

December
2003
Issue 118

Inside

Election Ballot

4
Candidate
Statements

10
Summary of the
Women in
Astronomy II
Conference
Part II

12
When to Major
in Astronomy?

14
Division News

15
International News

16
Announcements:

Page Charge
Reduction

NAS Planetary &
Solar Reports
Published



The American
Astronomical Society
2000 Florida Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-2010
aas@aas.org
www.aas.org

AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

President's Column

Caty Pilachowski, catyp@astro.indiana.edu

It's Time to Vote

With this issue of the *AAS Newsletter* is your ballot to vote in the annual election of Officers and Councilors of the Society. Our hard-working Nominating Committee, this year chaired by Hugh Van Horn, has prepared a slate of exceptionally qualified members, who are willing to serve if elected. Now it's time for you to do your part and vote.

The process of AAS elections is lengthy, beginning more than a year before newly elected candidates take office. The ballot began with the Nominating Committee, which did its work in the spring. The Nominating Committee, working independently of the Officers and the Council, identified good

candidates, considering the needs of the Society and a desire to balance all of the facets of our community, and then artfully persuaded the best candidates to run.

2003-2004 AAS Election

The December issue of the *Newsletter* is largely dedicated to providing members with information about the candidates standing for election for a number of important AAS offices.

Please read the candidate statements carefully and vote on the ballot enclosed in this issue. Sign the enclosed envelope to validate your vote, insert your ballot and mail the ballot so that it is received in the Office of the Secretary by **Friday, 30 January 2004**.

The work of the Nominating Committee was complete in June and was presented to the members in the August issue of this *Newsletter*. Members then had an opportunity to nominate additional candidates by petition, before the final slate appears in December with the ballot. This December issue also includes Candidates' statements, written during the summer when each agreed to run. Voting takes place in the winter, and the winners will be announced in the March issue of the *Newsletter*. Newly elected Officers and Councilors begin their terms next June. The Nominating Committee and the Candidates, whether ultimately elected or not, deserve our gratitude for their willingness to serve our community.

Now it's your turn. The ballot represents your opportunity to affect the direction of the Society, and the priorities and emphasis of our many programs. The Candidates' statements

and brief biographies tell you about each individual's interests and concerns, and about their backgrounds and points of view. Do you agree or disagree with their stated opinions about what is important for our field? Some or all of the Candidates are probably known to you, either personally or by reputation. Sometimes the choices are easy, and sometimes not. For some offices, you can vote for more than one candidate, or even choose to vote just for one.

For a society as small as ours, member participation in voting is critical. When a small number of voters participate, the future course of the Society can be turned by only a handful of members, with whom you may, *or may not*, agree. When participation is high, the results of the election are more likely to reflect the broad consensus of members about the directions the Society should take, and the Society will better serve all of us.

So, before that ballot becomes lost somewhere on your desk, find a pen and cast your vote. Put it in the mail today.

AAS Executive Office Staff

Robert W. Milkey, Executive Officer
Kevin B. Marvel, Deputy Executive Officer
Diana T. Alexander, Meetings Manager
Susana E. Deustua, Director, Educational Activities
Zuzana Kelyman, Registration Coordinator
Judith M. Johnson, Publications Coordinator
Shantice Jones, Membership Services Specialist
Debbie L. Kovalsky, Information Systems Manager
Natalie F. Patterson, Financial Assistant
Dennis W. Renner, Manager, Membership Services
Crystal M. Tinch, Membership Communications

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

The \$110.00 annual membership dues for the American Astronomical Society include \$3.00 that is applied toward a subscription to the *AAS Newsletter*. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC.

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

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

Kevin B. Marvel, AAS Publications Manager
Robert W. Milkey, Editor
Crystal M. Tinch, Associate Editor
Jeff Linsky, U. Colorado, Associate Editor, Letters

Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

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

AASTeX Homepage:
www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX

User Support: aastex-help@aaas.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript

Submission: *AJ*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*
www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html



Candidate Statements

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

(vote for one)

Candidates:

Giuseppina Fabbiano
Wallace L. W. Sargent

Duties of a Vice-President:

- Serves on Council;
- Responsible for selecting invited speakers for AAS meetings;
- Responsible for overall scientific content of AAS meetings;
- Two senior Vice-Presidents serve on the Executive Committee.

Current Vice-Presidents:

Joseph A. Burns*

Pierre Demarque

Chris D. Impey

*term expires June 2003

Giuseppina Fabbiano

Affiliation: Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

Position: Senior Astrophysicist.

Ph.D.: University of Palermo (Italy), 1973.

Areas of Scientific Interest: X-ray astronomy; multi-wavelength studies of galaxies.

AAS Positions and Dates: HEAD Executive Committee, 1989-90.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS Office: Co-organizer of Aspen workshop on x-ray source pop. in galaxies, 2001-02; SOC of ESO Virtual Observatory meeting (June 2002), 2001-02; member and past chair of NASA Astro. Data Center Executive Committee, present; Chair of Hubble DADS (Archive) Users' Committee, 1991-94.

Statement: I welcome the role of AAS Vice-president as an opportunity for highlighting topic-based, rather than wavelength-based science, and emphasizing the synergy of multi-wavelength studies. The present complement of ground and space-based

continued on next page

Member Deaths Noted

Since the October *AAS Newsletter*, the Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members, former members and affiliate members:

Richard J. Sandifer

Letters to the Editor

Note: 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.

observatories (e.g. VLA, Keck, Gemini ..., HST, Chandra), with powerful capabilities in the IR and the radio appearing soon (SIRTF, ALMA) is extraordinary. A growing community of observers can now study the sky over the entire emission range, rather than being limited to a narrow window, by proposing to multiple observatories, or using their archives. Theoreticians too increasingly see the need to model the entire emission characteristics of celestial bodies.

I have been a multi-wavelength observer for many years (from Einstein and IUE, through to Chandra and Hubble), and this experience puts me in a good position to create broad meeting programs. AAS talks must maintain the highest level of excellence, while appealing to a wide scientific audience. These talks convey current scientific priorities to our funding agencies, so it is important that we choose speakers who are good communicators as well as outstanding scientists. Speakers should reflect the demographics of the AAS and of our society, and not be restricted to a small 'in crowd.'

Wallace L. W. Sargent

Affiliation: California Institute of Technology.

Position: Ira S. Bowen Professor of Astronomy.

Ph.D.: Manchester University (UK), 1959.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Observational cosmology, quasars and active galaxies, the IGM, dwarf galaxies, dark matter.

AAS Positions and Dates: Member, Committee on the Status of Women, 1998-2001.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: Served (unobtrusively) as "First Gentleman" during Anneila Sargent's AAS Presidency, 2000-02; Warner Prize recipient, 1969; Heineman Prize recipient, 1991; Russell Lecturer, 2001; elected FRS, 1981; Member, American Academy of Arts & Sciences, 1977; Bruce Medalist, 1994; RAS Associate, 1998; George Darwin Lecturer, 1985; Member, CSAA, 1975-78; AURA-ACCORD, 1996-2000; AURA Gemini Oversight Committee, 1997-2003; 1990's Decadal Survey ("Bahcall") Committee, 1988-91; Study Group for Space Telescope Science Institute (NAS), 1976; Trustee: URA, 1980-82; Director, Palomar Observatory, 1997-2000; PI on the Second Palomar Sky Survey (POSS II), 1985-99.

Statement: A main function of a Vice President of the AAS is to help organize the scientific content of the meetings. I would endeavor to maintain a high scientific standard, giving prominence to all fields of astronomy not just those that are currently fashionable. I believe that invited speakers should be chosen with diversity in mind, and that women and minority speakers are particularly important as role-models. In choosing invited speakers it should be remembered that excellence in U.S. astronomy is not confined to a few "elite" institutions. I would also urge AAS Prize committees to cast their net widely in making awards. As our subject becomes more developed it is more and more important to seek speakers and topics suitable for a general audience. I attended six excellent pedagogical lectures "The Biology of Astro-biology for Astronomers" at the Seattle

meeting in January 2003. With the increase in wavelength coverage and observational capability, our subject is connecting more and more with areas of Chemistry and Biology and even Theoretical Physics in which many of us have not been educated. I can see the merit of having more sessions like those on Astrobiology which are largely pedagogical and not designed to transmit the latest research results to specialists.

SECRETARY

Candidate: John A. Graham

Current Secretary:

Arlo U. Landoldt*

**term expires June 2004*

Responsibilities of the Secretary:

- Voting Member of the Executive Committee and Council;
- Preparing and distributing the agendas and minutes of Council Meetings;
- Official signor for the AAS;
- Sits on AIP Governing Board (when elected);
- Member and Secretary, USNC-IAU;
- Collects, counts and certifies ballots for all Society elections;
- Solicits nominations for AAS awards; and
- Selects session chairs for meetings.

John A. Graham

Affiliation: Carnegie Institution of Washington (DTM).

Position: Staff Member (Emeritus).

Ph.D.: Australian National University, 1964.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Star formation, structure of galaxies, variable stars.

AAS Positions and Dates: Vice President, 1984-86; Warner-Pierce Prize Committee, 1982-83.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: Staff Astronomer, Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, 1968-1985; International Astronomical Union, U.S. National Committee, 1995-1997; President, Commission 25 (Photometry and Polarimetry), 1979-1982; Program Director, National Science Foundation, 2000-2001; Director, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 1988-1991.

