

2004–2005 Annual Report of the American Astronomical Society

1. Introduction

The year 2004-05 was the first of three years incorporating a number of transitions of key personnel for the AAS. At the beginning of the year a new Secretary, John Graham, assumed office and at the end of this year a new Treasurer, Peter Stockman, began in that office. Among the elected officers, these two are the anchors for oversight of governance and financial matters respectively, and, together with the Executive Officer, they provide the corporate memory within the AAS Council. Also during this year *The Astronomical Journal* welcomed a new Editor when Jay Gallagher took over from Paul Hodge who had served over twenty years in that capacity. At the end of this year the Society was preparing for the selection process for two more key positions, Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief of *The Astrophysical Journal*, which will transition in mid-2006 and at the end of 2006 respectively. By the beginning of 2007 the AAS will have realized a complete turnover among these key positions.

The AAS meetings held in 2004-05 were well balanced, with the Denver meeting in May of 2004 being both scientifically exciting and well attended. The inclusion of the Solar Physics Division in that meeting added greatly to the success of the meeting. The San Diego meeting in January of 2005 exceeded expectations in terms of both papers submitted and attendance. These two factors led to overcrowding of the facilities, a factor that was compounded by the rainy weather experienced during that week. We had already determined that the San Diego facility would be inadequate for meetings following 2005, but the growth in attendance caused that predication to come true one meeting too soon.

AAS Journals remained robust and maintained their positions as leaders in the field. Submissions continued to grow. Reduced publications costs allowed the page charges, if corrected for inflation, to be at their lowest level in the past 20 years. *ApJ* part 1 page charge rates for 2006 were nearly 40% below those in 1982, if expressed in 1982 dollars. The partnership between the AAS and the University of Chicago Press continues to be extremely productive, in terms of both additional capabilities and reduced costs for the AAS journals.

Overall the AAS remains healthy and vital and is performing a variety of services which benefit astronomy.

2. 2004 AAS FISCAL REPORT

The firm of Tate & Tryon audited the accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 December 2004. This audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and indicated no material problems while confirming that the AAS was in compliance with the required accounting provisions. This report was submitted to and accepted by the Council at its meeting on 29 May 2005.

The Society reports its finances in six categories (see

Table I) according to the nature of the activities and the source of the revenues:

- (1) *General Programs*: This includes the Society's general operations and administration. In addition, the General Fund covers the income and expenses of all Society programs including educational and public policy activities, and meetings. Also under this heading are the general publications handled by the Executive Office, including the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Job Register*, and the *AAS Membership Directory*. New products included the *Calendar*, *An Ancient Universe* and *A New Universe to Explore: Careers in Astronomy*.
- (2) *Journals*: Each of the journals published by the AAS is operated as a distinct cost center. AAS Bylaws, Article VIII.3, mandate that each Journal maintain a reserve fund equal or above the level of one-half of the annual operating expenses. At the end of 2004 the three AAS journals had reserve funds totaling \$5,582,550, or 88% of the overall operating costs of the journals.
At the close of 2004 the reserve fund for long-term maintenance of the journal electronic archives had reached a balance of \$320,968, including the annual contribution of \$40,000 from the journal operations. To date, nothing has been withdrawn from this fund.
- (3) *Divisions*: These comprise the finances of the five AAS Divisions and their related prizes. The Divisions legally fall under the oversight and fiscal responsibility of the AAS Council, but each Divisional Committee makes the financial decisions of its Division and the fiscal details are reported directly to the members of the Division. The figures in Table I include all Division funds whether held by the Division Treasurers or in the Society's general accounts.
- (4) *Bequests and Memorials*: These include the AAS prizes and other funds established by gifts and bequests to the Society. The timing of the actual awarding of the various prizes causes the fluctuations in expenses between successive fiscal years. The balances of the principal funds on 31 December 2004 were:

Russell Lectureship	\$192,535
Warner Prize	\$54,538
Pierce Prize	\$115,964
Tinsley Prize	\$59,814
Van Biesbroeck Prize	\$58,071
Weber Award	\$104,877
Education Prize*	\$125,932
Neeseman Fund	\$162,417
Annie J. Cannon Award	\$10,000
Chambliss Awards**	\$50,000

*Including Wentzel endowment

**Includes full amount pledged

- (5) *Grants and Contracts*: The bulk of this category is in Federal Grants
NASA supported AAS Small Research Grants,
NSF International Travel Grants,

TABLE 1. Statement of Income and Expense for 2003 and 2004

	2003	2004
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenue		
General programs	1,303,425	1,490,466
Journals	7,494,377	6,929,560
Divisions	348,491	296,369
Bequests and Memorials	20,000	20,000
Grants and Contracts	458,589	222,525
Other	169,573	112,288
Released from restrictions	55,304	56,557
Total revenue (unrestricted)	9,849,759	9,127,765
Expenses		
General Programs	1,476,892	1,628,670
Journals	6,874,588	6,347,882
Divisions	288,302	260,207
Bequests and Memorials	42,378	38,705
Grants and Contracts	500,982	240,339
Other	34,555	26,391
Total expenses	9,217,697	8,542,194
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	632,062	585,571
Change in Restricted Net Assets	238,338	201,022
Change in total net assets	870,400	786,593
Net assets, Beginning of year	7,895,158	8,765,558
End of year	8,765,558	9,552,151

NSF funding for the Bok and Lines Awards

- (6) Other: This includes the General Operating Reserve and accounts for the Shapley Visiting Lecturer Program, and a variety of other special purpose funds. The General Operating Reserve shrank by \$7,787 to \$1,146,441. The fund balance for the Shapley Lecture Program was \$598,667 as of 31 December 2004.

2.1 Summary

The overall financial picture for the Society remains very good. Net assets increased by \$786,593 including an unrealized gain of \$132,402 in the market value of securities in which the reserve funds are invested.

Table I gives a comparative summary of activities and change of net assets of the AAS for 2003 and 2004.

Table II contains a summary of the AAS Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2003 and 31 December 2004.

3. AAS COUNCIL

The Council is the governing body that is ultimately responsible for all activities of the Society. The Council consists of the President, President-Elect or Past-President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of the Publications Board, Education Officer, the Executive Officer and nine Councilors. It meets twice a year prior to the general

AAS Meetings, and makes a variety of decisions ranging in importance from simple confirmation of committee actions to approval of the entire Society budget and the setting of dues and subscription rates.

The members of the Council from May 2004 to June 2005 were:

Officers

TABLE 2. Balance Sheet for 31 December 2003/2004

	2003	2004
Total Assets	\$ 10,717,315	\$12,737,596
Current Assets	2,663,901	3,355,663
Fixed Assets	62,600	52,869
Other Assets	7,990,814	9,329,064
Total Liabilities	1,951,757	3,185,445
Current Liabilities	710,800	615,812
Deferred Revenue	1,240,957	2,569,633
Net Assets	8,765,558	9,552,151
Unrestricted	6,915,726	7,501,297
Temporarily restricted	1,458,508	1,651,380
Permanently restricted	391,324	399,474
Liabilities & Net Assets	10,717,315	12,737,596

Robert P. Kirshner, President *
 Catherine A. Pilachowski, Past-President*
 Pierre Demarque, Vice President
 Chris Impey, Vice President
 Wallace W. Sargent, Vice President
 Leonard Kuhi, Treasurer*
 John A. Graham, Secretary*
 George D. Nelson, Education Officer
 Sumner Starrfield, Publications Board Chair
 Robert W. Milkey, Executive Officer*

Councilors

Bruce W. Carney
 Christopher Sneden
 Jean H. Swank
 Todd A. Boroson
 Carol A. Christian
 Alycia J. Weinberger
 Jill Bechtold
 Karen S. Bjorkman
 Alan M. Title

Those identified by * served on the Executive Committee as established by the Bylaws.

In addition to its routine duties, on 2 June 2004 at its 204th Meeting in Denver, CO, and on 12 January 2005 at its 205th Meeting in San Diego, CA, the Council of the Society took action on the following items (additional items are described in other sections of this report):

3.1 Governance Issues

3.1.1 Council Actions

- Adopted the Minutes of the AAS Council's 203rd Meeting (Atlanta).
- Approved the Executive Committee actions taken between January 4, 2004 and May 29, 2004.
- Voted that Washington, D.C. be retained in the meeting cycle, meeting in Washington, D.C. every fourth year, and in particular meeting in 2014 at the Marriott Wardman Hotel.
- Confirmed Tate & Tryon as the AAS Auditor for fiscal year 2004.
- Approved the Financial Report for 2003.
- Approved the Audit Report for 2003.
- Adopted the 2005 Budget.
- Accepted the Annual Report of the Investment Advisory Committee.
- Voted to not create an Audit Committee.
- Approved that funds be taken from the Special Projects Fund to support a Department Chairs' meeting.
- Accepted the 2004 Election Results.
- Accepted the election of the new members to the 2004 Nominating Committee.
- Appointed Robert P. Kirshner, Catherine A. Pilachowski, Pierre Demarque, Chris D. Impey, Leonard V. Kuhi, John A. Graham, and Robert W. Milkey to the

Executive Committee as described in Bylaws, Article VI. 2, for the interval between the annual business meetings, June, 2004 to June, 2005.

- Approved the Bylaws changes, as published in the March 2004 *AAS Newsletter*. These changes involved Article VI.3.b., Article II.5, Article VI.4 and Article VI.5.
- Accepted the Annual Reports from the AAS journals.
- Approved the Annual Business Meeting agenda.
- Adopted the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) Annual Report.
- Adopted the Annual Report from the Committee on Employment.
- Adopted the Annual Reports from the AEB and the Education Office.
- Accepted the Annual Reports from the AAS Divisions, Committees and Working Groups.
- Accepted, in principle, a proposal by Carlson Chambliss to establish medal awards for a variety of accomplishments by students and others. Full details will be worked out between the donor and the AAS Officers.
- Council authorized the Executive Committee to approve the Global Climate Change Statement, taking into account comments received during the Annual Members Meeting.
- Council authorized the Executive Committee to make a policy statement regarding visas and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).
- Re-appointed Butler Burton, Katia M. Ferriere, Joseph C. Shields, and Susan M. Simkin to three-year terms as Scientific Editors of *The Astrophysical Journal*, effective 1 January 2005.
- Virginia Trimble was elected to the Publications Board.
- Adopted the recommendations of the Committee on Appointments regarding vacancies on the following:
 - Committee on Employment,
 - Investment Advisory Committee
 - Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA),
 - Astronomy Education Board (AEB),
 - International Commission on Illumination (CIE).
 - Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference and Space Debris.
 - Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA).
- Accepted names provided by the Working Group on Professional-Amateur Collaboration (WGPAC) as its Steering Committee members.
- Reviewed the salary of the Executive Officer.
- Adopted the Minutes of the AAS Council's 204th Meeting (Denver).
- Approved Executive Committee actions taken between 30 May 2004 and 9 January 2005.
- Approved the posting of a proposed Bylaws change regarding the establishment of a new class of "Affiliate Membership."
- Passed a motion to continue to award the Annie J. Cannon prize and for the Society to resume its administration.

