength vs. flux, time vs. intensity, color vs. color, etc.—please consider collecting it in a FITS table or similarly suitable package, so that the data themselves can be provided along with the figure in the journal. Let your scientific editor know if you have data that you can supply this way. If you have questions about what formats the journals will accept, or about the most effective way to represent the data, please send them to the AAS journals scientist, Dr. Greg Schwarz (gshwarz@mcmaster.ca).

Council Actions

Taken at the 216th Meeting of the Council of the American Astronomical Society at Miami, FLA on 23 May 2010.

- Approved a draft of an AAS Strategic Plan to be circulated to the membership for comment.
- Accepted the AAS 2010 election results.
- Accepted the election of Susana E. Deustua and David R. Silva to the 2010 AAS Nominating Committee.
- Appointed Debra M. Elmegreen, John P. Huchra, Christine Jones, Lee Anne Willson, Hervey (Peter) Stockman, George (Fritz) Benedict, and Kevin B. Marvel to the Executive Committee for the interval between the annual business meetings 26 May 2010 to 25 May 2011.
- Appointed Jay M. Pasachoff as AAS representative to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Approved the rules for the Roger Doxsey Travel Award.
- Approved the award definition and budget for the Lancelot Berkeley New York Community Trust Prize for Meritorious Work in Astronomy.
- Authorized the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with the Kavli Foundation to secure a donation to fund an invited lectureship.
- Approved amendments to the Bylaws of the Historical Astronomy Division.
- Affirmed that all nominations for the 2011 prizes should pass through the Secretary's office by 30 June 2010.
- Appointed a committee to assist the Publication Board in nominating a new Editor-in-Chief for *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.
- Approved a new structure of author charges for the AAS journals based on a digital quantum model for electronic publishing.
- Approved the Financial Reports for 2009.
- Accepted the Audit Report and the Audit Committee Report for 2009.
- Appointed an auditor for 2010.
- Adopted the 2011 budget.
- Elected J. Ward Moody to a four-year term on the Publications Board.
- Elected Carol Christian, Emilie Drobnes, and Jack Hehn to three-year terms on the Astronomy Education Board.
- Appointed members of the standing committees taking into account recommendations from the Committee on Appointments.
- Approved an adjustment to the salary of the Executive Officer to bring his compensation into line with executive officers of similar organizations in the Washington DC area.

25 Things You Didn't Know About Me

Rick Fienberg, AAS Press Officer and Education & Outreach Coordinator

1. My favorite celebrity as a child was ... Jerry Lewis.
2. My favorite ice cream is ... Häagen Dazs chocolate chocolate mint.
3. Is it easier to forgive or forget? ... At my age, it's easier to forget. What was the question?
4. My first real job was ... pumping gas, in the days before self-service gas stations.
5. My motto is ... people are idiots. (By that I mean other people, not you.)
6. I make the best ... waffles.
7. I was born in ... Los Angeles, California.
8. My favorite place to travel is ... anyplace remote, preferably in the Southern Hemisphere.
9. My dream car is ... the Batmobile.
10. My favorite city is ... Florence, Italy.
11. My favorite actress is ... Jenna Fischer of *The Office*.
12. I like my coffee ... with cream and sugar.
13. Device I would never give up ... telescope.
14. My favorite movie is ... *Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou?*
15. When I have an extra hour at home, I like to ... play the drums.
16. My favorite time of day is ... evening twilight.
17. My favorite software application is ... Excel.
18. The location where I do my best thinking is ... in the shower.
19. I prefer AM or FM radio ... Oh, that's so 20th century!
I prefer XM.
20. Something that really annoys me ... pedestrians who don't pay attention to traffic.
21. For physical activity I like ... kayaking.
22. My favorite color is ... purple.
23. My favorite athlete is ... Dustin Pedroia of the Boston Red Sox.
24. I think people should ... think critically.
25. My favorite animal is ... my dog, Duncan.



Letter to the Editor

Dividing The Spoils

Dear Editor:

Academic departments and federal agencies use papers published in refereed journals as a measure of departmental and individual productivity, but how should a publication be credited when there are many authors? Usually a publication is credited to all authors of a paper irrespective of their individual contributions. However, to me, it seems preposterous to give full credit to somebody who is one of twenty, or even 5-10 coauthors. What intellectual content has someone really contributed who has provided perhaps only a few critical observations?

If we're to be honest, we should allocate the authorship among the various authors logically. Helmut Abt once visited this question in connection with the productivity of various astronomy departments, allocating partial credits equally among the various coauthors. However, it seems to me that this slights the lead author in most cases. I suspect, just from my own experience in writing papers, that the first author is usually responsible for a large share of the content of a typical paper. S/he usually gets the idea, organizes the project, directs the analysis, and writes the paper. So I would advocate allocating two-thirds credit for authorship of a paper to the lead author, with the other third split among the other authors equally. This seems fair to everybody, even to groups of several persons who rotate the first authorship for a series of papers.

Joel Eaton
eatonjoel@yahoo.com

Secretary's Corner

Due to the Secretary changeover the Nominating Committee is behind schedule. As soon as a preliminary slate of candidates is available, it will be included in an upcoming AAS Electronic Announcement.

Additional nominations for Officer or Councilor may be submitted by mail and must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve and by the signatures of at least 30 voting Full Members of the Society. Additional nominations for the Nominating Committee must be proposed by at least 5 Full Members of the Society and must also be accompanied by the nominee's written statement indicating a willingness to serve.

All nominations and supporting materials must be received by 16 September 2010 in the Office of the Secretary. Send nominations to: G. Fritz Benedict, McDonald Observatory, The University of Texas, 1 University Station, C1402, Austin, TX 78712.

Member Deaths

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

Alan Fiala
Mukul Kundu
Earle B. Mayfield
Joseph Zelle

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

Division News

Division on Dynamical Astronomy

Phil Nicholson, Past Chair, and Alice K. B. Monet, Secretary

2010 DDA Meeting

The 41st meeting of the Division was held at the Holiday Inn in Boston, MA, in Brookline's historic Coolidge Corner neighborhood, on 26-29 April 2010. The LOC was chaired by Matija Cuk and Brian Marsden, of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. There were a total of 62 oral presentations, including five invited reviews, plus 19 poster presentations. Half-days were devoted to the burgeoning fields of extrasolar planetary dynamics and small binaries in our own Solar System.