Statement: I have been a member of the American Astronomical Society since 1966 and have witnessed its success in communicating our research achievements to legislators, foundations, and to the community at large. As Secretary, I would hope to contribute to such an outreach. Located as I am in Washington, I am well placed to work closely with the AAS Executive Office and to meet with members when they come to visit. I would like to get to know as many members as possible and to hear their opinions about the operation of the Society. I believe that my experience over the years can combine with ideas from other officers and councilors to make the American Astronomical Society even more effective than it is today.

COUNCILORS

(vote for no more than three)

Candidates:

Jill Bechtold

Richard P. Binzel

Karen S. Bjorkman

Harvey B. Richer

Ata Sarajedini

Greg B. Taylor

Alan M. Title

Duties of Councilors:

- Serve as part of the governing board of the AAS; and
- Have the legal responsibility to help make all decisions to manage, direct, and control the affairs and property of the Society.

Current Councilors:

Thomas R. Ayres*

Dana E. Blackman*

Susana Lizano*

Bruce W. Carney

Christopher Sneden

Jean H. Swank

Todd A. Boroson

Carol A. Christian

Alycia J. Weinberger

**term expires June 2003*

Jill Bechtold

Affiliation: University of Arizona.

Position: Professor and Astronomer.

Ph.D.: University of Arizona, 1985.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Quasars, quasar absorption lines, galaxy evolution, instrumentation.

AAS Positions and Dates: HEAD Executive Committee, 1997-1998; Warner/Pierce Prize Committee, 1998-2000.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: Constellation-X Science Facilities Team, 1997-present; NSF/AURA GSMT Science Working Group, 2002-present; IPAC Users Committee, 2002-present; Next Generation Space Telescope Ad-Hoc Science Working Group, 1998-1999; NAS/NRC Decadal Review Panel on Optical and Infrared Astronomy from the Ground, 1999-2000; PI of EPO grants from Chandra and HST to support K-5 science education, 1999-2004; UA Commission on the Status of Women, 2002-2005; NOAO/CTIO Users Committee, 1997-2000; Chandra Users Committee, 1995-1999; Recent Review Panels: HST TAC, Hubble Fellows, Chandra Fellows Chair, Chandra TAC Chair, NOAO TAC, SIRTf Legacy Program, NASA/MIDEX.

Statement: The AAS does outstanding work in the traditional roles of a professional society—publication of the professional journals, organization of the national meetings, giving out professional awards and grants. The Society is also proactive in its advocacy for science in the federal government and its funding agencies, supports career opportunities for its members, seeks to increase the participation of women and minorities in science, and actively promotes astronomy education and outreach. Powerful national observing facilities have come on line recently (Gemini, HST, Chandra, FUSE, LSST, Con-X, JWST, the Next Large Aperture UV telescope and others) so astronomy promises to be a vigorous and exciting field for many years. The challenge will be to use limited national resources wisely and train the next generation of astronomers effectively, in order to maximize the science return from these ambitious projects. As councilor, I will do my best to help the Society serve the astronomy community by being responsive to the concerns of the AAS membership.

Richard P. Binzel

Affiliation: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Position: Professor.

Ph.D.: University of Texas, 1986.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Planetary astronomy, planetary formation, meteorites.

AAS Positions and Dates: Chair, AAS Division for Planetary Sciences, 2002-2003.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: General Editor, Space Science Series, University of Arizona Press, 1999-present; NASA Solar System Exploration Subcommittee (SSES), 1999-2001; Committee on Planetary and Lunar Exploration (COMPLEX), 1997-1999; Icarus Associate Editor/Consulting Editor, 1997 - present; Press Officer, AAS Division for Planetary Sciences, 1989 -1993.

Statement: Astronomy is an increasingly diverse field both in its science and in its scientists. The now certain knowledge of planets around other stars brings new interactions for astronomers with planetary scientists, astrobiologists, and the public as we seek to understand our own origins. I seek to find areas of common interest and common communication in how the relatively detailed knowledge of our own solar system can be used to explore and understand the nature of newly found and newly forming planetary systems. What can we learn and what knowledge can we apply, from the inside looking out, to other planetary systems from the outside looking in? At the same time that our science is expanding, we must insure the health and future of our field by inspiring, encouraging, and supporting new young talent, particularly among women and minorities. Once we have attracted this talent, how do we nurture, retain, and sustain them? Ultimately we must be constantly aware that tax dollars support the bulk of our research—where the importance, excitement, and inspirational part of what we do must be communicated to our neighbors and elected officials.

Karen S. Bjorkman

Affiliation: University of Toledo, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy.

Position: Professor of Astronomy.

Ph.D.: University of Colorado-Boulder, 1989.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar astronomy, circumstellar disks, variable and binary stars, polarimetry and polarization diagnostics.

AAS Positions and Dates: Member, Publications Board (1996-99); Member, Local Organizing Committee, and Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee (Topical Session), 188th AAS Meeting (1996); Member, AAS Undergraduate Research Fund Review Panel (1994); Member, Committee on Employment, 2003-2006.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: WUPPE Co-Investigator (1992-96) and Project Scientist (1989-92); Research Corporation Cottrell Scholar (1999); Proposal reviewer for NASA (1992-98), NSF (1999), Research Corporation (2000-01), CFHT (2002); Member, IAU, ASP, AAAS, AWIS, AAPT, Sigma Xi.

Statement: Astronomy is a science that evokes a sense of wonder in almost everyone, from children to adults. With more astonishing discoveries made every day, it is constantly in the public eye. As the face of astronomy in the United States, the American Astronomical Society is our professional home base. The AAS is a group where all astronomers, from all levels, groups and institutions, and positions, should be welcomed, represented, and nurtured. The Society publishes our premier journals, coordinates efforts to inform our legislature about astronomical research, advocates international collaboration, disseminates new discoveries to the public, and supports important educational and outreach efforts. Even as instrumentation advances and technical capabilities become better, policy issues such as telescope access (including declining support for smaller telescopes), funding support levels and distribution, and maintaining breadth in both research areas and demographics rise in importance, and must be addressed by the Society. If elected to council, I will bring my experiences in industry, soft-money research positions, and academic positions to bear in order to do my best to listen to and represent the viewpoints of a diverse membership, and to work hard to promote, maintain, and improve the high standards and level of effectiveness of our Society.

Harvey B. Richer

Affiliation: University of British Columbia.

Position: Professor.

Ph.D.: University of Rochester, 1970.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar astrophysics, white dwarfs, resolved stellar populations and star clusters.

AAS Positions and Dates: None.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: Canadian Gemini Scientist, 2000-2003; Chair, Next Generation CFHT Committee, 1998-99; NSERC Grant Selection Committee, 1984-1987 (Chair, 1986-87); University of BC Senate, 1993-1998.

Statement: The AAS has a sizeable membership component from outside the US. In particular many Canadian faculty and students belong to the Society and their experience in astronomy is often different from those of their American colleagues. This richness through diversity is an important component of any organization and it could enhance both the culture and the organization of the AAS.

Through my positions within Gemini I have gained broad experience in how a multinational organization functions and in particular I have brought to Gemini a number of novel ideas that have proven highly successful. In particular, together with the Canadian Gemini Office at HIA, we initiated the "Gemini Imaging Contest" wherein school children wrote short essays on their favorite deep sky object and the winners had images of these obtained especially for them by Gemini. This had the effect of making the public more aware of Gemini in particular and science in general. Some of the winning images received very wide press coverage. While I would be interested in all aspects of AAS activities I would like to spend much of my effort on outreach to the public which, after all, pays the bill for most of the facilities that astronomers use.

Ata Sarajedini

Affiliation: University of Florida.

Position: Associate Professor.

Ph.D.: Yale, 1992.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Resolved stellar populations.

AAS Positions and Dates: None.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: Vice-President IAU Commission #37 (Star Clusters), 2000-2003, and President 2003-2006; Telescope Scientist, WIYN 0.9m telescope, 2001-2003.

Statement: If elected to the Council, I would build on the current strengths of the AAS by extending its efforts further into the following areas.

First, in the area of astronomy education, the Saturday/Sunday teaching workshops held prior to the AAS meetings have proven to be a great success. Clearly, it is important to continue offering these sessions. Furthermore, we need to pay special attention to encouraging new teaching faculty to attend these mini-workshops. Issues that are particularly relevant to new faculty should be addressed and even such mundane yet important topics such as how to design an effective syllabus should be included. In addition, researchers working in the area of science education, and physics and astronomy education in particular, should be invited to present their results during these teaching workshops; in this way, we can use these results to improve the effectiveness of our own teaching techniques.

Second, at a time when the world is 'smaller' than ever before, the international activities of the Society have never been more important; for example, it is imperative that the AAS establish formal links with professional astronomical groups in other countries. Along the same lines, the Society needs to foster collaborations between scientists in North America and those in other countries, especially those considered to be in less-developed regions of the world.

Greg B. Taylor

Affiliation: National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Position: Scientist.

Ph.D.: UCLA, 1991.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Active galactic nuclei and their environments, gamma-ray bursts, clusters of galaxies.

AAS Positions and Dates: None.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS Office:

Division Head of Scientific Services for the VLA and VLBA, 2001-2003; NRAO representative to the European VLBI Network Board of Directors, 1999-2003; Summer student Coordinator in Socorro, 1999-2003; Organizer for the Synthesis Imaging Summer School, 1998, 2000, and 2002; Chandra Users Committee, 2002-2003; NSF Review Panelist, 2001; and Chair, 2003

Statement: Our AAS has done a terrific job of managing our preeminent journals, organizing our semi-annual meetings, and sponsoring outreach to the public, to government and to other societies worldwide. As councilor I would work to ensure that our journals continue to take advantage of emerging technologies to best serve the needs of the community. This includes finding more ways to take advantage of the internet, which continues to change the way in which we conduct and disseminate our research. I would also endeavor to improve the scientific impact of our meetings. These meetings are extremely valuable in the way they bring the society together, but can suffer from their broad nature. Increasing the significance of the topical sessions is one possible solution.