- Moved to hold the 2008 summer meeting in St. Louis, Missouri and the 2009 summer meeting in Pasadena, California, subject to satisfactory site inspections and contract negotiations in each location.
- Approved a request from the Historical Astronomy Division to provide travel support for representation at the ICOMOS meeting, sponsored by UNESCO, on the preservation of historical sites.
- Move to use the income of the Neesman fund to augment the money available for the Chrétien awards.
- Endorsed broadening the participation of amateur astronomers in the activities of the Society.
- Approved the motions that were passed by the Publications Board at its annual meeting in November, 2004.

The *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* will no longer publish the Observatory/Department Reports.

The Executive Officer was encouraged to continue his efforts to provide access to the AAS Journals by third-world countries.

The *Astrophysical Journal* Editor in Chief will establish the position of Consulting Editors for the *ApJ*.

ApJ, *ApJ Letters*, and the *AJ* subject indices will no longer be published in print form. An author index will be compiled and printed but only in the final issue of the year.

- Moved that the Working Group on Astronomy Education be disbanded and its activities transferred to the Astronomy Education Board.
- Approved the American Astronomical Society Statement on the National Research Council Report on “The Assessment of Options for Extending the Life of the Hubble Space Telescope.”
- Passed a motion to accept the Pasadena Recommendations for Gender Equality in Astronomy from the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy.
- Approved appointments of Lisa Frattare (January-June 2005) and Joan Schmelz (July 2005 onward) as Editors to the *AAS Women Electronic Newsletter*.
- Received a report from the Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy and approved the appointment of representatives on the selection committee for NSBP-AAS undergraduate scholarships.
- Extended the term of the ad hoc Committee on Child-care until June 2005 with the understanding that it then be made a standing committee.
- Appointed a search committee for a new Editor of the *Astrophysical Journal* to take office in June 2006.
- Instructed the President to form a search committee for a new Executive Officer to take office on 1 July 2006.
- Approved the recommendations from the committees for the Russell Lectureship, Russell Lectureship, Pierce Prize, Warner Prize, van Biesbroek Prize, and the Weber Award.
- Approved new monetary amounts for the Society’s prizes, effective 2005 and recommended that the Van Biesbroek prize be awarded every two years after 2005 until its endowment is increased.
- Accepted the Committee on Appointments nominations for new chairs of the prize committees and directed the

Committee to fill out vacancies in the prize committees for approval at the next Council meeting.

3.1.2 Editorships

- Renewed appointments as *ApJ* Scientific Editors; Timothy S. Bastian, Dieter H. Hartmann, Judith L. Pipher, Luigi Stella, and Paula Szkody.
- Appointed as new *ApJ* Scientific Editors; John S. Mulchaey and Frederic A. Rasio.
- Elected Bo Reipurth and Patrick J. McCarthy to 4 year terms on the Publications Board.

3.1.3 Bylaws Amendments

Regarding changes to the *Bylaws*, the Council approved the following changes to the following section of the AAS *Bylaws*:

- To Article I. Membership, Section 1. Classes of Membership:
 - h. Any individual who would qualify for membership under b or c above who is resident outside the United States and its territories may become an International Affiliate of the Society. These individuals may participate in the activities of the Society or the relevant Division, as appropriate, but may not vote, hold office, or serve on AAS Committees. The Council shall establish the qualification process, dues, and privileges for International Affiliates.

3.1.4 Appointments

The Council approved the following Committee appointments:

Astronomy Education Board

Dana E. Backman (2005 - 2008)

Fran Bagenal (2005 - 2008)

Edna DeVore (2004 - 2007)

Jacob Noel-Storr (2004 - 2007)

Stacy E. Palen (2004 - 2007)

Lawrence Rudnick (2005 - 2008)

Committee on Employment

Stefi Alison Baum (2005 - 2008)

Michael N. Fanelli (2004 - 2007)

Anita Krishnamurthi (2002 - 2008)

Frederic A. Rasio (2004 - 2007)

Lisa J. Storrie-Lombardi (2004 - 2007)

Barbara Whitney (2005 - 2008)

Annie Jump Cannon Award Committee

Alycia J. Weinberger (2005 - 2007)

George Van Biesbroeck Prize Committee

David H. Bruning (2005 - 2008)

Gretchen L. H. Harris (2005 - 2008)

Arlo U. Landolt (2005 - 2008)

C. R. O’Dell (2003 - 2006)

Ronald E. Taam (2003 - 2006)

Education Prize Committee

Mark T. Adams (2005 - 2008)

Owen Gingerich (2005 - 2008)

Gerard Mark Voit (2003 - 2006)

Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize Committee

Amy J. Barger (2005 - 2007)
 Frazer N. Owen (2005 - 2007)

Weber Award Committee

Paul Goldsmith (2003 - 2006)
 Philip R. Goode (2005 - 2008)
 Judith Pipher (2005 - 2008)

Committee on Light Pollution, Radio**Interference and Space Debris**

Claire J. Chandler (2004 - 2007)
 James J. Condon (2004 - 2007)
 Philip A. Ianna (2004 - 2007)
 Patrick Seitzer (2004 - 2007)
 Malcolm G. Smith (2005 - 2008)

Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy

Francesca Primas (2004 - 2007)
 James E. Rhoads (2005 - 2008)
 Joan T. Schmelz (2004 - 2007)
 Amy A. Simon-Miller (2001 - 2007)
 Kim Venn (2005 - 2008)

Committee on the Status of Minorities

Robert A. Benjamin (2004 - 2007)
 Joel Norman Bregman (2005 - 2008)
 Theodore R. Gull (2005 - 2006)
 Charles Liu (2005 - 2008)
 Jonathan P. Williams (2004 - 2007)

Investment Advisory Committee

Robert Michael Rich (2004 - 2007)
 William C. Wells (2005 - 2008)

Nominating Committee

John Bally (2005 - 2008)

Publications Board

Jane C. Charlton (2002 - 2005)
 Judith T. Karpen (2003 - 2006)
 Patrick S. Osmer (2002 - 2005)
 Virginia L. Trimble (2005 - 2008)

Russell Lectureship Committee

David J. Helfand (2005 - 2007)
 J. Michael Shull (2003 - 2005)
 George Wallerstein (2005 - 2006)
 Ellen Gould Zweibel (2005 - 2007)

Heineman Prize Committee

Tereasa G. Brainerd (2005 - 2007)
 Gary J. Ferland (2005 - 2007)
 Fred K.Y. Lo (2003 - 2005)

Warner/Pierce Prize Committee

Thomas J. Bogdan (2005 - 2007)
 Debra M. Elmegreen (2005 - 2007)
 E. S. Phinney (2005 - 2007)

Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy

Rachel Akeson
 Joseph K. Alexander
 David Black
 Roger Blandford
 Christopher G. De Pree
 Alyssa Goodman
 John Leibacher
 Dan Lester
 Harold Reitsema

Anneila Sargent

Mark Sykes

Jim Ulvestad

Council Representative on the AIP Governing Board

J.A. Graham (2004-2007)

Committee on Topical Sessions

Todd A. Boroson (2005 - 2006)
 Wallace L.W. Sargent (2004 - 2006)
 Paul A. Vanden Bout (2005 - 2008)
 J. Craig Wheeler (2005 - 2006)

3.1.5 Awards

The Council reinstated the Annie Jump Cannon award which will be given annually to a female astronomer, resident in North America, who is within five years of receiving a PhD in the year of the award. The winner will present a talk at an AAS meeting.

At the San Diego meeting on 9 January 2005, the Council approved the following nominations for the 2005 awards:

Christopher Reynolds Helen B. Warner Prize

Andrew Blain Newton Lacy Pierce Prize

James E. Gunn Henry Norris Russell Lectureship

Eric Griesen George Van Biesbroeck Prize

Laurence A. Marshall Education Prize

Stephen A. Shectman Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation

The Council was informed of the AAS Prize Committee's selection for the following award:

George Efstathiou and Simon White 2005 Dannie Heineman Prize

3.2 Finances

During its meeting at the 204th AAS Meeting the Council agreed upon the following actions regarding finances:

- Approved selection of the Tate & Tryon, Inc. as the AAS auditor for the fiscal year 2004;
- Approved the AAS 2005 Budget;
- Adopted a spending formula of 4.5% of the fund balance for the next fiscal year (2005);
- Approved the following rates for 2005:

PAGE CHARGES**Astrophysical Journal and Supplement**

Submitted Electronically: \$110

Submitted on Paper Part I: \$150

Submitted Electronically, Part II: \$155

Submitted on Paper, Part II: \$195

Non-Printed Tables (per table): \$110

Printed Color Figures: \$150

Astronomical Journal

Submitted Electronically: \$110

Submitted on Paper: \$150

Non-Printed Tables (per table): \$110

Printed Color Figures: \$150

Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society

Observatory Reports, etc.: \$82

Abstracts: \$30 per abstract billed to Division or AAS meetings

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATES**Special Member's Electronic-only Package***ApJ, ApJ Suppl. & AJ*: \$50**Astrophysical Journal and Supplement**

Journal - Print: \$275

Journal - Print & Electronic:¹ \$300Supplement^{b)} - Print: \$55**Astronomical Journal**

Print: \$100

Print & Electronic¹: \$130**Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society**

Print: \$27

NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATES**Astrophysical Journal and Supplement**

Journal/Print & Electronic: \$1880

2nd Print copy: \$1470

Electronic Only: \$1460

Supplement² -Print: \$200**Astronomical Journal**

Print & Electronic: \$525

Electronic Only: \$425

Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society

Print: \$70

DUES**Individuals**

Full Member: \$115

Associate Member: \$115

Junior Member: \$40

Emeritus (After 1998): \$58

Corporate and Publisher

Sustaining Corporate: \$2900

Corporate: \$1025

Publisher Affiliate: \$465

Small Publisher Affiliate: \$270

MEETING REGISTRATION**Early Registration**

Member: \$260

Member, One Day: \$135

Junior Member: \$80

Emeritus Member: \$80

Non-Member: \$350

Non-Member, One Day: \$175

Regular Registration

Member: \$325

Member, One Day: \$165

Junior Member: \$95

Emeritus Member: \$95

Non-Member: \$435

Non-Member, One Day \$200

EXHIBIT FEES

Member: \$1,160

Government: \$1,295

Non-Member: \$1,505

Late Exhibit Registration Surcharge: \$320

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT**4.1 Executive Office Operations**

The Executive Office Staff as of 1 June 2005 is: Robert W. Milkey (Executive Officer), Kevin B. Marvel (Deputy Executive Officer), Susana E. Deustua (Director, Educational Activities), Kelli Gilmore (Meetings Manager), Judith M. Johnson (Publications Manager), Shantice Jones (Membership Services Specialist), Debbie L. Kovalsky, (Information Systems Manager), Natalie F. Patterson (Financial Assistant), Dennis Renner (Manager, Membership Services), and Crystal M. Tinch (Publications Specialist).

4.1.1 Meetings

January saw the AAS return to San Diego, CA, for the second meeting in this rotation. As no Local Organizing committee is responsible for the winter meetings, the Executive Office handled all of the details. The spring meeting was held in Minneapolis, MN, and was hosted by the University of Minnesota. The Local Organizing Committee was co-chaired by Larry Rudnick and Len Kuhl, as well as Robert Gertz.