Tim de Zeeuw delivered a masterful, if understated, Brouwer lecture entitled "Dynamics of Triaxial Galaxies," which even planetary scientists could understand. On Monday afternoon, we were treated to tours of Harvard College Observatory's venerable 15-inch "Great Refractor" by Owen Gingerich and of the famous Harvard plate vault, where Doug Mink and his colleagues explained their ambitious plan to digitize all 500,000 glass plates in the collection. In the evening, Lisa Kaltenegger gave a DDA-sponsored public lecture at Harvard on "Discovering the first Super-Earths." Harvard's Institute for Theory and Computation also provided a generous donation of \$3000 towards the expenses of the meeting.

Election of Officers

The following new officers were elected for the term beginning 1 July 2010:

Chair: Alice Quillen (U. Rochester)

Vice Chair: Daniel Scheeres (U. Colorado)

Treasurer: William Newman (UCLA)

Committee members (2010-2012): Steve Chesley (JPL), Martin Duncan (Queens U.), Nader Haghighipour (U. Hawaii)

Continuing officers include Secretary: Alice Monet (USNO)

Committee members (2009-2011): Kelly Holley-Bockelmann (Vanderbilt), Marc Murison (USNO Flagstaff), Monica Valluri (U. Michigan)

Past Chair: Philip Nicholson (Cornell)

Retirement after Exceptional Service

A formal vote of thanks was extended by the Committee and all meeting attendees to Peter Shelus (U. Texas), who has been the DDA's faithful treasurer for 32 years!

Student Stipend Awards

This was a banner year for the Student Stipend committee, which was blessed with many good applicants; so many in fact that it was decided to award four travel grants, rather than

the usual two. This year's winners were Adrian Barker (U. Cambridge), Justin Comparella (U. Rochester), Dan Tamayo (Cornell), and Tyler Mitchell (U. Colorado).

2010 Brouwer Award

The Dirk Brouwer Award was established to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of Dynamical Astronomy, including celestial mechanics, astrometry, geophysics, stellar systems, galactic and extra galactic dynamics. The 2010 Brouwer Awardee is Dr. Andrea Milani, full professor of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Pisa, and prolific researcher in the areas of asteroid dynamics and planetary motions. It is anticipated that Dr. Milani will deliver the Brouwer Award Lecture at the 2011 DDA Meeting.

2011 Meeting

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the DDA will be held in Austin, Texas, 10-14 April 2011. Local hosts will be Fritz Benedict (U. Texas) and Joe Hahn (SSI), aided by several million Mexican bats. Austin was the site of the inaugural DDA meeting in January 1970.



Tim de Zeeuw and Brian Marsden. Photo by Alice Quillen.



Alice Monet makes presentation to retiring treasurer, Peter Shelus. Photo by Alice Quillen.

Committee on Employment

Liam McDaid (McDaidL@scc.losrios.edu)

“Non-Traditional” Astronomy Jobs

If you think back to when you were a graduate student (I apologize to any recent grads who are now suffering Post Traumatic Stress), you might recall what an interesting ecosystem you lived and worked in. Some graduate students in astronomy (or physics) leave with their PhDs, some leave with an MS, and some just leave for whatever reason. What is interesting is that most graduates that get their PhDs end up in a career very different from what they expected back in graduate school. This creates a strange situation where most astronomy grads are not on a tenure track, or postdoc track, or any research track. I am certain that there will be much resistance to using the term “the minority of jobs” to describe the traditional path, but that is where the facts point. The reasons why are for another time and place.

Some graduate departments are small enough that you know everyone by name, maybe even socialize with everyone. Others are large enough that you meet new people every week. Although information from my graduate experience is unabashedly anecdotal, I’d like to use it to illustrate that the “traditional” path is usually not possible or necessarily the best place for many astronomy grads to end up. This is often a hard pill to swallow for those who have invested so much of their time and effort in graduate school, but as the WTO protestors are fond of saying: “Another World is Possible.”

I spent time in a department with about eighty grad students, some of whom I’m sure I never met. This big shop was a physics department and many were there solely to get their MS. This department also had a good track record of getting work for its students to help support them while there. Most of these positions involved working for the DoD at the nearby Army base, which brought most of us into contact for the first time with a very different research environment. Few of the students there seemed to be pursuing a “traditional” job as a post-grad. This started me thinking about alternative options as well, since there seemed to be many successful people who had preceded us. Or at least they drove Porsches, even if not late model ones. There was a diversity of choices as well as backgrounds and ethnicities, and there was almost a “corporate” feel to being part of it.

My astronomy grad department was another matter entirely. It was a small astronomy graduate department with six faculty and about ten grad students (at first). It seemed to me that we would all have traditional jobs in research and teaching later in our lives. I don’t know why I held onto this idea as long as I did, because many former graduates from our department did not go the traditional route. Looking back, my contemporaries in the department ended up having so many varied and often interesting careers I should never have worried for my own

future. Our small department ended up playing a role in the following careers: traditional tenure track research, corporate research, military and civilian contracting, computer and network maintenance as well as research in these fields, drama and producing off-Broadway shows, teaching at multiple levels, administration (such as creating a foreign university astronomy department or creating an independent institute for research), discovering a world famous bright comet and media star, Executive Officer of the AAS, astronomy public outreach, and any other “non-traditional” job that I missed. I await a Senator, Fortune 100 CEO or President to emerge from that one small astronomy department.

Does this mean that my old department was preternatural or full of X-men type mutants? Not really. We simply had a group of very talented people who recognized that not all traditional roles are possible or desirable. Many left a job directly in astronomy forever to pursue their lives, although some of them still work with the public, encouraging love for the cosmos and the field that studies it. All of us who earned our degrees in astronomy share that bond and always will, regardless of our present circumstances.

The AAS is your professional organization. It represents you in several important capacities. Everyone in this field has that connection. In recent and future columns, many different career tracks will be explored because in the end this is now where the majority of people with astronomy backgrounds work. If you are in a type of work unexplored so far in this series of columns and you are interested in writing about it please contact me.

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 Liam McDaid (mcdaidl@scc.losrios.edu).

News from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP)

James Manning, Executive Director

Encouragement

Never look at the trombones. You'll only encourage them.
—Richard Strauss

Encouragement can be a powerful thing. We all need it, we often seek it (as did Strauss' trombone section, apparently, even when Strauss preferred a light hand on those slides), and we can probably all look back to times in our lives when it came at just the right moment and made a big difference in the directions our lives or careers have taken. Consequently, it was a real privilege for me in May to be present at a very encouraging moment for a gaggle of budding scientists: the awards ceremony for the annual Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, held this year in San Jose, California.

I was told by others to expect it to feel rather like a rock concert—and they were right. The auditorium was filled with a horde of high-schoolers from the U.S. and other countries in their Sunday best, parents and supporters around the perimeter, music blaring, spotlights swiveling, cameras panning the crowd and projecting on big screens on stage, high energy and high spirits filling the hall. After several days of project displays and judging panels, it was time for a party, and for prizes.