I am interested in the views of the younger generation of astronomers. My dedication to helping those starting out in our field is shown by my five years spent as summer student coordinator in NRAO-Socorro, and by my organization of three summer schools that have taught 450 astronomers the basics of interferometry and aperture synthesis. I would use this expertise to make the AAS meetings a more useful forum for graduate students and postdocs to launch their careers.

Alan M. Title

Affiliation: LMMS Advanced Technology Center/Stanford University.

Position: Senior Fellow/Professor.

Ph.D.: California Institute of Technology, 1967.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Solar physics, optical interferometry, image processing.

AAS Positions and Dates: None.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS: Executive Committee Decadal Surveys of A&A and Solar and Heliosphere and Vice Chair Solar Panels, 1999-2002; Member Space Studies Board NRC, 1999-2002; Chair NSO Users Committee, 1982-1988; Member NRC report on Solar Physics (Parker Committee), 1996-1998; Member Directors Advisory Committee NOAO, 1984-1986; Member AURA Executive Committee on the Future of NSO, 1995-1997; Member NASA Sun-Earth Connection Advisory Committee 1998-1999; Member GONG Advisory Committee, 1984-present; Member LEST Advisory Committee, 1988-1995; Member Executive Committee ATST, 2000-present; Member Goddard Directors Advisory Committee, 2002-present; Member National Academy of Engineering, 2003-present; PI of SOUP on SpaceLab2, 1976-1990; PI of CIP on OSL, 1980-1994; PI TRACE, 1993-present; PI Focal Plane Package for Solar B, 1998-present; Principal Scientist MDI on SOHO, 1988-present; Principal Scientist HMI for SDO, 2002-present; plus numerous NASA, NSF, NRC, AURA panels, mission definition teams, and committees.

Statement: As a member of the executive committees and vice chair of the Solar Panels of both the Decadal Surveys of Astronomy and Astrophysics and the Sun and the Heliosphere, I have a broad understanding of the major concerns in both Astrophysics and Solar physics. I have also served as a member of the Space Studies Board so I have been exposed to the broader issues of manned and unmanned science in space. As a PI or principal scientist of experiments on the space shuttle (SOUP on SpaceLab 2) as well as NASA (TRACE, HMI/SDO), ESA (MDI/SOHO), and ISAS (FFP/Solar B) satellites, I have personal experience with the difficulties and rewards of manned and unmanned missions. As a long duration chair of the visitors committee of NSO and as an ex member of the NOAO Directors Advisory committee and the AURA Observatory Visiting Committee, I have experience with the issues of management of ground based facilities. Currently I am involved with the use and scientific development on the one meter Swedish Solar Telescope on La Palma and the Max Planck Sunrise one meter balloon program.

My goals are to:

1. help the AAS assure that the priority missions recommended by the decadal surveys are both started and executed in a timely and cost effective manner,
2. encourage the AAS to take a proactive role in developing a truly international approach for the definition, development, usage of major astronomical facilities both on the ground and in space,
3. encourage the AAS to promote open and user friendly databases for both ground and space experiments,
4. encourage the AAS to develop and help formulate a program that prepares young scientists for the scientific management roles required for the development of major instruments on the ground and in space.

USNC-IAU, Category I
(vote for one)

Candidates:

Edward F. Guinan
Rolf-Peter Kudritzki

Duties of AAS Representatives to the US National Committee of the International Astronomical Union (USNC-IAU):

- Responsible for making decisions regarding US participation in the IAU;
- Recommends astronomers for IAU membership;
- Reviews IAU Travel Grant Applications; and
- Represents the US at IAU General Assemblies.

Current Representatives:

Ronald J. Allen*

Nicholas E. White

Geraldine J. Peters

**term expires at the end of 2004*

Edward F. Guinan

Affiliation: Dept. of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Villanova University.

Position: Professor.

Ph.D.: University of Pennsylvania, 1970.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Binary & variable stars, stellar evolution, solar-stellar activity, extragalactic distance calibration, Paleo-Sun and solar system, exosolar planets.

AAS Positions and Dates: Chairperson, AAS Employment Committee, 1994-2000.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in AAS

Office: VP & President: IAU Commission 42 (Close Binary Stars), 1994-2000; President: IAU Div. V (Variable Stars), 2000-2003; Vice-Chair: IAU International School for Young Astronomers from Developing Countries (ISYA), 1998-present; Representative: IAU TAD Program (Philippines), 2002; Member: COSPAR, 2001-present; IAU nominee for Representative: COSTED (Committee on Science & Technology in Developing Countries, 2003; Member: American Institute of Physics (AIP) Career Services Comm., 1999-2003.

Statement: I will strive to represent North American Astronomers and the AAS with the International Astronomical Union. It is vital that cooperation between these organizations be maintained and increased. I have significant experience in providing leadership in both organizations. During the mid-1990s, I served as the Chair of the AAS Employment Committee and initiated a number of career and employment related events and workshops at the AAS Meetings. An active member of the IAU for over 25 years, I recently served as the President of the IAU Commission 42. Currently, I am President of IAU Division V (Variable Stars). I am deeply involved in many international collaborative research and educational programs with astronomers from many regions: South America, Africa, Asia, Near East, Australia, and Europe. During the last six years I have served as the Vice Chair of the

IAU International School of Young Astronomers (ISYA). This IAU program provides educational and research opportunities to young astronomers, mostly from developing countries. My record in international cooperation for astronomy research and education will facilitate working with both the AAS and the IAU.

Rolf-Peter Kudritzki

Affiliation: Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii.

Position: Director.

Ph.D.: Technical University Berlin, 1973.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar atmospheres and winds, quantitative spectroscopy, extragalactic stellar astronomy.

AAS Positions and Dates: So far none, I came to the U.S. in October 2000.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS: While being director of the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Munich University from 1982 to 2000, I served on many committees important for European Astronomy. In 1999 I was elected as a non-U.S. member to the AURA Board of Directors and after my move to the U.S., I was re-elected to the Board in 2002. Since 2002, I serve as chair of the NSF Science Working Group for the GSMT.

Statement: After more than 25 years of scientific activity based in Europe, I decided to move to the U.S. as the new director of the Institute for Astronomy in Hawaii. I am excited to work in my new scientific environment and to contribute to the community of colleagues on this side of the world. I have a long record of international experience, which I believe is very useful for the AAS and its members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(vote for no more than two)

Candidates:

Timothy S. Bastian

John R. Dickel

Melissa McGrath

Lee G. Mundy

Duties of Nominating Committee:

- Nominate candidates for the positions of Officers and Councilors of the AAS for election by membership. For positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Education Officer, the decision is made in consultation with the Executive Committee of the AAS.

Current Members:

Hugh M. Van Horn*

C. Megan Urry*

Margaret M. Hanson

David S. DeYoung

Andrea K. Dupree

**term expiring*

Timothy S. Bastian

Affiliation: National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Position: Scientist.

Ph.D.: University of Colorado, 1987.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Solar/stellar radio emission, solar chromosphere/corona, flares, coronal mass ejections, particle acceleration, particle transport, propagation of radio waves in the corona and interplanetary medium, radio interferometry.

AAS Positions and Dates: Committee on Light Pollution, RFI, and Space Debris, term commenced 2003.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS Office: Scientific Editor, *The Astrophysical Journal*, term commenced 2003; Member, Panel on Solar and Heliospheric Physics, NAS Decadal Survey of Solar and Space Physics (L. Lanzerotti, Chair), 2001-2; Numerous NSF and NASA review panels.

Statement: The AAS provides a number of critical services to its membership and to the public, including scientific meetings and workshops, publication and oversight of the premier journals in astronomy and astrophysics, grants, public policy advocacy, education and outreach, and career development. Planning and support of these and future activities require broad, diverse, well-informed, energetic, and effective leadership.

Members of the AAS Nominating fulfill a key role: nominating the slate of candidates for the officers and councilors of the society for consideration by the wider membership. The committee therefore bears the responsibility of identifying talented individuals for leadership positions that reflect the nature and diversity of the astronomy and astrophysics community and have the leadership abilities to guide the AAS forward.

If elected, I will work hard with other committee members to identify the best possible candidates to ensure that the AAS leadership reflects the achievement, vitality, and excitement of astronomy and astrophysics today and an awareness of, and commitment to addressing, the needs and challenges confronting the society in future years.

John R. Dickel

Affiliation: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Position: Professor Emeritus.

Ph.D.: University of Michigan, 1964.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Supernova remnants, interstellar medium, radio telescopes, planets.

AAS Positions and Dates: Shapley Lecturer, 1981-present.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS: NRAO Users' Committee, 1966-1979; Secretary, Midwest Astronomers, 1975-1976; Reviewer for 7 X-ray

telescope panels; Reviewer for the Committee on Radio Frequencies, 2001-present.

Statement: I have been an AAS member for over forty years, was a charter member of the DPS, am an active observer at radio through x-ray wavelengths, and have worked with many students and colleagues in my research projects. I thus feel that I have the diverse background and broad experience to provide a balanced perspective for identification of outstanding candidates to lead our society.

Melissa McGrath

Affiliation: Space Telescope Science Institute

Position: Associate Astronomer (with tenure); Head, STScI Community Missions Office.

Ph.D.: University of Virginia, 1987.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Planetary science: outer planet atmospheres, magnetospheres and satellites; extrasolar planets; astrobiology.