4.1.1.1 San Diego, CA: 9-13 January 2005 Highlights of the AAS program included the following Prize Lectures:

- B.T Draine (Princeton University) gave the Heineman Prize lecture, "Interstellar Dust"
- The Russell Prize Lecture was given by Martin Rees (Institute of Astronomy), "Scanning Cosmological Horizons"
- The Rossi Prize Lectures were given by M.C. Weiskopf (NASA/MSFC) and H. Tananbaum (SAO), "Perspectives of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory"

The High Energy Astrophysics Division met during this meeting with Special Sessions on "The Swift Gamma-Ray Burst Mission," "Status of Swift Operations & Instruments," and "High Energy Astrophysics and the NASA Roadmap."

The Historical Astronomy Division also met at this meeting with sessions on "Centennial Celebration of the Founding of Mount Wilson Observatory," "Observatories, Toys and Genesis," and "Catalogs, Surveys and Ancient Observations."

The Education Office continued its program on "Astro 101: A Continuing Dialogue". Workshops including: "College Astronomy Teaching Excellence Parts I & II" and "Uses of Modern Technology in Introductory Astronomy Education"; and special session on "Issues Facing Community College Instructors" were held for the two days preceding the meeting. The NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows (AAPF) Symposium was highlighted through a special session on Saturday and Sunday.

The Job Center was run as usual; and lunch time sessions included town meetings for NASA, JWST, NSF and ALMA.

Fifteen hundred and fifty-four abstracts were received and 2456 people attended.

4.1.1.2 Minneapolis, MN: 29 May – 2 June 2005 Spiro Antiochos (NRL) gave the Hale Prize Lecture on "Coronal Mass Ejections: the Most Powerful Drivers of the Sun-Earth

^{a1} Member Electronic Subscription includes ApJ, ApJL and AJ

^{b2} Access to the electronic version of the ApJ Supplement is provided with the electronic ApJ

System.” The Pierce Prize Lecture was given by Niel Brandt of Pennsylvania State U. on “X-raying Active Galaxies Both Near and Far: Exploring the Environments of Supermassive Black Holes.” The Warner Prize Lecture was given by William L. Holzapfel (UC, Berkeley), “High Resolution Observations of the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation.”

Topical sessions featured talks on “Asymmetries in Type Ia Supernovae”, “Formation and Fate of Stardust”, “X-Ray Flashes”, “Relativistic Jets”, and “Highlights in Laboratory Astrophysics.” Members toured the Soudan Underground Mine and Laboratory, which houses the MINOS experiment, to observe muon neutrino oscillations in the beam sent through the Earth from Fermilab, and the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search experiment.

Highlights of the meeting included the Second AAS Invitational Hockey Game organized by Robert Gertz and Chick Woodward; and the well attended public talk given by Carolyn Porco on, “Adventures in the Promised Land: Cassini in Orbit around Saturn.”

Four hundred twenty-four abstracts were received and 679 attended the meeting.

4.2 Grants

4.2.1 Henri Chrétien International Research Grant

The Henri Chrétien International Research Grant recipients for 2004 are Franck Marchis, from the University of California at Berkeley Department of Astronomy and Dimitri Pourbaix from the Institut d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Marchis’ proposal was entitled “Search and Study of Binary Asteroids Using High-Resolution Adaptive Optics Systems on 4 and 8 Meter Class Telescopes.” Working with Dr. Imke de Pater (UC, Berkeley) and Dr. Claire Max, (Center for Adaptive Optics), Dr. Marchis will pursue observational studies of binary asteroids of two types, moonlet companion systems and bifurcated or doublet systems. The first type is composed of a small body and a much larger parent, while the second is composed of two bodies of roughly equal mass. As these objects are remnants from the earliest days of our solar system, understanding how they came to form and their physical properties are an important area of research. Mass estimates of the objects become possible through high resolution observations of their rotation about the systemic center of mass, feasible from the ground with adaptive optics observations.

Pourbaix’s research proposal was entitled “Astrometric-photometric Detection of Close Binaries.” His research goal is to identify and characterize the binary stars discovered in the entire Sloan Digital Sky Survey in order to refine preparatory work for two upcoming space astrometry missions, Gaia and SIM. Such work is necessary to prevent binaries from reducing the accuracy of the astrometric measurements by being used as grid stars. He will work with Dr. Gillian Knapp at Princeton on this research work.

The Chrétien grant program, established to honor the memory of Henri Chrétien, welcomes applications from any astronomer to support long-term visits that develop close working relationships with astronomers in other countries.

4.2.2 International Travel Grant

The International Travel Grant program supports travel of US astronomers to foreign scientific meetings, including the International Astronomical Union (IAU) General Assembly meetings. A grant from the NSF provides the bulk of the funding, with occasional augmentation from other agencies or sources.

The second review for 2004 and the first review for 2005 resulted in 60 funded travelers and a total disbursement of \$70,220.33.

4.3 Membership

AAS Membership as of 30 June 2005

AAS Individual Members

Life Members	6
Honorary Members	7
Emeritus Members	572
Full Members	4287
Associate Members	730
Junior Members	1012
Corporate Affiliates	54
Total Individual Members	6668
Total Division Affiliate Members	801

AAS Corporate Members

Sustaining Corporate Members	1
Corporate Members	17
Publisher Affiliate Members	21

4.4 Publications Programs

The Society’s refereed scientific journals are covered in the Journals section of this report. Here we report on the additional materials published in support of the work of the Society, including but not limited to educational materials, career services, historical materials, and public policy documents. Society publications are made available in a variety of print and electronic media. Annually we publish the *AAS Membership Directory*. Monthly publications include the *AAS Job Register* and *AAS Electronic Announcement*. The *AAS Newsletter* is distributed on paper five times a year. Meeting Announcements, Final Meeting Programs, *Public Policy Briefs* are published as needed. Changes made to the Publications Program include:

- The addition of an annual *AAS Calendar*.
- The AAS Career Brochure, *A New Universe to Explore: Careers in Astronomy*, was redesigned and published.
- The teaching tool, *An Ancient Universe: How Astronomers Know the Vast Scale of Cosmic Time* was updated, redesigned and republished.
- The Working Group on Astronomy Education Newsletter was discontinued.

4.4.1 Job Register Statistics

The *Job Register* statistics reflect our profession’s employment market and is an important barometer of job availability, especially for graduate students. Beginning with this

annual report we present statistics from the *Job Register* from June to June, which best illustrates a complete academic/research employment cycle.

From June 2004 through May 2005, 714 job announcements were published. This compares to 723 announcements published from the same period one year prior. Although this is a slight decrease, it is not a significant one ($\sim 1\%$).

The AAS asks that announcements include a classification of the Job type and uses the following definitions as options. Only one selection can be made, so some positions, which may fall under two types must be categorized in on or the other. This selection is the option of the advertiser:

Postdoc: Fellowships and other semi-permanent post-doctoral positions.

Tenure-Track: Academic appointments which are tenured or tenure-track.

Non-Tenure Track: Academic appointments which are not tenured or tenure-track.

Research: Positions in which research is the primary focus.

Research Support: Positions in which the majority of the work is at the direction of another.

Management: Positions which are administrative or managerial in focus.

Visiting: A temporary position at a particular institution, typically a teaching position.

Other: Also includes positions which do not fit into the other categories.

The following table displays the summary statistics by job type for the two periods defined above.

Type of Job	June 2003-June 2004	June 2004-June 2005		
No.	%	No.	%	
Postdoc	382	52.9	327	45.8
Tenure-Track	119	16.5	113	15.8
Non-Tenure-Track	22	3.0	22	3.1
Research	78	10.8	117	16.4
Research Support	29	4.0	28	3.9
Management	45	6.2	52	7.3
Visiting	7	1.0	6	0.8
Other	40	5.5	49	6.7
TOTAL		722		714

The AAS asks that each advertising institution classify their institution using the following definitions:

Definition of Institution Type

Large Academic: Academic institutions with a separate astronomy department.

Small Academic: Primarily colleges without a separate astronomy department.

Research Lab: All labs and observatories which do not specifically fit into the other categories. Includes NOAO and NRAO.

Foreign: All institutions outside of the U.S., including Canada and Mexico.

Government Agency: Self-explanatory. Includes jobs through USRA.

Industry: All private companies. Many have contracts with public institutions.

Planetarium/Museum: Those not affiliated with government or academic institutions.

Other: Any employer who does not fit the other categories.

Type of Institution	June 2003-June 2004	June 2004-June 2005		
No.	%	No.	%	
Large Academic	445	61.6	314	44.0
Small Academic	75	10.4	74	10.4
Research Lab	55	7.6	35	4.9
Foreign	52	7.2	179	25.1
Gov't Agency	34	4.7	31	4.3
Industry	0	0.0	2	0.3
Planetarium/Museum	5	0.7	3	0.4
Other	56	7.8	76	10.6
TOTAL		722		714

Considering the types of job advertised, there was a slight increase in research lab jobs and a decrease in tenure track faculty positions. Considering the institutions advertising positions, the most striking change is the much larger number of foreign jobs advertised during the past year. We can only explain this through the increased ease of use of the AAS Job Register. Users can now pay online instantly using credit cards and this has greatly eased the process for foreign users compared to past use of payment orders. Investigating the statistics more carefully, it is clear that some past announcements chose ‘‘Large Academic’’ even though they were foreign, so the growth in foreign advertisers is not as significant as it looks at first glance.

5. PRESS OFFICE

Stephen Maran, Press Officer, Lynn R. Cominsky, Deputy Press Officer, and Laurence A. Marschall, Press Officer

5.1 Introduction

The Society continued its program of media activities during the reporting year. These activities include:

- Press conferences, seminars for science writers, press tours, and other media events at the national meetings of the AAS;
- Email distribution to qualified journalists of press releases issued by numerous institutions, concerning news of astronomy and space science; and
- Referrals of science writers, broadcasters, and others in the news media and documentary productions to appropriate experts and where desired, to scientists who are good communicators.
- Informal consulting with scientists, administrators, and institutional press officers concerning methods of communicating science findings to the media.

Our press release distribution lists are revised on a daily basis; there were about 1400 subscribers at the end of the reporting period, including about 250 press officers.

5.2 National Meetings

5.2.1 The 204th Meeting, Denver, Colorado (30 May – June 3 2004)

Press Conferences at this meeting were notable for the many new findings from the Spitzer Space Telescope that were presented. However, media coverage of the meeting was most extensive concerning the address to the meeting by

then NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe, who announced that “In the same can-do spirit that propelled the first Hubble servicing mission, I am very pleased to inform this community that NASA is releasing a call for proposals today for a robotic Hubble servicing capability.”