With something like 250 awards to be given by several dozen organizations over a span of three hours, the ceremony got down to business quickly and efficiently, as small parades of awarders trouped onto the stage and had their awards announced, followed by small parades of students trouping up to accept them, their faces bright. All sorts of sciences were represented—and all sorts of awarding organizations, from the U.S. Armed Forces and other government agencies, to high-tech commercial companies, to professional societies and non-profit groups. Purely astronomical awards were not many among the prizes, but I was there to carry that flag in part through the awarding of the annual Priscilla and Bart Bok Awards, jointly bestowed by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) and the American Astronomical Society (AAS), with partial support from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The awards spring from the Bok Fund established by the ASP shortly after the death of Bark Bok in the mid-1980's, and from our ASP/AAS partnership with assistance of the NSF, to encourage high school students in the pursuit of their scientific interests and potential careers. The two winners receive a mounted certificate, a monetary prize to assist them in their further schooling, and a trip to the winter AAS meeting following their award.

Katy Garmany, John Glaspey and Daniel Perley did the heavy lifting of judging during the week, leaving me with the pleasant task of congratulating the winners. This year's first place awardee was high-school senior Andrei V. Nagorny from Staten Island, New York, for his project "New Morphological Features for Automated Classification of Galaxy Images Obtained from Deep Space Surveys." Andrei, a senior at Stuyvesant High School in New York City at the time of the award, currently plans to major in mathematics and computer science at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. The second place winner was Evan H. Fletcher of Galesburg, Michigan, for his project "Reducing the Computation Time of an N-Body Galactic Simulation." Evan, also a high-school senior, attended the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics & Science Center; he will be heading for the University of Michigan College of Engineering this fall, pursuing a major in either biomedical engineering or astrophysics. It was a pleasure to shake their hands and to encourage them in their future science pursuits.

Not every day can be Awards Day. But every day can be an opportunity for us to sow the seeds of encouragement among our ultimate replacements, the next generation of scientists and educators. An answered letter here, a word of support there, a gig at your local school's Career Day—there are many ways to provide youth with those moments of encouragement that may just shape the rest of their lives. Let's not let any of those opportunities pass us by!

The ASP not only works with the AAS to encourage future scientists through the Bok Award, but bestows a series of encouraging awards recognizing achievement as well. This year's Catherine Wolfe Bruce medal was awarded to Dr. Gerry Neugebauer of Caltech and the University of Arizona for a lifetime's accomplishment in infrared astronomy. On the other end of the spectrum, Dr. Robert Quimby, currently at Caltech, received the Robert J. Trumpler Award for his significant University of Texas PhD thesis.

Dr. Alex Filippenko of the University of California, Berkeley, was this year's Richard H. Emmons award winner for excellence in college teaching. Marcia Bartusiak of MIT won the Klumpke-Roberts Award for outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy. And the Maria and Eric Muhlmann Award for important research results based upon groundbreaking instruments and techniques went to the Spitzer Space Telescope team.

John Blackwell of Phillips Exeter Academy received the Thomas J. Brennan Award for exceptional achievement related to astronomy teaching at the high school level. Amateur astronomy accomplishment was also recognized—through the Amateur Achievement Award for significant observational

or technical achievements by an amateur astronomer, won by Allan Rahill on behalf of the Clear Sky Chart team, and the Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award received by Wayne “Skip” Bird of the Westminster Astronomical Society in Maryland for outstanding outreach by an amateur astronomer to children and the public.

More about these awards, which will be formally presented during the 3 August banquet of the ASP’s meeting in

Boulder, Colorado, can be found at hwww.astrosociety.org/membership/awards/awards.html. (Please consider nominating worthy candidates for next year’s awards.)

And keep spreading encouragement. Even trombone players need a few strokes now and then!

News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)

Jim Ulvestad, Division Director, julvesta@nsf.gov

Deputy Division Director

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Vernon Pankonin has been appointed as the Acting Deputy Division Director for AST, effective in mid-May. The search for a permanent Deputy was reopened in June with a closing date of 16 July, and we hope to select a candidate as soon as possible thereafter. Many thanks are due to Dr. Nigel Sharp, who has been Acting Deputy since June 2009, while also continuing to fulfill his many other duties.

Proposal News

During its May 2010 meeting, the National Science Board (NSB) recommended that all NSF proposals should include a supplemental Data Management plan of (up to) two pages in length. This recommendation will be implemented by NSF, effective late in Calendar Year 2010. Implementation details are not yet available; the information known at this writing is in NSF press release 10-077, available at http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=116928&org=NSF&from=news (or scroll down to the May 10 press release from <http://www.nsf.gov/news/>).

For a list of proposal deadlines in the second half of this year, please see <http://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/deadlines/jsp>. Among the most popular AST programs, deadlines are as follows:

- Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship (AAPF): 13 October
- Advanced Technology and Instrumentation (ATI): 1 November
- Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG): 15 November

As we noted in our previous *AAS Newsletter* article, several new program officers started work in AST in February and March, helping to relieve a severe staffing shortfall that has accumulated over the past two years. Because of this shortfall and the requirements of processing proposals for the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we are behind on the reviewing and processing of AAG and ATI proposals this year. We expect that results for almost all AAG proposals will be communicated to the principal investigators by the latter half of July (roughly when this newsletter is distributed). We apologize for the unfortunate delays.

ALMA-related Funding Proposals

Early Science with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is expected to start in 2011, with a first call for observing proposals planned to be released at the end of 2010. Therefore, it is timely for the community to consider submitting proposals to the AAG program for projects related to research that is preparatory to ALMA or that is relevant to Early Science. ALMA preparatory research can include observational projects using existing facilities, theoretical and simulation investigations, and/or laboratory studies. Proposals relating to Early Science with ALMA should describe a research project in which ALMA observations play a key role, but they should not read like a request for observing time, and will be evaluated independent of any request for observing time. To enable the tracking of demand, any proposals relating to ALMA should identify themselves as associated with ALMA in the Project Summary. When submitting, proposers should respond to “solicitation” NSF 05-608, and choose program element #1678, “Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants,” as the organization to handle the proposal. As usual, all proposals will be judged on the NSB-approved criteria of intellectual merit and broader impacts, including potential for transformative research and mentoring offered to post-docs. (The new data management requirement described above also may be in place by the AAG deadline.) Proposals must adhere to the formatting and content rules as described in the applicable version of the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (currently NSF 10-1, but check for any new release when preparing a proposal). If you have questions, please contact an AST individual investigator grants Program Officer.