AAS Positions and Dates: AAS Division of Planetary Sciences Prize Subcommittee, 1993-1995; AAS Division of Planetary Sciences Executive Committee, 1998-2001; AAS Division for Planetary Sciences Secretary-Treasurer, 2001-2004; AAS Publications Board AJ Editor Search Committee, 2003-2004.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS Office: Numerous telescope allocation review panels (Chandra, FUSE, HST); NRC Decadal Study reviewer; numerous NASA science and management operations working groups (e.g., Senior Review for Missions Operations and Data Analysis; Planetary Data System; Campaign Strategy WG).

Statement: As an officer of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences I am keenly aware of the importance of identifying and engaging highly qualified and enthusiastic Society members for leadership positions. Although I am a planetary scientist, I have a Ph.D. in astronomy, I regularly attend AAS meetings, and I work on an astrophysics mission that has brought me into close contact with a large cross section of the AAS on a regular basis. My current job at STScI is predicated on close interaction with the external astronomical community. I therefore feel I am in a good position to help identify potential candidates for AAS officers and Council. I would be pleased to serve AAS by spending the time needed to help find and motivate Society members to run for and serve in leadership positions for the benefit of our organization.

Lee G. Mundy

Affiliation: University of Maryland.

Position: Professor and department chair.

Ph.D.: University of Texas at Austin, 1984.

Areas of Scientific Interest: Star and planet formation, chemical and physical structure of the dense ISM, interferometric techniques.

AAS Positions and Dates: None.

Other Experiences and Positions Relevant to Service in the AAS

Office: NASA Origins of Solar System, MOWG, member, 1998 - 2001; NRAO Director's Advisory Committee, 1999 - 2002; SOFIA Science Advisory Committee, 2001 - present; NASA Structure and Evolution of the Universe Subcommittee, 2003 - present; ALMA Science Advisory Committee, vice-chair, 2003 - present; NRAO North American ALMA Advisory Committee, 2003 - present.

Statement: The AAS plays a leadership role in astronomy in the U.S. It has a responsibility to encourage, promote, and facilitate science. It also has an obligation to seek to be inclusive and to create a diverse and energetic environment in which astronomers and the science of astronomy can flourish. The Nominating committee performs the important task of preparing a slate of candidates for election. This committee historically plays an active role in encouraging candidates to run for office. This activity is vital due to the scientific breath of our community.

As a member of the nominating committee, I will work to identify potential candidates covering a broad range of experiences, viewpoints, and scientific fields.

My goal will be to present the membership with a slate of candidates with broad perspective, appropriate experience, and leadership skills. I see your help, members of the society, as a critical component for building the best leadership team for our society. I will actively seek your advice and suggestions for possible candidates and for ways to make our candidate slates more representative of the diversity of the society.

News from NSF

Eileen D. Friel, Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences, efriel@nsf.gov

New Faces at AST

The Division welcomes **Dr. Dana Lehr** as a new program officer. Dana has spent the last year at NSF as an AAAS Fellow working in the Office of Polar Programs, where she carried out an assessment of their programs and activities in education and outreach and facilitated the development of a new postdoctoral fellowship program. In the Astronomy Division she will continue her focus on programs in education and outreach, as well as contributing her scientific and managerial expertise to the activities of the division. Dana received her Ph.D. in Physics from Stanford, and spent several years on the faculty at Wellesley College before coming to NSF.

Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee

The joint NSF-NASA advisory committee established as a result of the recommendations of the Committee on the Management of Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics (COMRAA) has undergone a transformation as a result of the passage of the NSF

Authorization Act of 2002. The committee formerly known as NAAAC is now the Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC). The AAAC is composed of 13 members, three appointed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and five each from NSF and NASA. Information on AAAC membership, activities, and reports can be found on the AAS web site, at www.aas.org/aaac/. The AAAC is responsible for providing advice to both agencies on issues such as coordinating the development of strategic plans and the identification of specific areas that might benefit from coordinated activities. The committee meets four times annually. If you have suggestions for subjects for consideration at future meetings of the committee, please send them to Dr. Wayne Van Citters (gvancitt@nsf.gov).

Upcoming NAIC Solicitation

AST has issued a solicitation for the management of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC). The NAIC operates, on behalf of NSF, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, a 305-meter diameter telescope specializing in radio astronomy, solar system radar astronomy, and terrestrial aeronomy. The term of the award is five years, and the award is renewable. The current awardee is Cornell University. The full solicitation will be posted on the AST web site, at <http://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast>, at least three months before the deadline, which is planned for mid-February. For further information contact the NAIC Program Manager, Richard Barvainis, at 703-292-4891, or rbarvai@nsf.gov.

Information Technology Research

NSF will continue the Information Technology Research (ITR) program in FY2004. The FY2004 ITR program intends to fund research focused on several important national priorities and to make awards up to \$4,000,000 total over five years. As this newsletter went to press, the solicitation for FY2004 was still under development at NSF, but is expected to be posted on the ITR web site (<http://www.itr.nsf.gov>) before Thanksgiving. Proposal deadlines will be at least 90 days after the solicitation is posted. A mandatory letter of intent will be due approximately six weeks before the deadline.

East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students

The East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes provide U.S. graduate students in science and engineering first-hand research experience in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, or Australia, an introduction to the science and science policy infrastructure of the respective location, and orientation to the language and culture. The institutes last approximately eight weeks from June to August. Approximately 175 students will be supported for the summer of 2004. Support includes international round-trip air ticket, living expenses (accommodations, food and professional travel) at the foreign location and a stipend of \$3,000.

continued on page 13

Status of Women in Astronomy

Patricia Knezek (CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory), Meg Urry (Yale University)

New Editor for *STATUS*

The CSWA is pleased to announce that Fran Bagenal of the University of Colorado, Boulder, has agreed to serve as the new editor for *STATUS*. She will assume her role as editor for the June 2004 issue. Fran led the Program Committee for the Women in Astronomy II (WIA II) meeting held at Caltech this past June, and we're delighted that she's joining the *STATUS* team.

CSWA Session at the Atlanta AAS Meeting

The CSWA will be sponsoring a session at the Atlanta AAS meeting on Thursday, 8 January 2004. The session will include a summary of the WIA II meeting from panel of meeting attendants, with time for discussion of how institutions can implement the recommendations that came out of it. (And hopefully, how some of them *are* implementing the recommendations). This session was not listed in the AAS Preliminary Announcement, so we wanted to bring it to everyone's attention. We hope to see you all there.

Below is the second installment of Meg Urry's summary of the WIA II conference. The first installment appeared in the October 2003 *AAS Newsletter*, so please refer to it if you need a refresher.

Summary of the Women in Astronomy II Conference

Part II: Where Do We Go from Here?

Some day there will be as many women as men in science. Girls are inquisitive, have keen minds, and represent a deep pool of talent just waiting to be tapped. Gender equalization has already happened in fields like psychology and biology, at least at the Ph.D. Level, and fields like chemistry are getting closer. Even in the more female-friendly fields, however, inequities remain pronounced at the senior levels, and not only because of the time lag. Many factors are at work. Young girls are being steered away from or inadequately prepared for careers in science, there is unconscious discrimination in educational and professional settings, and for a variety of social reasons, women are generally not expected to have full-time, lifelong commitment to a career. There is no one single problem that needs fixing; rather, there are many small problems. For fields like physics, astronomy, and engineering, where the numbers of women are relatively low, attention to these problems cannot come too soon. The Pasadena Conference on Women in Astronomy made clear that there are clear, simple steps to take now.

Mentoring is absolutely essential, everyone emphasized. Women need multiple mentors, at multiple levels, within and outside astronomy. Senior people should mentor young women, and young women should seek out mentors themselves. Some of

the most effective mentoring is from one peer to another. One concern is that some astronomers are prejudiced against mentoring, believing it is a sign of weakness if needed, but this may stem from a misunderstanding of what mentoring should be. Simply put, mentors provide information and career support. The former includes explaining formal and informal rules of the game, giving advice on strategic career moves, offering an informal evaluation of the junior scientist against the established criteria for advancement, and acting as a scientific advisor (only) if asked. Mentoring is not "telling someone what to do" or "giving them science projects!"

The second aspect of mentoring, career support, means suggesting the mentored colleague for talks, prizes, and honors, as appropriate; recommending her/him to colleagues in casual conversation as well as when letters of recommendation are requested; and offering resources, where possible and appropriate. It is surprising how frequently senior astronomers assume (wrongly) that mentoring means directing a colleague's scientific research! The confusion about mentoring clearly shows the need for training in how to mentor.

Another key issue for women scientists is the implicit bias in evaluation, which affects hiring, promotion and tenure, prizes, invited talks—all the prerequisites of a successful career. As scientists, we consider ourselves the most objective of the objective! Yet we, men and women both, have assimilated societal views as fully as any other group. Speakers at the conference described experiment after experiment showing that expectations for women are lower, and evaluations of women are lower, than for men of exactly equal qualifications and abilities. "Bill" is more likely to be interviewed and more likely to be hired than "Sue." If we look at our national astronomy faculty, and compare it to the graduates of the same departments, we cannot conclude that astronomy is different from the rest of society.