5.2.2 The 205th Meeting, San Diego, California (9-13 January 2005)

There were nine press conferences at this meeting, as well as a Seminar for Science Writers on Moon Viewing by J.S. Young (U. Massachusetts). A Photo Opportunity centered on the unveiling of a spectacular new Hubble Heritage image of a barred spiral galaxy by P.M. Knezek (WIYN Observatory). A night-time Press Tour of Palomar Observatory, hosted by the California Institute of Technology, featured a dinner speech on the outer solar system by M.E. Brown (Caltech), and telescopic viewing of Saturn, Titan, and a bright comet under the first clear skies at Palomar in a few weeks, and despite roads that had just been cleared of a mudslide.

The press conferences included a briefing on the discovery of baryonic oscillations in the large-scale distribution of galaxies by representatives of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (D.J. Eisenstein, U. Arizona) and the 2dF Survey (R.S. Ellis, Caltech), which was coordinated with a quasi-simultaneous press conference in London, organized by the U.K.’s Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council. Through much collegial discussion, e-mail and transatlantic telephone calls, premature leaks of this very newsworthy finding by competing science teams, were avoided. Also achieving much notice in the media was a press conference on the possible discovery of the lost star catalogue of Hipparchus (B.E. Schaefer, Louisiana State U.).

Press receptions were kindly sponsored by Northrop Grumman Space Technology and by the Wilson Devereaux Company; we thank them both.

5.2.3 Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers, Kelley Knight of the Austin Astronomical Society and Richard Dreiser of Yerkes Observatory, who served as the Press Room Photographers at the San Diego and Denver meetings, respectively.

6. EDUCATION

No report submitted.

7. PUBLICATIONS BOARD

Sumner Starrfield, Chair
Publications Board

The annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society Publications Board (PB) was held at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle, WA, on November 15 and 16, 2004. The meeting was hosted by the *Astronomical Journal*. Diana Alexander arranged the hotel and a dinner to honor the retiring staff and editors of the *Astronomical Journal*. The Publications Board is grateful to Diana for her efforts. Diana Alexander will be retiring as meeting coordinator for the

AAS in December 2004 and the PB also wanted to thank her for her efforts over the years to provide superb locations for our meetings.

Attendees:

Publications Board: Joseph Cassinelli, Richard Green, Michael A’Hearn, Jane Charlton, Patrick Osmer, Sumner Starrfield, and Donna Colleti (library representative). Judy Karpen was unable to attend as was our incoming member, Virginia Trimble.

AAS Journal Editors: John S. Gallagher (*AJ* Editor, incoming), Margaret Hanson (*AJ* Associate Editor, incoming), Paul Hodge (*AJ*, retiring), Robert Kennicutt (*ApJ*), Chris Sneden (*ApJL*), Robert Milkey (*BAAS*), Ethan Vishniac (*ApJ* Associate Editor), Anita Makuluni (*AJ* Managing Editor, incoming)

Astrophysical Journal Scientific Editors: Linda Sparke, Paula Szkody

University of Chicago Press: Julie Steffen

PASP Editors: Anne Cowley, David Hartwick

AAS Executive Officer: Robert Milkey

Astronomy Librarian, University of Washington: Pamela Yorks

The Board extends its sincere thanks to Michael A’Hearn for four years of service which ends December 2004.

7.1 Journal and Publisher Status Reports

7.1.1 The Astrophysical Journal

R. Kennicutt reported on the status of the *Astrophysical Journal and Supplements*. The *Journal* continues to be extremely healthy. In contrast to large increases in submitted and published papers in the past two years, the number of submitted and published papers declined in 2004 by 1.3% and 1.4%, respectively. In addition, there was a decline of »6% in the number of published pages so that the average paper was shorter in 2004. The latter decrease is caused by authors increasing their use of on-line only tables and figures. The *ApJ* and *ApJ Supplements* continue to lead all astronomy journals in citations. The 2003 figures from the ISI show that there are an average of 6.6 citations/paper/year for the *ApJ* and 6.24 citations/paper/year for the Supplements. These values are exceeded only by review journals.

The *Supplements* published a record number of articles in 2004 (increases of 16% in pages, 17% in papers, and 36% in submitted articles [186] from November 2003 to October 2004). There was a *Supplements* issue on the first scientific results from the SPITZER mission. It began as a special issue of the *ApJ Letters* but that proved not to be feasible when the number of submitted papers exceeded any reasonable length for the *Letters*. Given the success of the previous special issues of the *Supplements* (The September 2003 WMAP issue has an enormous impact factor.), this issue was moved to the Supplements. Further special issues are planned.

Kennicutt is continuing to maintain tight criteria for waiving page charges.

Editorial Staff changes: Ethan Vishniac was promoted from Scientific Editor to Associate Editor-in-Chief, and Brian Chaboyer (Dartmouth College) and Brad Gibson

(Swinburne University) began terms as Scientific Editors. The Publications Board expresses its gratitude to these individuals for agreeing to serve the community in these important positions. Jim Liebert continues as Associate Editor-in-Chief. Kennicutt continued to poll authors about their satisfaction with the process of publishing in the *ApJ* and the results were strongly positive. More than 90% of the respondents expressed their satisfaction with the *Journal*. The time from acceptance to publication has remained at roughly 110 days and there was some discussion during the meeting about ways to speed this process. The *Astronomical Journal* has a time from acceptance to publication of 90 days and there is no clear reason why it takes about 2 weeks longer to publish the *ApJ*. The differences in time-to-publish will be investigated.

Kennicutt expressed his pleasure at the excellent interactions between the Tucson and Austin offices. Kennicutt and Sneden consult with each other regularly, especially on problem papers, and view their relationship as positive. This is extremely important since the Letters Editor can accept papers for Part 1. There have also been a number of positive interactions between the Tucson office and the new *Astronomical Journal* office being set up in Madison. Most of the discussions have involved setting up WPR in Madison. The PB expressed their gratitude to the Tucson and Austin offices for their assistance to the new *AJ* office.

Kennicutt also remarked on noticeable trends in the topics of the papers submitted to the *ApJ*. There have been increases in papers on gamma-ray bursts, extra-solar planets, debris and protoplanetary disks, and star formation theory. There has also been an increase in the number of Solar System papers.

The *ApJ* authors are also increasing their use of online materials such as Tables, Figures, codes, atlases, and online only color figures. During the past year, G. Schwarz and J. Muenning have worked closely with the editors to develop reader friendly schemes for rendering and accessing these data in the online journals.

The current Tucson staff consists of Janice Sexton and Teresa Banks. Some effort is being spent to insure that there are procedures in place to maintain the office in case of unforeseen absences.

New features at the UCP and WPR: the UCP has now implemented software that allows the authors to view electronic marked-up redline manuscripts. These are distributed with the electronic page proofs and show virtually all the copy editing changes made to a paper. AASTEX 5.2 allows object and dataset linking and tagging. This is being done in collaboration with the major astronomy data centers (CDS, ADS, NED). AASTEX has also implemented facility keywords to make it easier for the funding agencies to track the use of their facilities. The added capabilities have also involved G. Schwarz at the Tucson office.

7.1.2 The Astrophysical Journal Letters

C. Sneden reported on the Letters. He has now completed almost two years as Editor and has received 1931 papers of which 79% have been accepted (64% in the Letters and 15% in the Main Journal). He has also rejected 10% of

the submitted papers. There are still 337 papers pending. His staff at the University of Texas in Austin is John Scalo (Deputy Letters Editor), Elizabeth Korves (Office Manager), and Kevin Beck (Editorial Assistant). He has also named the following as Associate Editors: Piet Martens, Fulvio Melia, Anneila Sargent, and Michael Turner. They do not referee papers but assist in finding referees. Finally, he mentioned that there had been two special editions of the Letters, one on the RHESSI results and one on the GALEX results. Others are planned.

In order to speed the publication of the Letters, he and his staff are working hard to limit the length of the papers to 4 published pages. This past year only about 2% exceeded this limit. He reported that the average time to find a referee is about 8 days. It then takes about 2 weeks to receive the first referee's report, and if accepted it takes the UCP about 14 days to publish the paper. There is a sharp peak in obtaining referee's reports at the 14 day deadline. Unfortunately, 22 people will no longer be used as referees since they were unwilling to provide a report in a

reasonable length of time.

He also noted the following Editorial policies. In addition to the limit of four published pages, he allows two more pages for full page electronic online only figures and one online only table. There are no page charge waivers in the *Letters*.

7.1.3 Astronomical Journal

7.1.3.1 Paul Hodge – Retiring Editor

Paul Hodge reported that the *AJ* has continued to grow and remains strong. There will be 6900 pages in 2004 as opposed to 6700 in 2003. The Editorial office in Seattle currently consists of P. Hodge, J. Lutz, T. Smith, and C. Bradshaw.

The number of days for a paper in the December 2004 issue to be refereed ranged from 1 to 90 days with a median of 21 days. The median time to receive the revised paper from the author(s) was 24 days while the minimum time was zero days and the maximum time was 1333 days (so far). The median time from acceptance to print is 92 days. He also mentioned that, in constant dollars, the page charges have declined from \$145 in 1984 to \$110 in 2004. The reduction in page charges has resulted mainly from numerous improvements in the efficiency of the publication process at the UCP and Hodge thanked them for their efforts.

The transition from the Seattle office to the Madison office was discussed. It will happen over the New Year and should have minimal effects on the operation of the *AJ*. Articles informing the membership of the time of the change appeared in the December 2004 *AAS Newsletter* and on the *AJ* web pages. The transition will have occurred by the time of the AAS Council meeting in January and a report will be provided to the Council at that time.

Because of delays in getting WPR operating at Madison, Toby Smith will continue as assistant editor for at least 3 months into 2005 and Hodge will assist when necessary. The PB expressed their appreciation to Hodge and his staff for their work in making the *AJ* into one of the premier journals

in astronomy, and also for their assistance in moving the offices to Madison.

7.1.3.2 John S. Gallagher, Incoming Editor

J. Gallagher introduced his Associate Editor, Margaret Hanson, University of Cincinnati, and Managing Editor, Anita Makuluni, University of Wisconsin. The offices within the Department of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin, Madison are nearly complete and they should be able to move in by the time of the transition. The computers are up and running and the UCP has been working hard to get them up to speed on WPR, and to move the *AJ* archive and database from Seattle to Wisconsin. They are constructing new web pages that will become active by the end of 2004. They are currently receiving papers from Seattle to test their procedures and WPR at Madison. The tests appear to be working well and so far there are no “show stoppers” for the transition to occur on Dec 29, 2004. Tests of moving the database are underway. Please see the December 2004 newsletter for a description of the transition and the times. Gallagher expressed his appreciation for the help received from the *ApJ*, *ApJ Letters*, and UCP in the transition. This should be the most difficult transition for any of the Journals since, not only are the offices being moved, but an entire database has to be transferred from one system to another. Future changes in editorial offices should go more smoothly.