Highlights from the Miami Meeting

An especially large winter meeting is typically followed by an unusually small summer one. The 216th AAS meeting in Miami, Florida, at the end of May was no exception, with just 763 registrants compared with the 3,414 who showed up in Washington, DC, last January. But there are benefits to a small meeting: fewer parallel sessions to decide between, shorter chow lines during breaks, and the virtual certainty that you'll eventually run into that particular friend or colleague you were looking for. Miami offered all that, as well as a rich assortment of prize and invited talks and oral and poster presentations. Appropriately for the Sunshine State, many sessions featured new results on the Sun, as this was a joint gathering of the AAS and the Solar Physics Division (SPD).

Miami-area residents were offered four opportunities to share in the excitement: an AstroZone open house for families, and three well-attended public talks on NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, the threat to Earth from asteroid impacts, and the challenge to science from pseudoscience. Even if you sat this one out, you probably saw extensive coverage of the meeting in print and online. This wasn't because we had a strong turnout among reporters—we didn't. But for the first time, all our press conferences were webcast live, featuring audio, video, and *PowerPoint* slides, so that journalists unable to attend in person could still participate in briefings and ask questions of the presenters. During our six press Miami press conferences, we usually had more reporters tuned in to the webcast than present in the room.

The photographs on these pages show some highlights from AAS 216. Unless otherwise noted, all photos are by Leeland and Kelley Knight Heins, © 2010 American Astronomical Society.



Left: At the AAS/AAE K-12 Educators Reception, Ignacio Ugarte-Urra (NRL/GMU) chatted with Westin, Florida, schoolteacher Lisa Milesckovic and her family, including daughter Zoe, son Hal, and husband Victor. **Middle:** College students Jerica Green (Univ. of Washington) and Bekki Dawson (Harvard) get some career advice from AAS Treasurer Peter Stockman (STScI) during the Student Reception. **Right:** Why bother meeting in Miami if you can't hold your opening reception outside, under the palm trees, on the waterfront? Attendees on the patio of the Hyatt Regency Miami watched in amazement as pleasure boats motored by carrying groups of young revelers wearing the latest in beach fashion—or *not* wearing it.



Left: Outgoing AAS President John Huchra (CfA, right) prepares Dennis Matson (JPL) to kick off the scientific sessions with his Monday-morning invited talk on what the Cassini-Huygens mission has taught us about the most titanic and Earth-like of Saturn's moons. **Middle:** AAS Press Officer Rick Fienberg (left) describes the excitement of modern astronomy to Agencia EFE reporter Ivan Cruz. **Right:** At a press conference on Monday morning, Ned Wright (UCLA, right) and Tommy Grav (JHU, middle) presented early scientific results from the WISE infrared sky survey. Erick Young (USRA/SOFIA) offered some independent commentary and looked ahead to SOFIA and JWST.



Left: Marcia Neugebauer (left) proudly displays the George Ellery Hale Prize certificate handed to her just moments earlier by SPD chair Shadia Habbal (IfA). After the award presentation, Neugebauer gave her prize lecture, “A Whole-Heliosphere View of the Solar Wind.” **Middle:** Jim Ulvestad, newly appointed Director of the NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences, reviewed NSF-sponsored astronomy programs and answered questions from AAS members at the always popular NSF Town Hall. **Right:** Exoplanet discoveries feature prominently in every AAS meeting these days. At a Monday-afternoon press conference, Barbara McArthur (UT Austin), Konstantin Batygin (Caltech), and Rory Barnes (Univ. of Washington) presented new findings on non-coplanar planets, puffy “hot Jupiters,” and exoplanetary habitability. Phil Armitage (CU-Boulder), who would give an invited talk on the exoplanetary zoo the next day, helped put the discoveries in context.



Left: Not only is he the new AAS Secretary, but Fritz Benedict is a coauthor with his UT Austin colleague Barbara McArthur on a paper describing the discovery that Upsilon Andromedae’s planets don’t all orbit the star in the same plane. The finding was featured in a Monday press conference. **Middle:** At each of its meetings the SPD sponsors a series of 30-minute Parker Lectures (named after pioneering solar physicist Eugene Parker) that highlight active fields of solar research. Mats Carlsson (Univ. of Oslo, Norway) led off in Miami with a review of the hottest topics in chromospheric physics. **Right:** Surely the most popular display in the Exhibit Hall was a giant flat-screen monitor showing the latest images and movies from NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), launched in February and the subject of numerous oral and poster presentations.



Left: No, it’s not a revival meeting—it’s Dean Pesnell (NASA/GSFC) leading the audience in a simulation of the solar magnetic field during his public talk on SDO, our newest space-based eye on the Sun. **Middle:** WISE-guy Ned Wright (UCLA) gave a tantalizing glimpse of the spectacular images and other data being gathered by the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, which is nearly finished with its all-sky survey at near- and mid-infrared wavelengths. **Right:** With reams of data from ground- and space-based telescopes in hand and a trove of new results anticipated from ESA’s Planck mission and the South Pole observatories, this is a good time to take stock of what we’ve learned so far about the cosmic microwave background and what the future may hold. John Carlstrom (Univ. of Chicago) did just that during his invited talk.



Left: In his Tuesday-morning invited talk, Gustavo Bruzual (CIDA, Venezuela) reviewed recent observational and theoretical advances in the study of stellar populations in our galaxy and others. **Middle:** Neal Hurlburt, Alan Title, and Karel Schrijver (all Lockheed Martin) joined Dean Pesnell (NASA/GSFC) at a Tuesday-morning news briefing to unveil the first scientific results from the Solar Dynamics Observatory. It turns out that small localized flares produce observable effects across huge regions of the Sun. **Right:** In the Exhibit Hall, Rebekah Evans (GMU) makes a point to Antonia Savcheva (Boston Univ.) and Rona Oran (Univ. of Michigan) concerning her poster on how Alfvén waves help heat the solar corona.



Left: Continuing the focus on our daytime star, Theodore Tarbell (Lockheed Martin) presented an invited talk on what Hinode and SDO are teaching us about fundamental solar physics. **Middle:** During a NASA Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, Jon Morse (NASA HQ) fielded questions and addressed anxieties about prospects for future support of astrophysics missions at NASA. **Right:** Joan Schmelz (Univ. of Memphis) moderated a Town Hall discussion on 21st-century careers sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy. Also during the meeting, the CSWA held a special session on recognizing and dealing with unconscious gender bias.