Denice Denton, Dean of Engineering at the University of Washington, stated flatly that searches leading to male-only short lists were hallmarks of a biased process. She then described how to change the search-and-evaluation paradigm so that more women and minorities rise to the top, and so that overall excellence is enhanced. Steps include: aggressive recruitment, educating search committees in how to make a positive impression on a candidate (and how to avoid illegal, offensive questions), spousal hiring programs, and attention from top

Perhaps our profession feels that this problem—the lack of women in astronomy—is well on its way to being



Daniela Calzetti (STScI) and Claudia Kretchmer (Johns Hopkins U.) talk at the reception before the banquet. Photo Credit: Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado).

administrators (see www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/forms/ftk_01.html). The outcome can be dramatic: UW hired seven women and two minority engineers in the previous five years, said Denton, compared to the few or none hired by other top engineering schools. And UW is not a fluke. The Computer Science department at Carnegie Mellon University, for example, with a few key changes in their program for undergraduate majors, achieved similar dramatic gains in the numbers of women. Change is possible. It takes education, commitment, and positive action in place of passive optimism.

Young women at the meeting exhibited great concern about their futures. They stressed the need for flexible careers, both on a day-to-day basis and over the longer term. Today's tenure model is based on outdated notions of peak scientific productivity occurring in the flower of youth. Perhaps another model is more appropriate to the 21st century. Transformation of career structure is not motivated by women's participation alone—most men live for more than their scientific work as well. The emphasis should be on quality of work, not time spent at work.

There should also be room in our profession—and respect—for innovative, flexible careers, outside of the traditional academic structure. In these and in faculty positions, hours must be flexible and families must be accommodated. Raising a family isn't easy for anyone, whether they are scientists or do any other paid work or stay at home—it takes commitment, money, and time. (And most parents find it immensely rewarding, and well worth any difficulties.) In fact, the flexibility of an academic position can be advantageous for parents relative to those who work in business or law or in inflexible 9-to-5-type positions. Universities and other employers of astronomers should support their valuable human resources, instituting policies, practices, and resources for families (child birth, adoption, child and family care) that will enhance productivity and loyalty.



Melissa McGrath (STScI) and Mike Knoelker (NCAR) chat at the opening reception. Knoelker led one of the panel discussion breakout groups at the meeting. Photo Credit: Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado).



Elaine Seymour, a sociologist from the University of Colorado, engages in a lively discussion with Barry Madore (IPAC) and Rebecca Bernstein (U. Mich) at the banquet dinner. Seymour spoke on "Stemming the Leaks in the Pipeline" at the conference. Photo Credit: Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado).

Though the meeting was focused primarily on women, there was a session specifically devoted to the issues for under-represented minorities in astronomy. Notably, the career paths for many young minorities are quite different from those of young women, and involve undergraduate community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and

Tribal Colleges and Universities. In order for minorities to advance smoothly into astronomy graduate programs, we need to develop strong links to those institutions, building pathways that will enable under-represented minorities to succeed in the top research schools and to have outstanding careers in astronomy.

Only a few words were said at the Women in Astronomy meeting about minorities with respect to sexual orientation (and none about physical handicap, religious conviction, or several other potential areas of discrimination). That these groups are

so far less visible in astronomy should not be misconstrued to imply that their issues are less critical. Indeed, it suggests the need for explicit attention to these areas. Obliviousness to discrimination does not make it disappear. Awareness of discrimination is the first step to change.

Participants in WIA II carried over their intense discussions to a reception and dinner on the first night of the meeting. They were entertained brilliantly by after-dinner speaker Susan Estrich—author, radio talk show host, former law professor at Harvard, current law professor at the University of Southern California, national campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis in 1988. With her dry, take-no-prisoners attitude, savvy air, and witty anecdotes, she quickly had people rolling in the aisles, cackling like fools. The worlds of astrophysics and law may be far apart, but the worlds of the women within those fields evidently are quite similar, sometimes painfully so.

Many of us wanted to freeze-dry or bottle Susan Estrich and the other female speakers. These women are the Essence of Wisdom and we'd like to put them on our shelves, at the ready. A whiff for each of us, now and then, for inspiration and reinforcement; a sip or two for friends who care but don't know what steps to take; and a regular Big Gulp for the hopeless Stone Age types. Failing that (alas), all the talks will be published in a proceedings, to be made available online as well.

The only true pity of the conference was that the attendance of senior astronomers was low, particularly among our male colleagues, who have historically been less involved than the women, yet who hold most of the power positions in the hierarchy. Senior faculty were in attendance from Caltech, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, U. Michigan, U. Indiana, U. Minnesota, U. Texas, U. Colorado, U. Nevada LV, U. Wisconsin (a senior physicist only, no astronomers), STScI, KPNO, NRAO, and the IPAC/SIRTf Science Center. However, there were no senior faculty present from Princeton, Cornell, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford, MIT, U. Arizona, U. Illinois, U. Massachusetts, UCLA, Hawaii, U. Chicago, U. Washington, or U. Maryland. The President of the AAS and one councilor (both female) attended. Additionally, both the Deputy Executive Officer and the Director of Educational Activities from the American Astronomical Society were in attendance.



Conference participants mingle outside during a coffee break. Photo Credit: Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado).

the percentage of new faculty who are women is less than 10% and women chemists are up in arms (e.g., Rolison, APS News, 2003 May). Professions that have historically been inhospitable to women do not automatically turn into friendly or benign environments just because women are moving into them—why would they? Evidence abounds that society as a whole, and elite scientific professions in particular, are far from gender-neutral environments. Yet if our colleagues, male and female, knew the disproportionately high barriers facing women and minorities, and knew the steps that can be taken toward change—the very information discussed at length at WIA II—they would step up to the challenge.

The meeting could not have happened without generous support from Caltech, Carnegie, AAS, AUI, AURA, NSF, NASA, JPL, and the Research Corporation. The Local Organizing Committee, headed by Wal Sargent, did a spectacular job with the meeting arrangements. The Program Committee was superbly led by Fran Bagenal.

Employment Committee

The Employment Committee welcomes articles offering different perspectives on career issues. This column is by Michele M. Montgomery, a graduate student at the Florida Institute of Technology.

When to Major in Astronomy? What Skills to Acquire?

Undergraduate students frequently ask me if they should get a degree in Astronomy or Engineering, especially if they are dually enrolled. If you are planning on working in industry upon graduation, I always answer Engineering. You can more easily obtain a position in a technical industry and at a higher salary with an engineering degree. Engineering degrees carry more clout. Engineering is your bread-and-butter, fall-back career should you take a leave of absence for family commitments, for example. While in your engineering position, you can return to

solved. Or perhaps they feel there is no problem to solve.

Unfortunately, history is not reassuring on this point. In chemistry, for example, more than a third of the Ph.D. degrees go to women (compared to about 25% for astronomy), yet

college for your M.S. in Astronomy, satisfying your thirst for knowledge on the final frontier.

When *should* you major in Astronomy? If you are planning on working at an astronomy-based organization, including academia, government organizations and telescope facilities, then Astronomy is a good major for you.

Regardless of which undergraduate major you choose, do you have the skills you will need? If you are planning on entering the job force, you should utilize your school's Summer Intern or Cooperative Internship (COOP) program now to gain experience before you graduate. If you seek an M.S. or Ph.D., then you should obtain a summer Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) position. For example, one recent undergraduate student at Colgate University observed blazars. She helped her advisor develop a poster for the summer 2003 AAS meeting. Her efforts as an undergraduate researcher helped her land her desired position as a graduate student at the University of Hawaii. Good planning!

If you are a grad student, do you know what skills will prepare you for your next position?

At the summer 2003 AAS meeting, Steve Smith of the Joint Global Change Research Institute presented study results on the training and work of Ph.D. scientists after graduation. He found that graduate school develops many useful skills such as oral presentation, report/article writing, grant writing, classroom teaching, financial management, critical thinking, and data analysis.

However, recent graduates in both postdoc and industry positions felt they needed more experience in:

- 1) Interdisciplinary training
 - 2) Research project design, and
 - 3) Managerial responsibilities
- Be sure to develop these skills as well.

How can you obtain all these skills? You can search NASA and NSF websites to find recently funded grants and programs. You can research publications to establish a project, discussing your ideas with your advisor. You can write a grant proposal that must include budget management. You can include yourself and subordinates in grant proposals where your advisor is the primary investigator. You can present your ideas/data/results in a poster at an AAS meeting and develop a one-minute oral presentation for passers-by. You can publish in a refereed journal. As for teaching, you should serve as a Teaching Assistant (TA) for at least one semester. Look for opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary groups, and take an active role in project planning and management of your research!

The Employment Committee is sponsoring a special session at the January AAS meeting in Atlanta on "Grant Writing: Best Practices for Successful Proposals" on Thursday, 8 January 2004 from 10:00-11:30am.

Status of Minorities in Astronomy

Keivan Stassun, Chair, keivan.stassun@vanderbilt.edu

Special Session in Atlanta

The Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA) will host a Special Session at the Atlanta AAS meeting. The goal of the session is to introduce AAS members to professional societies of minority scientists, including the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP) and the National Society of Hispanic Physicists (NSHP). These groups have developed strong programmatic connections with minority scientists and students across the country, particularly at minority-serving institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities. We will have representatives from these organizations, as well as representatives from the American Physical Society (APS) Committee on Minorities and NASA Office of Space Science, who will discuss formal programs and funding opportunities for engaging the minority scientists and students that these organizations represent.

SPECTRUM Newsletter

The January 2004 issue of the CSMA's semi-annual newsletter, *SPECTRUM*, will be sent by mail to subscribers in December and distributed at the AAS meeting in January. If you're not yet a subscriber, but would like to be, sign up on the CSMA website at www.vanderbilt.edu/csma.

NSF News continued from page 9

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents; be enrolled at U.S. institutions in graduate programs (M.S. or Ph.D.) in science or engineering or M.D. programs with an interest in biomedical research; and pursuing studies in fields of science or engineering that are supported by the National Science Foundation. The deadline is 23 December 2003. For further information see <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf03608> or <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/int>.