7.1.4 Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society

R. Milkey reported that there will be five issues of the *BAAS* in 2004. They published 43 Observatory/Department Reports in 575 pages (Issue 1). Issue 2 contained the abstracts of the AAS Denver meeting and the DDA meeting. Issue 3 contained the abstracts for the HEAD meeting in September 2004 and the late abstracts for the Denver meeting. Issue 4 contained the *AAS Annual Report* and the program and abstracts for the DPS meeting in November 2004. Issue 5 will contain the program and abstracts for the San Diego AAS meeting to be held in January 2005. This issue will also contain 23 obituaries. The entire volume will be about 1600 pages. While this is more than budgeted, efforts by the AIP should result in hardly any increase in cost. The *BAAS* has also published two papers by Helmut Abt. One on *Incorrect Journal Impact Factors* and the other on *What Kinds of Astronomical Papers are Still Referenced 50 years after Publication*. Another contribution by G. Schwarz and R. Kennicutt, *Demographic and Citation Trends in Astrophysical Journal Papers and Preprints*, has been accepted for publication, but not yet scheduled. One item of note in this paper is that placing a manuscript in astro-ph doubles the citations over just placing the article in the *ApJ*. The falling number of Observatory reports and the report by the Historical Astronomy Division that most of the published information is not useful to historians was discussed in detail by the PB. A recommendation to discontinue publication of the Reports (in 2006) has been forwarded to the AAS Council for their action.

7.1.5 Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific

The PASP is not an AAS journal and it has its own Publications Board. However, it is also published by the UCP and their editors, Anne Cowley and David Hartwick, are invited to the Publications Board meeting to make a brief report on the status of their journal. The editors noted that they are continuing to solicit papers in instrumentation associated areas. They also publish review articles. Cowley commented on the discussion of Open Access to the AAS Journals that was to occur later in the meeting. Changing to Open Access would hurt the PASP since they receive about 60% of their budget from subscriptions and only 40% from page charges.

7.1.6 Library Issues

The new representative of the Library Association, D. Coletti, was present to express the concerns of the Librarians. She discussed the present relationship with for-profit publishers such as Elsevier Press. She then discussed the ADS which many people believe is free and obviates the need for a library. In fact, it is not free. It is supported by NASA via competitive grants and, a typical user only has access to the older issues of the journals. A user will not have access to recent journals unless the library has purchased a subscription. Finally, most libraries need a paper copy of their journals for general readers, and most meeting proceedings are not online so that copies in the library are necessary.

7.2 University of Chicago Press

J. Steffen (Associate Journals Manager and Director, Astronomy Journals) reported on developments at the UCP. She announced that the UCP has appointed two new executive level managers, C. Heiser and A. Gibson. Heiser became the CFO and Deputy Director for Administration. Gibson became the IT manager at the UCP. The UCP has also hired a new editor for the Books Division, J. Howard, and the Press plans to increase its publications in the physical sciences. In addition, Robert Shirrell has retired from the UCP after 32 years at the Press and 20 years as Journals Division Manager. The Publications Board is grateful to him for all his efforts in improving the AAS journals and wish him well in his retirement.

There were strong interactions between the UCP, plus other publishers, and the Federal Office of Foreign Asset Control to change a ruling that made it illegal for publishers to edit and publish papers from authors in countries under a trade embargo by the US. The ruling was relaxed in April 2004 but many questions remain.

She informed us that the NIH issued a notice, for public comment, that would require that a manuscript reporting research funded in whole or in part by the NIH be posted online at the NIH six months after publication in a scientific journal. The PB discussed the implications of this notice in the section on Open Access (Section 5).

The UCP Journals Division implemented a new subscription fulfillment system in January 2004 and the UCP

implemented a new database for the production process in September 2004. This system tracks content and events after manuscript acceptance and includes all versions of the text and graphics files of the manuscript. The primary users are the AAS journal production and editorial staff. This database will become available via the web to authors early in 2005.

WPR 3.0 is now being used by all AAS astronomy journals (the *AJ* will begin on January 1, 2005). There is a great deal of new technology in WPR 3.0 and it is much more flexible. The changes should have been transparent to authors and referees.

The UCP is working on updating and improving the LaTeX style file emulateapj. Although most useful in trying to keep manuscripts to the 4-page length of the Letters, it is also useful in submitting manuscripts to astro-ph.

The AAS has a contract with the UCP that encourages ontime or better publication plus high standards for the publications. They have also implemented new performance criteria for collection and reporting of accounts receivable for page charges and reprints. This has resulted in tighter and faster administration of open accounts benefiting both the UCP and AAS.

7.3 Budget

R. Milkey presented the budgets of the Journals and then gave a review of the process by which the budgets are determined. The AAS operates the journals on at “at cost” basis and the UCP publishes the Journals on a cost plus fixed fee basis (there is no overhead charge by the UCP). The Journal budget pays directly for Editorial operations (the editorial offices), editor searches, and Publications Board meetings. The AAS assesses a fee of 5% of expenses for oversight.

The budget is developed in a two day meeting at the UCP in the Spring of each year. Present are the Journal Editors, the AAS Treasurer and Executive Officer, and senior management of the UCP Journals division. They review the previous year’s costs and revenues and then project those into the current and coming years. Items that are included in this review are the Page Count and Institution and Member Circulation. The goals for net revenue are determined by the AAS Bylaws which set a minimum reserve in the journal accounts of 50% and also the requirement by the Council that the reserves actually be between 60% and 70%. These values have been adhered to for many years.

He then presented the results of the last budget review. The page charges for members will remain at \$110 per page for the Main Journal and \$155 for the Letters. There has also been a decrease in the charge for the first color figure in an article from \$600 to \$150. Adjusted for inflation, these continue to be the lowest values for the past 20 years.

The subscription rates will be reported to the Council at the San Diego AAS meeting. Briefly, for members the electronic only subscription rate continues at \$50; *ApJ* (printed plus electronic) \$325, *ApJ* (print only) \$250; Supplements (print only) \$55; *AJ* (print plus electronic) \$130; and *AJ* (print only) \$100.

At the present time, there are less than 300 AAS members subscribing to print copies of the *ApJ*. There are less

than 900 institutional *ApJ* subscribers. There are over 600 AAS members subscribing to the electronic only journals.

7.4 Journal Access to Tier 1 Countries

R. Milkey led a discussion on providing journal access (on-line only) to students and researchers in developing countries. He has been in contact with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). This organization is based in the U.K. and conducts a program to provide low cost access to on-line scientific publications for institutions in the poorest countries of the world. INASP handles all the contacts with the recipients so that there is no burden to the Society. The AAS and INASP have now drafted a license agreement that deals with countries that currently have no subscriptions to our journals. The first year is granted at no cost. In subsequent years, the license covers all institutions in the country for a total fee of 10% or less of the current electronic-only license for the journals. The PB was very supportive of these efforts and endorsed the use of the INASP to continue its efforts to provide access to the AAS journals in developing countries. A motion was forwarded to the AAS Council supporting Milkey’s efforts.

7.5 Future of Print Journals and Open Access

R. Milkey continued with a discussion of the future of print journals and open access. He noted that less than 10% of institutional subscriptions are electronic only. Libraries want paper copies and the AAS journals are a bargain. Therefore, they are likely to continue as subscribers. There are many questions with regards to how an electronic only journal will work. For example, how will page numbers be decided? How will an issue be determined - by a given number of papers?

How will the length of a printed page be decided? These are questions (and others) that are under discussion. In any case, we are starting these discussion now so as to be prepared for any paradigm shift in the future. What must happen is that the Editors will propose answers to the Publications Board which will then make recommendations to the Council for their approval. Input from the membership will be a necessary part of the process. The current driving force for Open Access is the demand by NIH that any research supported in part or whole by NIH must be deposited in a central repository 6 months after publication in a journal. There are discussion within Congress to make this a requirement of all federally supported research. This will affect our Journals because the AAS currently does not allow online access to published work until 3 years have passed.

If we are forced to require access after 6 months, it will make subscriptions less important. In this case, we would probably increase page charges to replace the monies lost by a reduction in subscriptions so as to keep the journals healthy. Nevertheless, there is a strong argument against a shorter proprietary period: the Federal government only pays a partial cost of the research. In addition, authors have a right, under the AAS copyright, to take their published papers and post them on any website. The society and the UCP are following the developments closely. Finally, the UCP

already has a 6 month access period for 3 of its medical journals and can include the astronomy journals if necessary.

7.6 Data Linking

R. Kennicutt and G. Schwarz discussed the efforts of the journals to introduce data linking and tags into the Journals. This is being done in collaboration with NED, CDS, and the ADS. This capability already exists for some articles and the ADS. For example, papers in the ADS that use CHANDRA data can, through links on the ADS pages, get to the CHANDRA archives. The journals are also in the process of adding facility keywords to articles. This will be voluntary and allow the various agencies to more easily track the use of their facilities.

7.7 Executive Session I

The Publications Board met on Monday afternoon in Executive Session with the editors and UCP present. Some of the issues discussed were setting policies in pricing the journals, the future of the the *ApJ Supplements*, Ethical Guidelines for authorship in our journals, management changes at the UCP, and other topics.

7.8 Retirement Party for Paul Hodge

This publication board meeting marked the last time that Paul Hodge would be giving a report to or attending the Publication Board meeting as the *AJ* Editor. Diana Alexander assisted us in organizing a party for him at an Italian restaurant. In addition to those attending the PB meeting, the *AJ* staff were also invited. In order to emphasize the continuity of the *AJ* editorship, J. Gallagher read a tribute to Paul that he and M. Hanson wrote and then presented him with a gift from the Society. This was followed by J. Steffen of the UCP who presented Paul with a framed copy of an *AJ* cover. We then photographed the current staff and the new staff of the *AJ*. Finally, Diana Alexander is retiring as meetings coordinator for the AAS as of December 2004 and this will be the last PB meeting that she organizes. We toasted her retirement, expressed our thanks for her service to the Society and the PB, and wished her well in her retirement. The following is the tribute to Paul:

Awarded to Paul Hodge in appreciation of his service to astronomy as Editor of the *Astronomical Journal* from 1985 through 2004.

Under your Editorship the *Astronomical Journal* reflected the dynamism and progress of astronomy over a quarter century. Indeed, this progress can be seen in the variety of images that you selected for the *Astronomical Journal's* distinctive covers. During your term as Editor, astronomy expanded its horizons from a mostly earth-based enterprise, heavily weighted towards optical observations, to become a multi-wavelength endeavor carried out from the ground and space. This period also saw the growth of international activity, a diversity which also became characteristic of articles in the *Astronomical Journal*. Of course the Journal itself evolved, most profoundly moving under your guidance from an all paper operation to, pioneering in your office, one based on electronic exchanges of information. The *AJ* boldly

went where the AAS had not gone before. You piloted the Journal through this transition so smoothly that most of us did not even recognize the profound nature of what had happened until it was well over. Above all, you maintained the highest standards of professionalism and fairness at the *Astronomical Journal*. As a result the *Journal* has grown to become a key component of the international astronomical literature. As we enter into the 21st century, all of us thank you for the dedication and excellence that you have brought to the

Astronomical Journal and to astronomy.

7.9 Consulting Editors for the *Astrophysical Journal*

The PB met again in open session on Tuesday, November 16th to consider a request from Kennicutt to name Consulting Editors for the *ApJ*. These will be people who will provide advice on selecting referees in areas not currently covered by the Scientific Editors. For example, there are an increasing number of Solar System papers submitted to the *ApJ* but, not yet, in sufficient numbers to require the efforts of a single SE. This request was approved by the PB and forwarded to the Council for their action.