Left: Confronting planet-formation theory with observations of our own solar system and hundreds of other planetary systems, Phil Armitage (Univ. of Colorado) emphasized that when it comes to exoplanets, what we see is what we get only after lots of post-formation evolution. **Middle:** At a Tuesday briefing, Zhiyuan Li and Christine Jones (both CfA) reported finding that the supermassive black hole in M31 is sputtering in X-rays. Eric Perlman and Daniel Batcheldor (both Florida Tech) then described their discovery that the one in M87 is off-center. **Right:** In her Tuesday-afternoon invited talk, Annie Baglin (LESIA, Paris) explained how ESA's CoRoT mission is not only finding extrasolar planets, but also making sensitive probes of stellar structure and activity cycles.



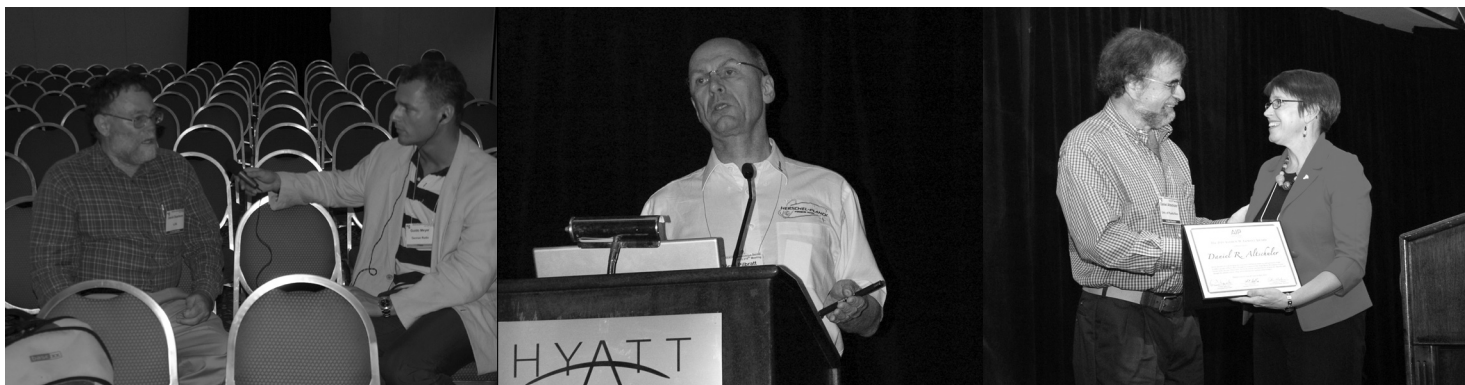
Left: Brian Welsch (UC Berkeley) receives the Karen Harvey Prize from SPD chair Shadia Habbal (IfA) before his lecture on what high-quality, high-cadence photospheric magnetograms can teach us about dynamo processes and other aspects of solar activity. **Middle:** Tom Bania (Boston Univ.), Loren Anderson (Marseille), and Jay Lockman (NRAO) prepare to meet the press on Wednesday morning. Bania and Anderson found lots of previously unknown H II regions in our galaxy using Spitzer and the GBT. Lockman reported that disk-halo clouds have been blown out of the galactic plane by supernovae and fierce young stellar winds. Photo by Rick Fienberg, © 2010 AAS. **Right:** In addition to keeping chaos at bay in the press room, AAS Deputy Press Officer Inge Heyer (JAC) moderated several news briefings. Photo by Rick Fienberg, © 2010 AAS.



Left: SPD Studentship Awards fund travel to the annual SPD meeting for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who plan to pursue careers in solar physics. This year's recipients included Yixuan Li (NJIT), Sung-Hong Park (NJIT), Rebekah Evans (GMU), Rona Oran (Univ. of Michigan), Robert Duffin (GMU/Univ. of Maryland), Qingrong Chen (Stanford Univ.), Hamish Reid (Univ. of Glasgow), and Lucas Tarr (Montana State Univ.). **Middle:** For his SPD Parker Lecture, Peter Foukal (Heliophysics, Inc.) shines some light on what studies of irradiance tell us about solar and stellar convection and magnetism. **Right:** Are Peter Mack (ACE, Inc.) and graduate student Cyrus Nejat (USC) checking their e-mail or playing Battleship? Either way, Nejat was a winner, as he earned a Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award for his poster on solar-sail spacecraft control.



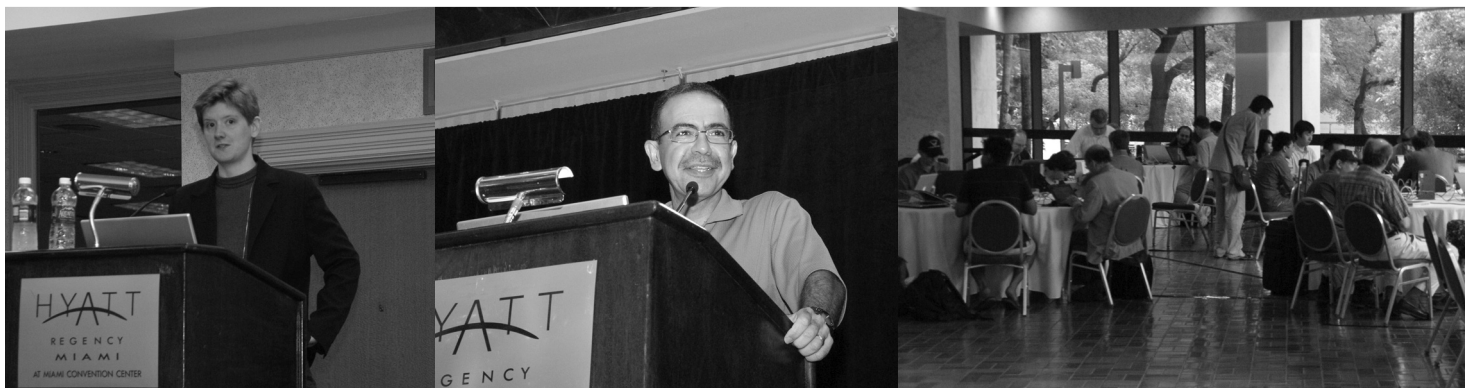
Left: At the annual business meeting on Wednesday, May 26th, outgoing AAS President John Huchra (CfA) turned over the reins of the Society—and his gavel—to incoming AAS President Debbie Elmegreen (Vassar College). **Middle:** After six years as AAS Secretary, John Graham (right, Carnegie Inst.) turns the office over to Fritz Benedict (UT Austin). Graham received a standing ovation in honor of his devoted service to the Society. **Right:** In his invited talk on Wednesday morning, Kevin Luhman (Penn State) took on the challenging task of explaining the observational and theoretical differences between low-mass brown dwarfs and high-mass planets and their formation mechanisms.