Programs for Under-represented Minorities

NSF offers several programs that contribute to efforts to give members of minority groups that are underrepresented in science and engineering greater access to science and engineering research and education support. These opportunities are applicable to all NSF-supported disciplinary fields and international cooperative activities:

- Minority Research Planning Grants (MRPG): These grants enable Principal Investigators (PIs) who have not had prior independent Federal research support to develop competitive research projects.
- Minority Career Advancement Awards (MCAA): Through this program, PIs may undertake one-year enhancement projects to increase their research capability and productivity.

Please see the program announcement (NSF 94-147; <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/stis1994/nsf94147/nsf94147.txt>) for information on eligibility. We encourage those interested in applying for these programs to contact Dr. Randy Phelps (rphelps@nsf.gov; 703-292-4910) or Dr. Eileen Friel (efriel@nsf.gov; 703-292-4895) before submitting proposals. The nominal deadline for proposals is 15 January of each year, but proposals will be considered at any time.

Major Research Instrumentation Program

The NSF-wide Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and

engineering, and to foster the integration of research and education by providing instrumentation for research-intensive learning environments. The MRI program encourages the development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared use across academic departments, among research institutions, and in concert with private sector partners. The MRI program assists in the acquisition or development of major research instrumentation by U.S. institutions that is, in general, too costly for support through other NSF programs. The maintenance and technical support associated with these instruments are also supported.

Institutions eligible to participate in the NSF Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program may submit a RUI proposal to the MRI program. Some MRI funds are available only to non-Ph.D. granting institutions.

Awards for instrumentation range from \$100,000 to \$2 million. Lesser amounts are considered in proposals from non-Ph.D. granting institutions. Cost sharing requirements were revised last year; cost sharing is not required for non-Ph.D. granting institutions. This year's program has a deadline of 22 January 2004.

Need for Program Officers

We would like to call to your attention to the continued opportunities and need at NSF for visiting scientists to direct our research and instrumentation grants programs. Each year, we have from one to three positions available, as members rotate through one or two year temporary positions. While we are very pleased to have outstanding members of the community visiting as Program Directors for the Education and Special Programs and Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology Program, we are currently seeking scientists to manage the Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics Program. We need the help of the AAS membership to bring outstanding scientists in our community to NSF. Please consider these opportunities and encourage qualified individuals to apply. Contact Wayne Van Citters (gvancitt@nsf.gov, 703-292-4908) or Eileen Friel (efriel@nsf.gov, 703-292-4895) for more information.

Division on Dynamical Astronomy

2004 Annual Meeting: Cannes, France

The DDA is excited to announce its first overseas meeting, 20-23 April 2004, in Cannes, France. The Division holds annual meetings which are well-known for their friendly atmosphere and the excitement of exchange of modern nonlinear dynamics and celestial mechanics techniques. The local host is Alessandro Morbidelli (Observatoire Nice Cote d'Azur, morby@obs-nice.fr). Information, details, and images of the meeting location are easy to find at the DDA web site (<http://dda.harvard.edu/>) or directly at the local site (<http://www.obs-nice.fr/morby/DDA04/Welcome.html>). By design, the DDA Cannes meeting occurs the week before the general assembly of the European Geosciences Union in Nice (only 30 km from Cannes), so that both meetings may be combined in one trip. The opportunity for large numbers of dynamicists from both the Americas and Europe to interact face-to-face portends an even livelier and more enriching meeting than usual.

Call for Brouwer Award Nominations

The Brouwer Award Selection Committee (BASC) of the DDA invites nominations from any member of the AAS for an award competition. The Brouwer Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of dynamical astronomy, including celestial mechanics, astrometry, stellar systems, galactic and extragalactic dynamics. It is open to candidates of any age or nationality, occupation, or specific field of interest. The Award consists of an honorarium of \$2000 plus an appropriate certificate.

Letters of nomination should cite the achievements in or contributions to dynamical astronomy that might appropriately be recognized by the Award. Nominations should be supported by copies of the vitae and bibliography of the nominee and by letters of recommendation from three knowledgeable people testifying to the long-term impact of the nominee's contributions to dynamical astronomy. Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to the BASC Chair (from whom further information may be obtained) so as to be received not later than 31 December 2003: Dr. Alar Toomre, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., 2-371, Cambridge, MA 02139, toomre@math.mit.edu. Additional information regarding the Brouwer Award may also be found at the DDA web site (<http://dda.harvard.edu/>).

DDA Student Stipend Program

For the tenth consecutive year, the Division is making available two student stipends to encourage student participation at the annual meetings. The stipends are \$400 each, and meeting registration and abstract fees are waived. Any full or part-time student presently enrolled in an academic program at a college or university is eligible and encouraged to apply. For the 2004 meeting, submit an abstract of a paper for presentation, along

with a letter of recommendation from an adviser, to: Dr. Glen Stewart, LASP, Univ. of Colorado, Campus Box 392, Boulder, CO 80309, glen@artemis.colorado.edu.

DDA on the Web

The DDA has an ever-growing site on the Web, where we have all the latest news and information regarding the DDA, including how to become a member. The URL is <http://dda.harvard.edu/> (you can also get there through the AAS homepage at www.aas.org).

High Energy Astrophysics Division

2004 HEAD Meeting in New Orleans

The High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD) will hold its next Divisional meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana from Wednesday, 8 September 2004 through Saturday, 11 September 2004. The meeting will convene at the historic Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. In keeping with traditional HEAD meetings, a broad spectrum of high energy astrophysics will be encompassed by the main sessions. The conference logistics will be handled by Eureka Scientific, with information available on line in due course at <http://www.eurekasci.com/>. In addition, conference preparation updates will be posted at www.aas.org/head/.

ASP News

Michael Bennett, Executive Director, mbennett@astrosociety.org

PASP Invites Author-Initiated Review Papers

The editors of the *Publications of the ASP* wish to remind the community that we now publish author-initiated review papers on topics of current interest. These review articles are subject to the standard refereeing process and page charges. AAS members who would like to write a review article are encouraged to look at the *PASP* web site for further information (<http://pasp.phys.uvic.ca>). It is recommended that authors check with the editors before submitting a review to ensure that there is no serious overlap in subject matter with papers already in the process of publication. Anne Cowley and David Hartwick are the co-editors.

New Editor for *Mercury*

Dr. James "Jay" White has been appointed editor of the ASP's bi-monthly members' magazine, *Mercury*. Jay, who edited *Mercury* for three years in the late nineties, will work remotely, remaining in his current position as Chair of the Department of Physics at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. He can be reached at jwhite@rhodes.edu. Jay replaces Robert Naeye, who has moved on to a senior editor position at *Sky and Telescope* in Cambridge, MA. Congratulations and best wishes to both Bob and Jay in their new positions.

International News

Rees Appointed Mastership of Trinity

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of **Professor Sir Martin Rees**, F.R.S., the Mastership of Trinity, on the advice of the Prime Minister. Rees, an AAS member, is a graduate and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity. He replaces Professor Amartya Sen, C.H., F.B.A., past winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998.

Rees is Professor of Astronomy and Cosmology and (from 2004) Master of Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. He holds the honorary title of Astronomer Royal and also Visiting Professor at Imperial College London and at Leicester University. After studying at the University of Cambridge, he held post-doctoral positions in the UK and the USA, before becoming a professor at Sussex University.

Kwok Named Director of Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Academia Sinica

Dr. Sun Kwok has been named the director of the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Academia Sinica in the Republic of China. Before taking this position, Kwok was professor of astronomy at the University of Calgary and Killam Fellow of the Canada Council for the Arts. He has extensive experience in both ground-based and space observations, in particular in infrared spectroscopy. He is best known for his theory on the origin of planetary nebulae and is the author of two recent books "The Origin and Evolution of Planetary Nebulae" and "Cosmic Butterflies," both published by Cambridge University Press. ASIAA has a complement of about 90 staff and students, and is a partner with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in the construction of the SubMillimeter Array on Mauna Kea.

Washington News continued from back page

Appropriations Status

The Appropriations process hit the brakes in September as Congress began to deal with the President's request for \$87 billion in funding for Afghanistan and Iraq costs. The current rumors in the halls of Washington are that once various spending is declared "emergency" and therefore taken out of the normal spending bills, the remaining un-conferenced appropriations bills will be wrapped into either an omnibus bill or a number of "minibus" bills (the new word of the year here in D.C.) and passed quickly in mid to late November.

How will astronomy fare? It is expected that NSF will end up with an overall increase of at least 6-9% and that NASA's level will come in close to the President's request.

How Space Science will fare compared to other portions of the NASA budget hinges on whether Congress decides to limit the earmarks in the bill or increase them and whether some of the costs of dealing with the recommendations of the Gehman report will be born by areas of the NASA budget not related to Human Space Flight (HSF).

Although a "firewall" has existed in the past between the science and HSF portions of the budget, this firewall is not writ in stone. It is an ongoing responsibility of all scientists funded by NASA (or other agencies) to justify and defend these expenditures on the basis of the discoveries their research generates. Government support is not an entitlement. The Administration and Congress decided to fund science research because they think it is a worthwhile endeavor. They do not **have** to fund our research, they **choose** to.

Astronomy on the Hill

The AAS, in partnership with the Associated Universities for Research in Astronomy sponsored a lunch-time briefing on the scientific goals of NASA's Beyond Einstein initiative. Speakers Wendy Freedman, Rocky Kolb and Roger Blandford presented the goals to a packed House Science Committee hearing room with more than 70 Congressional staff in attendance. The briefing was co-chaired by House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and Ranking Member Ralph Hall (D-TX). Congressman Hall was in attendance and shared some of his excitement for the science effort at NASA in remarks before the briefing.