7.10 Fate of the Journal Subject Indexes

R. Milkey brought a proposal for consideration by the PB to reduce the number of printed indexes because of the increased availability of online searches. Currently the Journals publish both subject and author indexes at the end of each volume. The proposal is to publish only the author index once per year. This will save the Society about \$30,000 per year. The PB approved the request and forwarded it to the Council for their action.

7.11 Advanced Posting of Part 1 Articles

R. Kennicutt presented a proposal by the UCP to begin advance posting of Part I articles about two weeks before the online issue appears. The PB discussed this proposal but did not feel a need to have individual articles available shortly before the actual issue appears. They felt that the effort should go instead to reduce the time from acceptance to publication of the *Journal*.

7.12 Suggested AAS Editor Search Procedures

Given the recently concluded and successful search for the *AJ* Editor, it was decided to place the search procedures developed for that search in the PB Minutes in case of another Editor search. These are meant as suggestions only and to ease the initial stages of the next search.

Suggested Guidelines for an American Astronomical Society Editor Search:

1. The Publications Board (PB) will “choose” a Chair of the Search Committee who is not on the PB. (The Chair should not be a member of the PB since the Search Committee reports to the PB.) The choice of Chair will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the AAS for their approval.

2. The Publications Board and the Chair of the Search Committee will prepare Guidelines for the search and present them to the Executive Committee of the AAS Council for their review.

3. The Chair of the Publication Board will write a short article for the AAS Newsletter announcing the impending retirement of the Editor, thanking him or her for their service, and outlining the search for a successor.

4. The Publications Board and the Chair of the Search Committee will nominate a Search Committee. The names of the prospective members of the Search Committee will then be submitted to the Executive Committee and the AAS Council for their approval. The total number should not exceed 6 including one representative Editor from an AAS Journal. The AAS Executive Officer will serve as a non-voting member of the Search Committee.

5. The Search Committee will develop the Search Criteria and Deadlines and submit them to the Publications Board for their approval. The Criteria and Deadlines will be conveyed to the AAS Council for their information.

6. The Search Committee will prepare an advertisement to be placed in *Physics Today*, the *AAS Job Register*, and sent out on the AAS email exploder. A major responsibility of the Search Committee is to identify, approach, and solicit nominations and applications from likely candidates. The Search Committee should schedule teleconferences on a timely basis to identify possible candidates and discuss the progress of the search.

7. The Search Committee will give full consideration to all applications received before the deadline. An application will consist of (at least) a cover letter, CV, bibliography, and names of three references. The cover letter should provide a statement of how the candidate plans to manage the Editorial office, their vision for the future of the Journal, and evidence of institutional support for him or her to assume the editorship. The Search Committee may require additional materials. The advertisement should be open-ended in case no acceptable candidate has applied by the initial deadline.

8. All application materials will be sent to the Chair of the Search Committee in care of the Executive Office of the AAS. The Executive Office will keep all documents related to the Search. The Executive Office will distribute the applications to the Search Committee on a time scale set by the Committee.

9. The Search Committee will then choose a short list of candidates to be interviewed in person. (This can be done by a teleconference.) After a short list has been chosen, their references will be contacted by telephone and asked to answer a set of questions determined by the Search Committee.

10. The Search Committee will interview candidates on the short list at a location convenient for travel. The Executive Office will assist with arrangements. The interviews should take place at least two to three weeks before the next Publications Board meeting. Each interview will explore the qualifications of the individual, his/her plans for the operation of the Editors office, and his/her vision for the future of the *Journal*, plus any other items desired by the Search Committee.

11. The Search Committee will review the results of the

interviews and prepare a rank ordered short list for the Publications Board. This list should contain a detailed summary of the interviews and the reasons for their ranking.

12. The Publications Board will meet in Executive Session to recommend a final candidate and no more than two or three alternatives. The Chair of the Search Committee, in consultation with the rest of the committee, will prepare a detailed summary of each candidate on the short list. This list plus supporting documents will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the AAS and, if they agree, will then be submitted to the Council at their next meeting for final approval in Executive Session.

13. Once the final candidate is selected, negotiations will be conducted by the Executive Officer. Negotiations should begin as soon as possible after the end of the AAS Council meeting. The Executive Officer should plan on visits to the new offices on a regular basis.

14. Timeline: Working backward, it will take about one year from the AAS Council meeting for negotiations to be concluded with the new editor and his/her host institution. It will take at least six months for the search given approval by the AAS Council to begin the search. Since the PB meets in late Fall of a given year (there is a two to three month interval from PB meeting to Council meeting), we need to add at least another three months to this process. Then we need to add the time to find a search committee Chair and form a search committee with AAS Council approval. This implies at least two years from the notice of an impending search to the end of the editorial transition. The PB and the AAS Council should discuss ways of speeding this process. We note that the recently concluded search for an *AJ* editor began in June 2002 and will end in early Spring 2005.

8. DIVISIONS

8.1 Solar Physics Division

James A. Klimchuck, Chair

8.1.1 Introduction

The Solar Physics Division (SPD) is healthy, vibrant, and growing. Its purpose is the advancement of the study of the Sun and the coordination of such research with other branches of science. Any member of the AAS may join the SPD by application to the Treasurer of the SPD. Affiliate membership is provided for persons who are not members of the AAS but who are members of another recognized scientific society with interests related to solar physics. Membership in the SPD as of May 22, 2005 stood at 352 full, 50 associate, 64 emeritus, 38 junior (student), and 62 affiliate for a total of 566 members. Annual dues are \$8 for AAS members and \$10 for affiliates.

8.1.2 Officers and Committees

The SPD officers in the year preceeding the May 2005 annual meeting were Edward DeLuca (Chair), James Klimchuk (Vice-Chair), Neal Hurlburt (Secretary), and Joan Schmelz (Treasurer). The regular Committee members were Thomas Ayres, Thomas Bogdan, Douglas Braun, Steven Cranmer, and John Leibacher. At the conclusion of the meet-

ing, Klimchuk took over as Chair, DeLuca become Vice-Chair, and Harry Warren and Gordon Holman replaced Bogdan and Cranmer.

The 2004-2005 Nominating Committee consisted of Brian Dennis (Chair), George Fisher, and Therese Kucera. The Prize Committee consisted of Terry Forbes (Chair), Lindsay Fletcher, Leon Golub, John Harvey, and David Hathaway. Gordon Emslie chaired the SPD Studentship Committee. The SPD liaisons were Thomas Ayres (stellar astronomy), James Chen (plasma physics), Victor Pizzo (solar-terrestrial physics), and Vahé Petrosian (high-energy physics). SPD members Tim Bastian and John Mariska served as scientific editors for the *Astrophysical Journal*.

8.1.3 Divisions Awards and Prizes

The SPD sponsors several prizes. The George Ellery Hale Prize, awarded for outstanding contributions to solar physics over an extended period of time, was given to Spiro Antiochos of the Naval Research Laboratory “for his work on the thermodynamics and stability of coronal magnetic fields and for his outstanding public service to the solar research community.” The Karen L. Harvey Prize, awarded for a significant contribution to the study of the Sun early in a person’s professional career, was given to Sarah Gibson of the High Altitude Observatory “for her research on the role of helical magnetic fields in the structure and dynamics of the solar corona.” The Popular Writing Award in the science writer/journalist category was given to Curt Suplee, Director of the National Science Foundation’s Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, for his article “The Sun: Living with a Stormy Star” that appeared in the July 2004 issue of *National Geographic*. The award in the scientist category was given to Charles Liu, Professor of Astrophysics in the Department of Engineering Science and Physics, College of Staten Island, CUNY, for his article “Our Stormy Sun” in the February 2004 issue of *Natural History* magazine.

8.1.4 Meetings

The 2005 annual meeting of the SPD was held jointly with the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in New Orleans on May 23-27. Many excellent oral and poster presentations were given on a wide range of topics, including the solar dynamo, helioseismology, sunspots, coronal loops and heating, flares, coronal mass ejections, the solar wind, and new instrumentation. The program listed 214 SPD general contributions, but many other presentations by SPD members were given in AGU special sessions on solar and solar-related topics. The following students received awards with financial support from the SPD to attend the meeting: Lokesh Bharti (Mohanlal Sukhadia Univ., India), Na Deng (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Yanwei Jiang (Stanford Univ.), Rui Liu (Rice Univ.), Jennifer Roames (Univ. of Memphis), and Anne Sandman (Rice Univ.). The SPD will have a stand-alone meeting at the University of New Hampshire in 2006 and will meet jointly with the AAS in Hawaii in 2007.

8.1.5 Communications

The SPD electronic newsletter, *SolarNews*, continues to be distributed twice per month. Current and back issues are available at <http://www.gong.noao.edu/SolarNews>. Further information about the SPD and an online membership application form can be obtained from the Division’s WWW site at <http://www.spd.aas.org>.

8.2 Division for Planetary Sciences – no report submitted

8.3 Division on Dynamical Astronomy – no report submitted

8.4 High Energy Astrophysics Division Roger Blandford, Chair

This has been a banner year for High Energy Astrophysics. Swift was greeted, almost immediately after launch, with a giant, magnetar explosion. Suzaku, despite the tragic loss of the XRS, is performing well and promises much. Great progress has been made on sorting out the mysteries of Gamma Ray Bursts using a flotilla of space- and ground-based telescopes. Chandra, XMM-Newton and R-XTE have been used to study supernova blast waves, white dwarf binaries with five minute periods and kHz QPOs from neutron stars. They have discovered fossil radio sources in clusters of galaxies and are being used to make quantitative, cosmological measurements with increased precision. High energy astrophysicists have helped elucidate the stellar content of our Galactic center with implications for all galactic nuclei. The discoveries of new classes of TeV sources by H.E.S.S., the early results from Auger and the promise of GLAST, Amanda, IceCube, VERITAS, LIGO remind us that there are many more gateways to the universe to explore. The long term future of high energy astrophysics lies with the Beyond Einstein and Explorer programs and HEAD members nervously wait to learn their future under the upcoming budget.

The Division sponsored two well-attended sessions at the Washington AAS on Dark Energy and TeV gamma ray astronomy. In addition, Stan Woosley gave an outstanding Rossi lecture on the collapsar model of gamma ray bursts. The next Rossi Prize will be shared by Deepto Chakrabarti, Tod Strohmayer and Rudy Wijnands for discovering millisecond spin periods and analyzing the properties of kiloHertz QPOs in accreting, neutron star binaries.

As I step down after a busy two years, I pass on my best wishes to my successor Steve Murray and my thanks to Christine Jones and Ilana Harrus for their sterling work as Secretary-Treasurer and Press Officer respectively.

8.5 Historical Astronomy Division

Don Yeomans, Chair

8.5.1 Overview

The AAS-Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) celebrated its 25th year in 2005 and the HAD continues to grow and prosper. This is a report of the HAD activities from 1 June 2004 through 31 May 2005.

The current HAD officers are Donald Yeomans (Chair), Sara Schechner (Vice-Chair), Ronald Brashear (Secretary/Treasurer) and committee members Peter Abrahams and Daniel Green. Thomas Williams (ex-Chair) serves as the current Chair for the Doggett Award Committee. HAD Newsletters, published by Ron Brashear, were issued in June and October 2004 and in February 2005 (see www.aas.org/~had/hadnews.html).