Left: Reporter Guido Meyer (German Public Radio) interviews Dave Dearborn (LLNL) after the latter’s public talk on using nuclear explosions to divert asteroids on a collision course with Earth. **Middle:** ESA’s Herschel infrared observatory sports the largest astronomical telescope in orbit. Goran Pilbratt (ESA) shared some of the mission’s early scientific findings, which were unveiled a few weeks earlier at a symposium in the Netherlands. **Right:** Cathy O’Riordan (AIP) presents the AIP Andrew Gemant Award to Daniel Altschuler (Univ. of Puerto Rico) for his contributions to the cultural, artistic, or humanistic dimension of physics. Altschuler followed with a public lecture entitled “Science, Pseudoscience, and Education.”



Left: It’s unofficial but inevitable: On the last night of every AAS meeting, attendees ranging from undergraduates to Society presidents head to a local club for Out of the Rain Productions’ afterparty, during which astronomers shake their booty with the volume turned up to 11. Photo by Rick Fienberg, © 2010 AAS. **Middle:** Sushanta Tripathy (NSO), Frank Hill (NSO), David Hathaway (NASA/MSFC), and Julia Saba (NASA/GSFC, not pictured) agreed that the Sun has been peculiarly inactive lately, but they couldn’t agree on an explanation at the sixth and final press conference of the Miami meeting. **Right:** AAS Executive Officer Kevin Marvel offered a sobering primer on the federal budget during his not-too-optimistically titled presentation “Astronomy Policy: The Coming Dry Season.”



Left: For her Parker Lecture, Alysha Reinard (Univ. of Colorado) explored how advances in helioseismology could lead to improved space-weather predictions. **Middle:** In the final invited talk of the Miami meeting, on Thursday morning, Ata Sarajedini (Univ. of Florida) gave attendees a guided tour of globular clusters in the Local Group. **Right:** Anyplace with tables, chairs, and a strong Wi-Fi signal was guaranteed to attract hordes of attendees—as long as it also offered air conditioning, as did this spot near the meeting-registration area.

Honored Elsewhere

AAS Members among Leverhulme Prize Winners

Christopher Conselice and Hiranya Peiris have been awarded 2009 Philip Leverhulme Prizes as outstanding young scholars who have made a substantial and recognized contribution to their particular field of study.

Christopher Conselice (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nottingham) has gained an international reputation for his work on the formation and evolution of galaxies, analyzing the information recorded by telescopes to elucidate important episodes in their evolution, dating stellar populations, and identifying the processes which have formed galaxies into the multitude of types seen today.

Hiranya Peiris (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London) is recognized as one of the world's leading young cosmologists, having played a major part in the groundbreaking Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) satellite project while still a PhD student at Princeton.

Burns Receives NASA's Exceptional Service Medal

Jack Burns, professor of astrophysical and planetary sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder, received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal at a January ceremony at NASA Headquarters. Burns was recognized for his service as chair of NASA's Advisory Council's Science Committee. The Exceptional Service Medal is awarded for significant, sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, spaceflight, administration, support or space-related endeavors that contribute to NASA's mission.

Newberg Awarded NSF Grant

A \$1.3 million National Science Foundation grant awarded to Heidi Newberg, associate professor of physics, creates a ground-breaking partnership between U.S. scientists and the new Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) in China.

The partnership gives U.S. astronomers—who are members of Participants in LAMOST or US (PLUS)—access to LAMOST data that will be collected in a forthcoming sky survey. The U.S. team will use the data to plot the position, speed and composition—or “spectrum”—of more than 7 million stars.

With a 4-meter wide mirror and 4,000 optical fibers—each controlled by separate motors—the LAMOST is able to collect more spectra simultaneously than any other telescope, Newberg said. Over the course of five-years, the LAMOST survey will take the spectra of 7.5 million stars. By comparison, during her work on the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, Newberg initiated a survey of 450,000 stellar spectra over four years.

LAMOST, in Xinglong, in China's industrialized north, is currently undergoing engineering commissioning, and scientists expect their work will begin later this year. The four-year NSF grant includes funding for U.S. astronomers to travel to China, and partial funding for Chinese visiting scholars.

Urry Wins Women in Space Award

Yale astronomer C. Megan Urry has won the annual Women in Space Science Award, given by the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium to “an outstanding woman in space science who exemplifies the characteristics that lead to success academically and in the work force.”

Urry, the Israel Munson Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Chair of Yale University's Physics Department, focuses her research on galaxies with extremely luminous cores fueled by supermassive black holes at their centers. Using observations at radio, X-ray and gamma-ray wavelengths, she works to understand how these black holes and their host galaxies co-evolve over time.

Urry was honored 19 May at a celebration at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, where she gave the keynote address. She also spoke earlier in the afternoon to 200 middle-school girls from Chicago as part of the program.

Stiedel Wins Gruber Prize for Cosmology

Charles Steidel, the Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, is the recipient of the 2010 Cosmology Prize of The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation. The award recognizes Steidel's revolutionary studies using the W. M. Keck Observatory of the most distant galaxies in the Universe.

Steidel's award is the second Gruber Prize for Cosmology given to an astronomer whose scientific discoveries were made using data taken with the Keck telescopes. In 2007, two teams led by Saul Perlmutter and Brian Schmidt, respectively, received the award to recognize their observations revealing that the expansion of the Universe is accelerating. Their discovery led to the idea of an expansion force, called dark energy.

AAS Members Win Kavli Prize in Astrophysics

Eight scientists whose discoveries have dramatically expanded human understanding in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience have been recognized with the award of the million-dollar Kavli Prizes. These are the second group of recipients of the biennial Kavli Prizes, following the successful launch of the awards in 2008.

AAS Members Jerry Nelson (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Roger Angel (University of Arizona, Tucson) will share the astrophysics prize with Ray Wilson (formerly of Imperial College London and the European Southern

Observatory) for their respective innovations in the field of telescope design that have allowed us glimpses of ever more distant and ancient objects and events in the remote corners of the Universe.

Angel created mirrors made of cheap glass and molded them to incorporate a honeycomb pattern of holes, to reduce their weight and increase their rigidity, allowing the building of larger telescopes.

Approaching the same problem from a different direction, Wilson developed computer-controlled actuators to make small constant changes to telescope mirror shapes to correct for distortions caused by gravity, wind and temperature, during use. Nelson meanwhile abandoned the idea of using a single large mirror in favor of a system comprising of multiple small hexagonal mirror tiles that are carefully shaped and controlled by computerized actuators to constantly maintain the ideal reflecting surface.