The AAS will continue to partner with astronomy-related organizations to bring current science results and future science goals to the Hill in the form of informational lunch-time and evening briefings. If your organization is interested in co-sponsoring such an event, please contact Kevin Marvel (marvel@aas.org) for details. It takes about six months of planning to arrange for events of this type.



Congressman Ralph Hall (D-TX) and congressional staff at the AAS-AURA lunch briefing on the science behind the Beyond Einstein initiative.

AAS Reduces Page Charges and Color Figure Fees For 2004

Thanks to an increase in the use of author color files, the UC Press RGB to CMYK conversion service, and improvements in color printing technology, we have been able to dramatically lower the charges for print color figures, from \$600 for the first figure to \$150, with additional color figures costing \$150 each. We encourage authors to submit one file for all editions; however, authors who wish to publish black-white figures in the print journals and color in the on-line edition may do so at no additional charge.

Beginning with the 1 January 2004 issue, page charges for papers published in the *AJ*, *ApJ Part 1*, and the *ApJ Supplements* will decrease from \$120 to \$110 per page, with a 2% additional discount for prompt payment (see the page charge form for details). Page charges for the *Letters* will decrease from \$165 to \$155 per page.

Save by Giving. . .to the AAS!

Now that December is here, people may be thinking about how to minimize their tax liability for 2003. If you find yourself in this situation, we hope that you will remember the AAS when it comes to end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donations. Donations can be made at any time of year or with the payment of your annual AAS membership dues. There are two kinds of contribution you may elect: restricted or unrestricted.

If not earmarked for a particular use, contributions go into the Society's general account to be used at the discretion of the Council. Unrestricted contributions are preferred. Alternatively, contributions are welcomed for one or more AAS programs described in the brochure accompanying your annual dues invoice.

For the longer view, a document has been prepared about how to include the Society in your estate planning: www.aas.org/membership/plannedgiving.html. We hope that if you are considering tax-deductible gifts, you will "think AAS." Please contact Bob Milkey, the AAS Executive Officer, if you have any questions.



Save Costs By Renewing Promptly

The 2004 AAS Membership renewal invoices were mailed in October. Please renew promptly on the first invoice to save us the

cost of mailing you another invoice. To add subscriptions, change journal mailing options, or join Divisions, refer to the 2004 Membership Renewal Brochure which accompanied the invoice.

"Turn Off Your Cell Phone" Contest Deadline Extended!

The AAS is seeking PowerPoint slides to remind members to turn off their cell phones before oral sessions. PowerPoint slides should be humorous and astronomically themed. Three slides will be chosen and run throughout AAS meetings; and winners will receive a banquet ticket for themselves or a guest at any 2004 AAS Meeting Banquet.

Submit slides as an attachment to contest@aaas.org by **Monday, 15 December 2003**. Winners will be announced 15 December.

Announcements

Call for NRAO Observing Proposals

Astronomers are invited to submit proposals for observing time on the NRAO Green Bank Telescope (GBT), Very Large Array (VLA), and Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA):

Instrument	Deadline	Observing Period	Note
GBT	2004 Feb 2	2004 Jun - 2004 Sep	
	2004 Jun 1	2004 Oct - 2005 Jan	
VLA	2004 Feb 2	2004 Jun - 2004 Sep	+
	2004 Jun 1	2004 Oct - 2005 Jan	*
VLBA	2004 Feb 2	2004 Jun - 2004 Sep	
	2004 Jun 1	2004 Oct - 2005 Jan	

Notes: (+) D configuration with a maximum baseline of 1 km. (*) A configuration with a maximum baseline of 36 km. The VLBA antenna at Pie Town, New Mexico, may also be requested, which doubles the maximum baseline.

In addition, Large Proposals may be submitted to the VLBA at any deadline and to the VLA once every 16 months; the next such VLA deadline is 2004 Feb 2 for the period 2004 Oct to 2006 Jan. For more information on Large VLA/VLBA Proposals, see the web address cited below.

Users of NRAO instruments from most U.S. institutions may request travel support for observing and data reduction trips, as well as page charge support. In addition, the NRAO has inaugurated a new program to support GBT research by students at U.S. universities. The program covers student stipends, computer hardware purchases, and student travel to meetings to present GBT results. Applications to this program are tied to GBT observing proposals.

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2004 Feb 1 for the session in 2004 May/June. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2004 Feb 1 for the session in 2004 October.

Further information on NRAO instruments, proposal submission routes, and user support is available from the NRAO home page at www.nrao.edu.

Solar System Exploration Survey Report Now Available

The final, edited text of “New Frontiers in the Solar System: An Integrated Exploration Strategy,” the report of the NRC’s Solar System Exploration Survey (a.k.a. Belton Report, a.k.a. Planetary Decadal Survey) is now available from the Space Studies Board on CD-ROM. The text is also available in PDF format from <http://books.nap.edu/html/newfrontiers/0309084954.pdf>. Alternatively, you can request a free copy of the disk by sending an email message to ssb@nas.edu.

We are also taking advanced orders for paper copies of the report and also for copies of the “New Frontiers in Solar System Exploration,” a 32-page, full-color booklet describing for a popular audience the principal mission recommendations of the Solar System Exploration Survey. When ordering please include your full mailing address and indicate clearly whether you want the CD-ROM, the paper version or the popular booklet. All are free of charge while supplies last.

Solar and Space Physics Survey Report Now Available

The final, edited text of “The Sun to the Earth—and Beyond: A Decadal Research Strategy in Solar and Space Physics,” the report of the NRC’s Solar and Space Physics Survey (Lou Lanzerotti, Lucent Technologies, chair) is now available from the Space Studies Board. The report is also available online at: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10477.html>.

We are also taking advanced orders for paper versions of the final, edited text of the reports of the five study panels* that supported the Survey. These reports will be published in a single volume and should be available by mid October. Also available at that time will be CD-ROMs that will include PDF versions of the report of the Survey Committee and the reports of the five panels.

When ordering contact ssb@nas.edu, and please include your full mailing address and indicate clearly whether you want the paper version of the Survey Report, the paper version of the volume of panel reports, or the CD-ROM of survey and panel reports. All are free of charge while supplies last.

*Panel on the Sun and Heliospheric Physics, Panel on Solar Wind and Magnetosphere Interactions, Panel on Atmosphere-Ionosphere-Magnetosphere Interactions, Panel on Theory, Modeling, and Data Exploration, Panel on Education and Society.

SIRTF Cycle-1 Call for Proposals

Michael D. Bica, SSC Assistant Director for Community & Public Affairs

The Space InfraRed Telescope Facility (SIRTF), the final element in NASA’s Great Observatories program, was launched on 25 August 2003. Consisting of a 0.85-meter telescope and three cryogenically-cooled science instruments, SIRTF provides imaging and spectroscopy at near- to far-infrared wavelengths.

An Update to the Cycle-1 Call for Proposals (CP), originally released in November 2002, will be published online by Caltech’s SIRTF Science Center (SSC) on 19 December 2003. The CP solicits participation to conduct Cycle-1 SIRTF research in one of two categories:

(1) General Observer (GO) Program

This program allows investigators to propose new observations with SIRTF. Proposals must incorporate the actual on-orbit performance of the observatory, which will be incorporated into the CP Update. GO proposals will seek observing time in one of two categories: small (up to 50 hours) and medium (50-200 hours). It is anticipated that 3700 hours of SIRTF observing time will be available to GO investigators in Cycle-1. In addition, approximately \$15.5 million of NASA data analysis support is available to eligible GO researchers.

(2) Archival Research (AR) Program

Funding support for archival research in Cycle-1 is limited to the analysis of data from the SIRTF First-Look Survey (FLS). This ~100-hour program will be executed by the SSC, on behalf of the community, at the start of the SIRTF science mission. It is anticipated that up to \$750,000 of NASA funding will be made available to support analysis of FLS data in Cycle-1. If no funding support is required, it is not necessary to submit a Cycle-1 AR proposal. (Once the SIRTF Science Archive opens in April 2004, any investigator may access and utilize SIRTF data in the public domain.)

Note that SIRTF Cycle-1 adopts a single-phase proposal submission process. For GO proposals, a detailed list of proposed observations, generated by the SIRTF Planning Observations Tool must accompany the research proposal. The Cycle-1 CP Update will be accompanied by supporting technical and programmatic documentation. All of these documents will be available online in the ‘Proposal Kit’ section of the SSC public Web site (<http://sirtf.caltech.edu/SSC/>). Proposals must be submitted by 14 February 2004. Queries about Cycle-1, or any aspect of SIRTF, should be sent electronically to the HelpDesk at sirtf@ipac.caltech.edu.



continued on page 19

Calendar

Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention (new or revised listings noted with an asterisk). Due to space limitations, and 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 <http://cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings>.