8.5.2 Meetings

The HAD met in San Diego on 9-10 January 2005 as part of the larger AAS 205th meeting. Two themes of this meeting were the Centennial of the Mount Wilson Observatory and the 25th anniversary of the founding of HAD. Talks included one by George Preston (Carnegie Observatories) on ‘Mount Wilson Staff Reaction to Light Pollution’ and one by Brenda Corbin (USNO) entitled ‘Twenty-five years of history as revealed in the H.A.D. Newsletters.’

The next scheduled HAD meeting will occur in Cambridge England in conjunction with the DPS meeting there on 4-9 September 2005. HAD will participate in four DPS plenary sessions by sponsoring an historical talk on the theme of the sessions. On Monday, for a DPS session on the Cassini mission, HAD will feature a paper by Albert Van Helden on the Saturn observations by Cassini and Huygens. On Tuesday, for a DPS session on the Mars Explorer, HAD will feature a paper by Richard McKim on the history of observations of Martian dust storms. On Wednesday, for a DPS session on Deep Impact, HAD will feature a paper by Michael Hoskin on Caroline Herschel’s comet observations and on Thursday, the DPS will have a session on the SMART-1 mission and HAD plans to feature a talk by Peter Schultz on the development of the impact hypotheses for lunar cratering. The HAD paper sessions on Monday through Wednesday will all start with a joint plenary session. All in all, there will be the potential of having up to 27.5 hours’ worth of historical astronomy papers at the Cambridge meeting. In addition, poster papers will be on display for the entire 3 days of the HAD meeting. During these latter sessions, there will be sessions on the history of radio astronomy, cosmology, and planetary science. After the HAD plenary session on Thursday morning, the group will engage in a tour with possible sites being the Whipple Museum of Scientific Instruments and the Greenwich Observatory Archives (www.dps2005.org). Future meetings, in conjunction with the AAS, include one in Washington, DC (Jan 2006) and the following one in Seattle, WA (Jan 2007).

8.5.3 Preservation of Historical Sites (UNESCO/ICOMOS Project)

The AAS recently received a request from UNESCO for funds to support their world astronomical heritage initiative. The initiative is a grandiose plan to designate astronomical sites around the world as important and obtain funds for their preservation. At a recent UNESCO meeting on the matter, the RAS donated \$10,000 toward the initiative. AAS asked HAD if AAS should contribute as well. After some discussion among HAD members, HAD said that the initiative should not be funded at this time. HAD felt that the program

is poorly defined, it has no principal investigators, its objectives are vague, and the time period and objects involved are a bit ‘fuzzy’ (e.g. Torun was a site, and the night sky is an astronomical ‘object’). There was also an initiative to have 2009 declared as the ‘Year of the Telescope,’ and that seemed like something HAD & AAS should participate in. HAD advised the AAS that there is some need to identify, designate, and preserve historically important objects. Steve McCluskey & David DeVorkin have agreed to co-chair a HAD committee to begin looking into what we should be doing along these lines. The idea is to have a small group look at the problem and report at the 2006 HAD meeting with a charter statement as to how a permanent committee should be charged and work.

Tom Williams will organize a workshop at the upcoming Notre Dame meeting (July 7-10, 2005) to discuss the various issues of identifying, designating, and preserving historic astronomical sites. Panelists for this discussion include Harry Butowsky of the National Park Service, Richard Kron, emeritus director of Yerkes Observatory, and Clive Ruggles, archaeoastronomer from the University of Leicester, UK.

8.5.4 HAD Bibliography

Peter Abrahams announced that he has made a start at a bibliography of history of astronomy works in 2003-04 in English. He will make this accessible to everyone now that Ruth Freitag is no longer preparing these bibliographies for HAD. He will look into getting partners to include foreign language works and expand this project.

8.5.5 Observatory Reports

HAD supported the contention that current Observatory annual reports were not historically useful and could be dispensed with. HAD did suggest that a general template be put in place to allow observatory directors to more easily submit data to the AAS that will be useful for historians. AAS have asked HAD to help determine what data should be included in such a template. HAD has indicated in a previous report what data its members felt were important, so they will re-send this to AAS.

8.5.6 AAS Obituaries

Edited by Don Yeomans, there were 24 obituaries published for 2004 in the *BAAS* (Vol. 36, No. 5, pp. 1665-1692). All but one of these obituaries included portrait photos. Among those recently departed are Joseph Chamberlain (1928 – 2004), Thomas Donahue (1921 – 2004), Thomas Gold (1920 – 2004), Janet Mattei (1943 – 2004), Bev Oke (1928 – 2004), and Fred Whipple (1906 – 2004). Sara Schechner will be the AAS obituary editor for 2005-06.

9. COMMITTEES

9.1 Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy

David Black, Chair and Kevin B. Marvel, Deputy Executive Officer

9.1.1 Communications

This year was a very active year for the Committee. The large number of government actions related to astronomy and space science was the main cause for much of the activity of the committee, but the committee has also begun to be more proactive and is beginning to work actively to help shape policy.

CAPP “meets” through the use of e-mail discussions and teleconferences. This method results in active debate and ultimately a consensus view on any particular issue, which either results in no action being advocated or the issuance of an Action Alert, Informational Email or other action. The Committee, through the executive office, has maintained liaison with other professional societies and coalitions, which are engaged in closely related informational activities.

In 2004, eight AAS Action Alerts and thirteen AAS Informational Emails were sent to AAS members residing in the US advocating various grassroots activities or informing them of policy issues of direct interest. As of 1 May, two Action Alerts and twelve (12) Informational Emails have been distributed in 2005. This large number of member-communications represents a continuation of the very dynamic policy environment this year.

The coming 3-5 years will be characterized by flat or declining budgets for most federal agencies. The continuation of the tax cut, costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other government expenditures will continue to place fiscal pressure on domestic discretionary spending. In this context, the proposed budget growth in the President’s FY2006 budget for NASA and NSF is heartening, but with inflation at a level approaching 2.0%, the small increases provided must be taken with a grain of salt. NSF’s division of astronomical sciences was proposed to grow by 1.8% (to \$198.64M) while NASA’s R&D budget (as defined by the AAAS) was slated to increase by 4.6% to \$11.497B. Across all federal agencies funding R&D, NASA ranked fourth in largest percentage increase with Energy R&D (through DOE), DoD and Transportation all receiving larger percentages.

The departure of Administrator O’Keefe from NASA and subsequent appointment of Michael Griffin as his replacement has put many NASA-related policy issues in limbo. Public statements by Dr. Griffin indicate he is willing to reconsider a servicing mission to the HST, but only in light of successful RTF launches. It is planned to invite him to address the AAS winter meeting in January 2006. A short list of current policy issues related to NASA includes 1) the HST servicing question, 2) impacts from a variety of causes, either financially or schedule-wise on other Space Science missions or activities, 3) near- and long-term impact of the Vision for Space Exploration on NASA activities, especially science research, 4) proposal to designate all NASA centers as FFRDCs (led by Tom Delay of Texas), 5) revamping of advisory structures to NASA’s former Office of Space Science, 6) NASA’s current development of a “strategic roadmap” and 7) continued impact of policies related to export licensing on the space science community.

The past year saw the appointment of a new NSF Administrator, Dr. Arden Bement, formerly the director of

NIST. Of primary concern to the AAS in the coming few months is a Senior Review of all NSF-AST activities outside of the grants program. Announced by letter in April of this year, the organizations that operate the National Facilities received a letter indicating that a Senior Review would take place over a fast timescale in order to impact the FY2008 budget. Community input was directed to be sought and the facilities were directed to prioritize all of their activities and submit a report on them to the AST by July 31, 2005. The specific goal of the review is “to examine the impact and the gains we might experience by redistributing \$30M of annual spending from Division funds.” The letter (from Dr. Wayne Van Citters, AST director) goes on to state that money must be freed up to help begin the implementation of the Decadal survey. The letter specifically states “These funds would be obtained by selective reductions in the operations of existing facilities.” Because of the potential impact of such a redistribution, the AAS is carefully following this issue and providing assistance where possible to all of the facilities under review (e.g. sending out communications, hosting discussion forums, seeking community input etc.).

Action Alerts and Informational Emails are archived on the AAS Public Policy web pages, which also provide other policy-related information and resources. Special pages, developed initially by AAS full member Juan Cabanela, provide members a graphical interface to determine the addresses of their representatives and senators. This service is provided free to the AAS due to our early sponsorship of its development, but it is now a commercially available service (not managed by the AAS). In response to a request from the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee, the AAS is no longer hosting the committee’s homepage. It is now hosted by the NSF, because it is now possible for the support staff to quickly update the page when necessary. We were happy to have provided this service since the inception of the committee.

Articles have appeared in the *AAS Newsletter* describing the Committee’s work and advocating action on the part of the membership. The Committee continues to expand the scope of its work and improve its communication with the membership.

9.1.2 Congressional Visits Day

In May 2005, CAPP members and early career AAS members participated in the tenth annual Congressional Visits Day program. The participants visited more than 45 Congressional or Committee offices and had several face-to-face meetings with members of Congress. The AAS continues to host the web pages for the CVD event, which may be accessed through www.setcvd.org.

CVD begins with a full day of executive branch briefings and is followed by a second day of visits on Capitol Hill. An informational briefing at AAS headquarters by Craig Foltz and Vernon Pankonin of the NSF-AST division began the first day of the event. After a briefing on the current policy environment (by Deputy Executive Officer Marvel), the group then traveled to NASA Headquarters for a briefing by Dr. Anne Kinney, Director of the Universe Division. The day concluded with briefings from senior staff

from the Hill as well as administration staff. An award ceremony and reception followed the briefings, where Representative Ehlers (MI) and Senator Bingaman (NM) received the George E. Brown, Jr. award from the SETWG.

On the second day, in addition to visits with members of Congress, the group had a special one-hour meeting with the OMB staff responsible for the NSF, NASA and DoE office of Science budgets.

The participants deemed the event successful and a number of suggestions from the participants will be included in planning for next year's event. The Committee would like to thank the following people for their time and effort as participants in this event: David Black, Dan Lester, D.J. Pisano, Joan Burkepille, Jim Klimchuk, Alyssa Goodman, Jon Morse, Allison Loll, Sandy Eulitt, Rachel Akeson and Rita Sambruna. Some pictures from CVD2005 are included at the end of this report.

9.1.3 AAAS Research and Development Report

Deputy Executive Officer Kevin B. Marvel again authored a chapter on Astronomy in the FY 2006 budget for the AAAS R&D report. A copy of this book will be available soon in PDF format at the AAAS public policy website. Copies of the book were sent to council. The Public Policy intern helped author the chapter again this year, one of the attractions of our public policy intern position. The point of the chapter is to highlight items in the budget that may draw attention from Congressional staff and provide enough background and context so that Congressional staff will understand the project or activity from a policy point of view. It is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of all astronomy projects funded by the federal government.