AAS Members Elected to NAS

Neil Gehrels: Chief, Astroparticle Physics Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

Gary A. Glatzmaier: Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz

Victoria M. Kaspi: Professor, Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal

Jonathan I. Lunine: Professor of Planetary Sciences, Department of Physics, University of Rome, Rome

Squyres and Tananbaum COSPAR Award Winners

The COSPAR Space Science Award for outstanding contributions to space science was awarded to Steven W. Squyres (Cornell University). Squyres is best known for his groundbreaking successes related to the Mars Exploration Rovers, for which he is the Principal Investigator. He was largely responsible for the conception and execution of the Athena science investigation, as well as leading the interpretation and communication of the scientific results from the two rovers. His work has revolutionized our view of early Mars.

The Massey Award (a joint award of COSPAR and the Royal Society of London) honoring the memory of Sir Harrie Massey, FRS, for outstanding contributions to the development of space research in which a leadership role is of particular importance was awarded to Harvey Tananbaum (Chandra X-Ray Center).

Tananbaum has been dedicated to advancing high energy astrophysics from space. His contributions significantly increased our understanding of compact objects and brought powerful new space missions to fruition, enabling X-ray studies of comets and planets, super massive black holes and clusters of galaxies as well as precise measurements of fundamental cosmological parameters.

COSPAR's objectives are to promote on an international level scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research.

Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Awards

Through the generosity of AAS Member Carlson Chambliss, the AAS established the Astronomy Achievement Student Awards to recognize exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students who present posters at the semi-annual AAS meetings. The AAS thanks all the students who participated in the 216th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Chambliss Student Achievement Awards and who made the judges' job difficult indeed due to the high quality of the presentations. We also thank all the judges who volunteered their time and energy.

Graduate Medal Winners

Kyle Augustson
Rebekah Dawson
Cyrus Nejat

Graduate Honorable Mention

Susanna Finn

Undergraduate Medal Winners

Blake Sharitts
Aaron Meisner
Mary Burkey

Undergraduate Honorable Mention

Kevin Christiansen
Mark McCoy

Delaware), John Huchra (Harvard Univ. and past President of the AAS), John O'Meara (St. Michael's College, VT), Peter Plavchan (JPL), Paul Ray (NRL), Jennifer Sobeck (Univ. of Illinois), Diane Turnshek (Carnegie Mellon Univ.), and J. Craig Wheeler (Univ. of Texas and past Chair of the AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy).

The AAS members met with Congressional staff for the Representatives from their home and work districts as well as with staff from their Senators' offices. In addition to the overall CVD message about the importance of R&D funding, they discussed the specifics of astronomy funding issues and what astronomy contributes to the nation. They also told the staff about the soon-to-be-released Decadal Survey report and the importance of such a community consensus document to establish priorities. In addition to these meetings, the AAS leadership met with the staff of the Space and Science Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee.

The CVD serves as an excellent introduction to the federal science policy-making process and our attendees all left feeling enthused and empowered to become advocates for astronomy funding. I urge all of you to consider participating in it—the call for volunteers goes out in late Fall each year and the AAS sponsors 12-15 participants.

In other news, the America COMPETES Act (America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act) has not passed in the House as of late May. Differences between House Democrats and Republicans on the overall cost of the package have led to this stalemate. The bill includes policy guidance and authorization levels for the NSF, NIST, and DOE's Office of Science. At nearly \$86 billion, it includes about \$20 billion in new funding over the FY2010 basic level. The Republicans would like to see funding levels for the three agencies frozen at the current level and the authorization period decreased to three years from the proposed five years.

NSF and NASA held their town hall meetings at the Miami AAS meeting. Jim Ulvestad, the new Division Director for Astronomical Sciences at NSF, presented an update about the astronomy program at NSF and a hard look at the budget for astronomy. One programmatic change coming at NSF is that proposals must have a supplemental data management plan after 11 October 2010. [See NSF article, page 9.]

Jon Morse, the Astrophysics Division Director at NASA HQ, led the NASA Town Hall meeting. He talked about the Senior Review completed in April, which ranked RXTE, INTEGRAL, and a warm WISE mission at the bottom. He also discussed the significant pressure on the Astrophysics Division's budget. As Kevin Marvel, the Executive Officer of the AAS, has stated in many public forums before, we are entering a dry season for astronomy funding. Hard choices will have to be made if our community wants to develop new telescopes and missions and implement any of the recommendations of the Astro2010 Decadal Survey.

Finally, the AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy held a special session on International Collaborations at the Miami meeting. Michael Turner (U. Chicago) moderated a discussion between panelists Chick Woodward (U. Minnesota and past chair of the Gemini Board), Kathy Flanagan (Head of the JWST Mission Office at STScI) and Jon Morse. This was a lively session with wide ranging discussions that touched on issues ranging from how to best set up international partnerships to challenges such as ITAR and differing policies on access to data and what leadership in science means when most astronomical telescopes are international partnerships between countries with differing scientific cultures.

The rest of this year will continue to be very interesting policy-wise as the COMPETES bill is brought to the floor again, the NASA reauthorization bill will be considered and the Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey report is released in September. The next Bahcall Fellow will get to live through some interesting times!



Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). **Left:** Felix (Jay) Lockman from NRAO speaks with a couple of Hill staffers about the exhibit and radio astronomy. **Middle:** Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) stopped by to talk with Jim Ulvestad, Director of Astronomical Sciences at NSF. Also pictured are Mark Adams (NRAO) and Anita Krishnamurthi (AAS). **Right:** Mark Adams speaks with Kei Koizumi, Assistant Director for Federal R&D at OSTP.



Congressional Visits Day (CVD). **Left:** Debra Elmegreen (Vassar College and AAS President) and John Huchra (Harvard University and AAS past-President) met with staffers for Rep. John Hall (D-19th, NY). **Middle:** Steve Croft (UC Berkeley) and Rep. Bruce Braley (D-1st, IA). **Left:** Reba Bandyopadhyay (University of Florida) met with staffers for Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL).



Left: Peter Plavchan (JPL) and Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC). **Middle:** Jennifer Sobeck (University of Chicago) and Joe Bernstein (Argonne National Laboratory) met with staffers for Rep. Judy Biggert (R-13th, IL). **Right:** The group of AAS members who participated in CVD this year outside the Capitol Building.