AAS and AAS Division Meetings

203 Meeting of the AAS

4-8 January 2004 — Atlanta, GA
Contact: AAS Executive Office (diana@aas.org)

35th DDA Meeting

20-24 April 2004 — Cannes, France
Contact: Alessandro Morbidelli, Local Host (morby@obs-nice.fr)
Philip Nicholson, Program Chair (icarus@astro.cornell.edu)
<http://dda.harvard.edu/>

204th Meeting of the AAS

30 May - 3 June 2004 — Denver, CO
Contact: Michael Shull (mshull@casa.colorado.edu)

8th HEAD Meeting

7-11 September 2004 — New Orleans, LA
Contact: Dr. John Vallergera (info@eurekasci.com)
www.eurekasci.com

Other Events

*Binary Radio Pulsars

11-17 January 2004 — Aspen, CO
Contact: jane@aspenphys.org
<http://www.astro.northwestern.edu/AspenW04/>

*Workshop on Studies of Dark Energy and Cosmology with X-ray Surveys

15-16 January 2004 — Greenbelt, MD
Contact: Keith Jahoda (xraysurvey@athena.gsfc.nasa.gov)
<http://universe.nasa.gov/workshop>

Hawaii International Conference on Sciences

15-18 January 2004 — Honolulu, HI
Contact: Andrew Burge (sciences@hicsciences.org)
<http://www.hicsciences.org>

*The Large-scale Distribution of Mass and Light in the Universe

19-24 January 2004 — Aspen, CO
Contact: Josh Frieman (frieman@fnal.gov)
home.fnal.gov/~frieman/Aspen

*X-ray Polarimetry of Astrophysical Sources

9-11 February Stanford, California
Contact: Tim Kallman (polnwkshp@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov)
<http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/heasarc/polar/polar.html>

5th Intergral Workshop, The Integral Universe

16-20 February 2004 — Munich, Germany
Contact: Dr. Giselher Lichti (grl@mpe.mpg.de)
<http://astro.estec.esa.nl/Integral/>

*IAU Symposium No. 222 - The Interplay Among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei

1-5 March 2004 — Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Contact: Thaisa Storchi Bergmann (bhsign@if.ufrgs.br)
<http://bhsign.if.ufrgs.br/>

*IAU Colloquium No. 195 - Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters: intense life in the suburbs

15-19 March 2004 — Torino, Italia,
Contact: Antonaldo Diaferio (iauc195@ph.unito.it)
<http://www.iauc195.to.infn.it/>

Astronomical Polarimetry: Current Status and Future Directions

15-19 March 2004 — Waikoloa, HI
Contact: Andy Adam (pol2004@jach.hawaii.edu)
<http://www.jach.hawaii.edu/JACpublic/JAC/pol2004/>

*Planet Formation: Terrestrial and Extra Solar

15-19 March 2004 — Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Sue Alemdar (sue@kitp.ucsb.edu)
http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/planet_c04/register/?id=298

*Observing Dark Energy

18-20 March 2004 — Tucson, AZ
Contact: Tod R. Lauer (lauer@noao.edu)
www.noao.edu/meetings/dark_energy

*Beyond Einstein: From the Big Bang to Black Holes

10-14 May 2004 — Menlo Park, CA
Contact: Roger Blandford (rdb@SLAC.Stanford.EDU)
<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/kipac/>

*IAU Colloquium No. 196 - Transit of Venus: New Views of the Solar System and Galaxy

7-11 June 2004 — Preston, U.K.
Contact: Donald W. Kurtz (tov@uclan.ac.uk)
<http://www.transit-of-venus.org.uk>

*IAU Symposium No. 223 - Multi-Wavelength Investigations of Solar Activity

14-19 June 2004 — St. Petersburg, Russia
Contact: Elena E. Benevolenskaya (EBenevolenskaya@solar.stanford.edu)
<http://sun.stanford.edu/IAUS223/>

*Ninth Synthesis Imaging Summer School

15-22 June 2004 — Socorro, NM
Contact: ~~Clare Chandler~~ (cchandle@nrao.edu)
<http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/events/synthesis/2004/>

*The Nature and Evolution of Disks around Hot Stars

7-9 July 2004 — Johnson City, TN
Contact: Richard Ignace (hotstars@mail.etsu.edu)

*IAU Symposium No. 224 - The A-Star Puzzle
8-13 July 2004 — Poprad, Slovakia
Contact: Juraj Zverko (IAUS224LOC@ta3.sk)
<http://www.ta3.sk/IAUS224>

*Cores, Disks, Jets & Outflows in Low & High Mass Star
Forming Environments: Observations, Theory, & Simulations
12-16 July 2004 — Banff, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Rene Plume & Rachid Ouyed
(plume@ism.ucalgary.ca)
<http://www.ism.ucalgary.ca/meetings/banff>

Cosmos in the Classroom 2004: A Symposium on Teaching
Introductory Astronomy for Non-Science Majors
16-18 July 2004 — Medford, MA
Contact: Andrew Fraknoi (fraknoiandrew@fhda.edu)
www.astrosociety.org

*IAU Symposium No. 225 - Gravitational Lensing Impact on
Cosmology
19-23 July 2004 — Lausanne, Switzerland
Contact: Yannick Mellier (IAUSymp225@obs.unige.ch)
<http://obswww.unige.ch/IAUSymp225>

Second TPF/Darwin International Conference: Dust Disks and
the Formation, Evolution and Detection of Habitable Planets
26-29 July 2004 — San Diego, CA
Contact: Steve Unwin (stephen.unwin@jpl.nasa.gov)
http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/TPF_darwin/

*Astrophysics in the Far Ultraviolet: Five Years of Discoveries
with FUSE
2-6 August 2004 — Victoria, BC, Canada
Contact: G. Sonneborn (george.sonneborn-1@nasa.gov)
<http://fuse-conference.pha.jhu.edu/>

*8th International Colloquium on Atomic Spectra and Oscillator
Strengths for Astrophysical and Laboratory Plasmas
8-12 August 2004 — Madison, WI
Contact: J. E. Lawler (jelawler@wisc.edu)
<http://uw.physics.wisc.edu/ASOS8/>

Modest 5-Modeling Dense Stellar Systems
11-14 August 2004 — Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Alison Sills (asills@mcmaster.ca)
<http://www.manybody.org/modest-5.html>

Massive Stars in Interacting Binaries
16-20 August 2004 — Quebec province, Canada
Contact: A. Moffat/N. St-Louis
(moffat@astro.umontreal.ca/stlouis@astro.umontreal.ca)

*IAU Colloquium No. 197 - Dynamics of Populations of
Planetary Systems
31 August - 4 September 2004 — Belgrade, Serbia and
Montenegro
Contact: Zoran Knezevic (zoran@aob.bg.ac.yu)

*IAU Symposium No. 226 - Coronal and Stellar Mass Ejections
13-17 September 2004 — Beijing, China
Contact: Kenneth Dere (cme2004@bao.ac.cn)
http://lasco-www.nrl.navy.mil/~avourlid/cme_mtg/

Announcements continued from page 17

Hubble Space Telescope Cycle 13 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: 23 January 2004

NASA and The Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) are pleased to announce the Cycle 13 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 23 January 2004, 8:00pm EST. The Astronomer's Proposal Tools (APT), which is required for Phase I Proposal Submission will be made available/released for Cycle 13 Phase I use on 3 December 2003. Results of the selection will be announced in early April 2004.

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/cycle13announce>.

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

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 February 2004 for the second quarter of 2004. Forms and information are 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). A TeX or PostScript template and instruction sheet can be emailed at your request or obtained by anonymous ftp from [ftp.nso.edu](ftp://ftp.nso.edu) (cd observing_templates) or downloaded from the WWW at <http://www.nso.edu/general/observe/>. A Windows-based observing-request form is also available at the WWW site. Users' Manuals are available at <http://www.nso.edu/nsosp/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. Proposers to SP may inquire whether the Adaptive Optics system may be available for their use. Observing time at National Observatories is provided as support to the astronomical community by the National Science Foundation.



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

Newsletter 118 December 2003

Periodical
Postage
Paid
Washington DC

**AAS members can purchase
the new AIP book
Landing Your First Job
at a 25% discount!
See [www.aas.org/career/
AIPDiscount.html](http://www.aas.org/career/AIPDiscount.html).**



Printed with Soy-Based Inks on
20% Postconsumer, 70% Recycled Paper

Washington News

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



AIP State Department Science Fellowship Update

The first AIP State Department Science Fellow, George Atkinson, will replace Norm Neureiter as Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State when

Neureiter's three year appointment ends later this month. Neureiter, as the first S&T Adviser at the State Department, has done a phenomenal job at bringing S&T input and advice to the State Department, and has been vital to the success of the Fellowship program. Not only has he served on the selection committee, but he and his office have worked hard to find departmental funds to bring on additional AIP Fellows, and to help arrange appropriate assignments so that each Fellow has a valuable and productive experience at State.

His succession by George Atkinson is, I believe, a great credit to our program. Atkinson's appointment will ensure that the Fellows continue to receive strong support from the Science and Technology Adviser's office.

The selection process for the 2004-2005 Fellow(s) will begin shortly. The deadline for applications is 1 November. More information is available at <http://www.aip.org/mgr/sdf.html>.

The incoming 2003-2004 Fellows are currently participating in the two-week AAAS orientation, and both plan to start their terms shortly afterwards. AIP has selected Carol Christian of the Space Telescope Science Institute as the 2003-2004 AIP Fellow. She will serve her term in the Bureau of Resource Management, with the E-Diplomacy Office.

Additionally, the State Department has provided funding to hire a second Fellow, Ed Whittaker of the Stevens Institute of Technology, for 2003-2004. Whittaker plans to serve his Fellowship in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls.

Finally, Stefi Baum, the 2002-2003 AIP Fellow now funded by the State Department, has been able to extend her Fellowship term for a second year. Baum (also of the Space Telescope Science Institute), is serving in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, working on issues of biodiversity, biotechnology, genetic resources, and plant and food import/export safety.

The AAS supports the AIP State Department Fellowship program financially and is happy to see so many finalists from the astronomical sciences.

continued on page 15