Announcements

AAS 2011 Membership Calendar

As a membership benefit, the *AAS Membership Calendar* includes important dates, such as proposal and grant deadlines and AAS sponsored meetings. Sponsors receive selection of a photo layout page and 250 words of text. For only \$2000, your institution or department can show support for the whole astronomical community and be featured prominently in astronomers' offices across the country. Sponsors are reminded that space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups interested in sponsoring a month may contact Crystal Tinch (crystal@aaas.org) for more information and pricing details for the 2011 calendar. Deadline for sponsorship is 1 September 2010.

CSO Call for Proposals Due 31 October 2010

The Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) encourages observing participation by astronomers from both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions. For instructions on applying and for information about available instruments, including bolometer cameras, see <http://www.submm.caltech.edu/cso/cso-call.html>. Applications for observing time between 1 February 2011 through 31 July 2011 are due by 31 October 2010. Applications will be reviewed by an outside peer group.

Calendar of Events

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

DPS Annual Meeting
3-8 October 2010, Pasadena, CA
dps.aas.org/meetings/

AAS 217th Meeting
9-13 January 2011, Seattle, WA
<http://aas.org/meetings/aas217>

Other Events

The 16th Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars, Stellar Systems and the Sun
28 Aug - 2 Sept 2010, Seattle, WA
John Vallerger (info@eurekasci.com)
<http://www.confcon.com/coolstars16>

***Inaugural Workshop on Black Holes in Supergravity and M/Superstring Theory**
9-11 Sept 2010, University Park, PA
Randi Neshteruk (rxh1@psu.edu)
http://www.gravity.psu.edu/events/blackholes_supergravity/index.shtml

***The Delivery of Volatiles and Organics - From Earth to Exoearths with JWST**
13-15 September 2010, Baltimore, MD
Daniel Apai (apai@stsci.edu)
<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/volatile>

The 8th INTEGRAL Workshop
27-30 September 2010, Dublin, Ireland
Lorraine Hanlon (lorraine.hanlon@ucd.ie)

***Robotic Science From the Moon: Gravitational Physics, Heliophysics and Cosmology**
5-6 October 2010, Boulder, CO
<http://lunar.colorado.edu/workshop.php>

*** WittFest: Origins & Evolution of Dust**
10-12 October 2010, Toledo, OH
Karl D. Gordon (kgordon@stsci.edu)
<http://wittfest.net/>

Stormy Cosmos: The Evolving ISM from Spitzer to Herschel and Beyond
1-4 November 2010, Pasadena, CA
Roberta Paladini and David Shupe (ism2010@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/ism2010>

Gamma Ray Bursts 2010
1-4 November 2010, Annapolis, MD
Neil Gehrels (neil.gehrels@nasa.gov)
<http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/grb2010/>

Midwest Astrochemistry Meeting (MWAM10)
5-6 November 2010, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
<http://midwest.astrochemistry.us/MWAM10/>

Astronomical Data Analysis Software and Systems
7-11 November 2010, Boston, MA
Doug Mink (dmink@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://adass2010.cfa.harvard.edu>

***Massive Galaxies Over Cosmic Time 3: The Role of Gas and Dust**
8-10 November 2010, Tucson, AZ
Jeyhan Kartaltepe (jeyhan@noao.edu)
<http://www.noao.edu/meetings/mgct3/>

XIII Latin American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM-2010)
8-12 November 2010, Morelia, Mexico
Luis F. Rodriguez (l.rodriguez@crya.unam.mx)
<http://larim2010.crya.unam.mx>

***ALMA: Extending the Limits of Astrophysical Spectroscopy**
15-17 Jan 2011, Victoria, BC
Gerald Schieven (gerald.schieven@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)
www.almatelescope.ca/Spectroscopy2011

Galaxy Clusters: the Crossroads of Astrophysics and Cosmology
31 Jan-22 April 2011, Santa Barbara, CA
Dan Marrone (dmarrone@oddjob.uchicago.edu)
kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=997

***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>

Exploring Strange New Worlds: Gas Giants to Super Earths
1-6 May 2011, Flagstaff, AZ
Charles Beichman (Charles.A.Beichman@jpl.nasa.gov)

Frontier Science Opportunities with the James Webb Space Telescope
5-7 June 2011, Jackson Lake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park
Massimo Stiavelli (mstiavel@stsci.edu)

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

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

***First Kepler Science Conference**
5-7 December 2011, Moffett Field, CA
Alan Boss (boss@dtm.ciw.edu)
<http://kepler.nasa.gov/Science/keplerconference/>

*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.



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Newsletter 153 July/August 2010

Washington News

Anita Krishnamurthi



By the time this newsletter is distributed, I will have moved on from my role as the Bahcall Public Policy Fellow at the AAS. So its still technically true when I said in my last column that it would be the last I wrote as the Bahcall Fellow. But so much has happened between the previous column and when I left the AAS in late

May that I had to write a final (truly final this time!) column updating the community.

To start with, the AAS participated in two major Hill events in the Spring, as we do every year: the exhibit and reception organized by the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and the Congressional Visits Day (CVD) organized by the Science-Engineering-Technology Working Group.

The goal of the CNSF event is to showcase NSF funded research and projects across a wide variety of disciplines. Hill staffers as well as members of Congress attend this event and it provides a great opportunity to demonstrate how basic research funding dollars are being used across the country. The event was held on April 14th in the Rayburn Building this year and was very well attended. The AAS sponsored the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) as its NSF-funded exhibit, which drew a large number of people. Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), a physicist by training and an ardent supporter

of NSF, stopped by the booth and was very interested to learn about the range of facilities and research conducted by NRAO. Rep. Ehlers has a personal connection to NRAO as he was the PhD thesis advisor for Paul Vanden Bout, the former Director of NRAO. Jay Lockman, Aaron Evans, Mark Adams, and Taylor Johnson represented NRAO at this event.

The CVD is organized to bring hundreds of scientists and engineers to Capitol Hill to engage and lobby their lawmakers about the importance of funding basic science. Given the concerns about the economy this year, the common theme was to emphasize the long-term economic recovery that comes from investments in basic science. This year's CVD was the largest organized by the SETWG, with nearly 300 participants from the various scientific societies and universities that form this working group.

The AAS also had its largest ever participation in CVD this year with 16 attendees coming in from all over the country. They included: Reba Bandyopdhyay (Univ. of Florida, Gainesville), Joe Bernstein (Argonne National Lab), Michelle Creech-Eakman (New Mexico Tech.), Steve Croft (UC Berkeley), Kyle Dawson (Univ. of Utah), Debra Elmegreen (Vassar College and current President of the AAS), Meredith Drosback (Univ. of Virginia), Ori Fox (Univ. of Virginia), John Gizis (Univ. of Delaware), John Huchra (Harvard Univ. and past President of

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