9.1.4 Various Other Activities

The AAS will participate again in the Coalition for National Science Funding's Hill exhibition, held this year on June 21. Each year the coalition sponsors an evening exhibition where NSF funded research is presented. The AAS sponsors a booth and asks NSF-AST for advice on what group or individual to invite. This year the National Solar Observatory will be featured. In 2004, the CARMA observatory was highlighted.

CAPP calls upon the members of the AAS Council to set an example for the membership of active engagement in the democratic process. Write regularly and often, as the saying goes.

9.2 Employment Committee

Andrea Schweitzer, Chair and Kevin Marvel, Associate Executive Officer

9.2.1. Charge

Studies the problems of unemployment and job placement in astronomy and suggests ways to expand the job placement service of the Society.

9.2.2. Current Membership

Andrea E. Schweitzer (1999-2005), Chair (2001-2005)
 Christopher Conselice (2002-2005)
 Anita Krishnamurthi (2002-2005)
 Bruce Balick (2003-2006)
 Karen S. Bjorkman (2003-2006)
 Kirk D. Borne (2003-2006)
 Michael N. Fanelli (2004-2007)
 Frederic A. Rasio (2004-2007)
 Lisa Storrie-Lombardi (2004-2007)
 Ex-Officio: Robert Milkey (Executive Officer)
 Kevin Marvel (Associate Executive Officer)

9.2.3. Activities at the Winter 2005 AAS Meeting in San Diego

9.2.3.1. Job Hunting, An Introduction (AAS Career Workshop)

The AAS continued to sponsor this career workshop for astronomers seeking employment. The workshop covered current trends in the current job market, and offered advice on resources for jobs in astronomy, statistics of employment and education, networking strategies, resume writing tips, and information on how to prepare for an interview.

This workshop was presented by Jennifer Giesler, an expert on careers for scientists and former director of the career services division of the American Geophysical Union.

9.2.3.2. Special Session on Employment

Comparing Career Options: Academic, Science Centers and Industry

This was a panel discussion with:

Academic - Mike Eracleous, PSU

Science center - Deborah Levine, Spitzer Science Center

Industry - John Miles, Lockheed-Martin

The Employment Committee did a survey at the Atlanta AAS meeting, asking for input regarding topics for future employment sessions. The survey results indicated strong interest in more information about non-traditional career paths. Thus, the Employment Committee is sponsoring a panel to present, discuss and contrast the three most common career directions that early-career astronomers consider: academic, science centers and industry.

The session was well attended (over 100).

9.2.3.3. *Graduate Reception* The early evening reception was attended by about 50-75 grad students and about 5-10 employers. At the follow-up EC teleconference, we discussed the importance of personally inviting employers at the AAS meeting, to improve employer attendance (which has worked well at previous meetings).

Lockheed Martin provided \$1500 in sponsorship. At the previous Denver meeting, Ball Aerospace also sponsored the reception for \$1500, so the AAS industry partners have been ongoing supporters of these receptions.

9.2.4. Activities at the Summer 2005 AAS Meeting in MN

9.2.4.1. Special Session on Employment

Institutional Solutions to the Two-body Problem

Co-sponsored by the EC and CSWA.

Will be held: Thursday, 10:00-11:30am, 102 B

The Committee on the Status of Women (CSWA), in conjunction with the Employment Committee (EC), will hold a special session that will focus on institutional approaches to solving the "two-body problem". In step with the national employment trend, for the majority of astronomers with partners, those partners work outside the home. This is particularly true for female astronomers, who generally are married to professionals (and often to other astronomers). Academic and professional institutions that employ the majority of astronomers are now beginning to recognize the importance of addressing what has come to be known as the "two-body" problem in order to attract and retain the best scientists. A few of those institutions are making pioneering efforts to create pro-active approaches to the issue of dual-career couples. The special session will feature two or three speakers involved with the administration at institutions with pro-active policies.

This special session will be coupled with the normal afternoon CSWA session, which will focus on the other side of the issue - how dual-career couples have successfully approached the issue at institutions that do NOT have proactive policies. The CSWA session will be held: Thursday, 1:00-2:00pm, 102 B

9.2.4.2 Graduate Reception

AAS Council members are invited to attend!

The reception will be held Tuesday, May 31 at 7:00 PM.

9.2.4.3. Job Center

9.2.5. Other Current Employment Committee Activities:

Industrial Astronomers Network Expansion

Anita Krishnamurthi, with the support of AAS staff, has been doing an extensive revision and expansion of the website, www.aas.org/career/Industry.html

This website provides a forum for AAS members to contact people trained in astronomy and now working in a variety of different fields.

AAS Job Register Policy Review

In response to Bob Milkey's email request of 8 Mar 2005:

The EC discussed an issue regarding the veracity of ads placed in the AAS Job Register. AAS policy is that advertised jobs must be "real" (not already promised) and have a closing application date no less than 30 days prior to the publication date. The email stated that "Within the past year we have had at least two instances of the same advertiser listing a job with no closing date but indicating a date for the beginning of review of applications that is less than 30 days from the posting date."

The query: Should the AAS exclude jobs which list a review date with less than a 30 day window? The EC felt that flexibility should be preserved (jobs needing to be filled quickly) and that there is not much of an issue here. (For example, how can you prevent a job provider from reviewing applications as applications arrive?)

The Committee reviewed the AAS Job Register policy and concluded, "Unless there is further evidence of a posted job offer not being a bona fide position, the Committee does

not feel a change in AAS policy is warranted at this time." Details are in the longer Committee report sent to the AAS (available upon request).

Postdoctoral Fellowship Deadlines

Two related concerns have been brought to the attention of the AAS:

1. The dates of postdoc application deadlines becoming increasingly early in the fall (when most grad students have not progressed far with their dissertation writing), and
2. The deadline of February 15 to accept a postdoc fellowship has been pushed earlier by one institution, which has been asking students to respond before offers from other institutions have been made, creating concern for students who hope to have all offers in hand before making their selection.

This issue will require work beyond just the Employment Committee. EC member Fred Rasio has volunteered to head a subcommittee of interested members of the community, including Jill Knapp (Princeton) and representatives of various fellowship programs.

9.2.6 Ongoing Employment Committee Activities:

Continue support for a Fellowship/Postdoc benefits policy Presented in January 2004, and given support by the AAS ExCom and Council:

1. Encourage employers to include benefits information or links in the text of their ads.
2. Inform employers listing jobs in the JR that we are giving applicants lists of good questions to ask and giving employers a copy of those questions.
3. Encourage employers to make the benefits situation at their institutions clear in any offer letters.
4. Begin to educate potential employees (grad students and postdocs, specifically) about the importance of benefits and that it's OK to ask questions about benefits without putting a potential offer at risk.

Continue to help Susana Deustua to edit the AAS career brochure on becoming an astronomer, as needed

Continue *AAS Newsletter* columns

9.3 Committee on the Status of Minorities

Keivan Stassun, Chair

9.3.1 Ongoing activities:

- SPECTRUM newsletter (semi-annual)
- CSMA website
- directory of minority AAS members
- minority speakers list
- funding resources
- email distribution of job announcements
- Special Sessions
- January 2005: Enhancing the diversity of astronomy faculty: Affirmative action in the wake of the Michigan Supreme Court rulings. Ann Springer, legal counsel for the American Association of University Professors, gave a lunchtime presentation on the current legal landscape of affirmative action following the recent Supreme Court decisions in the University of Michigan

cases. Approximately 50 AAS members were in attendance. Support provided by AAS and Vanderbilt University.

- Mercury article on minority initiatives (to appear in May/June 2005 issue)
- **New initiatives:**
- Partnership with National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP)
- AAS exhibit booth at February 2005 NSBP meeting
- Numerous AAS members gave presentations: Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt), Laura Lopez (Penn State), Marcel Agueros (Washington), Kevin Covey (Washington), Claudia Knez (Texas), Beth Brown (NASA/GSFC), Dick Durisen (Indiana), Eric Wilcots (Wisconsin), others...
- NSBP/AAS scholarships
- AAS judges for 2005: Windsor Morgan (Dickinson College), Dick Durisen (Indiana University)
- Four scholarships awarded: Hasan Korre (Southwest Dekalb High School, Decatur, Ga.); Sarajane Williams (Waller High School, Prairie View, Tex.); Carmen Johnson (Amos P. Godby High School, Tallahassee, Fl.); Emily Fuentes (Arrada High School, Arrada, Co.)
- Questions: Facilitating attendance of scholarship winners to AAS meeting; ongoing AAS participation in this program.

9.4 Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy

Patricia Knezek, Chair

The previous year has been exciting one thanks to the highly successful conference “Women in Astronomy II: Ten Years After” (WIA II), but it has also been a year of transition. Meg Urry not only stepped down as chair of the CSWA, but both she and Lisa Frattare officially retired from their roles as co-editors of *STATUS* (although both have continued to provide valuable assistance). Lisa remains an active CSWA member, and both of them have provided continual input to the CSWA. Their outstanding efforts over the past years for women’s issues are to be commended, and the CSWA would like to express its appreciation.

CSWA committee members David Helfand (Columbia University) and Karen Kwitter (Williams College) also completed their tenure on the CSWA in June of 2003. Both members made many contributions to the committee, and we would like to thank them. We welcomed new members James Ulvestad (NRAO), Stephanie Wachter (IPAC), and Kimberly Weaver (GSFC), each of whom will be serving until June of 2006.

While the leadership has been in flux, the basic activities of the CSWA remain. We have our own website, <http://www.aas.org/~cswa>, which is expertly maintained by committee member Amy Simon-Miller. This website contains information about our ongoing activities, including meetings, surveys, and back issues of our publications. It also provides a link to the Women in Astronomy Database produced by the CSWA, which can be used to find speakers for colloquia, scientific meetings, or school visits, to solicit job applicants, or to sort by education, expertise, research interests, etc. for

statistical or search purposes. We also provide links to other websites targeted at women in science.

Our committee continues to publish *STATUS* (the twice-yearly paper magazine). The June 2003 issue was skipped so that the AAS could divert the funds to the “Women in Astronomy II: Ten Years After” meeting (see below for more information on this conference). During the transition, I assumed the editor role for the January 2004 issue of *STATUS*, as well as the role of CSWA chair, but was delighted when Fran Bagenal of the University of Colorado agreed to serve as *STATUS* editor, beginning with the June 2004 issue. I will serve as an associate editor, and Joannah Hinz will continue in her role as an associate editor as well. Meg Urry and Lisa Frattare have helped make the transition as smooth as possible by serving as contributing editors, and Krista Wildt at STScI has ably taken on the task of designing the layout. Unfortunately, the *STATUS* team suffered a true loss when Beth Holmes, an associate editor for the magazine, passed away unexpectedly in March 2004. I’d like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her tireless, cheerful efforts.

We have also continued AASWOMEN (the weekly electronic newsletter), edited by myself, and Michael Rupen. In January 2004 Jim Ulvestad joined that editorial team. Both *STATUS* magazine and *AASWOMEN* focus on information on the situation of women in science and engineering, with particular emphasis on astronomy, and back issues are available from the CSWA web site. This includes status reports (statistics), evidence of gender bias or influence (e.g., in evaluations, hiring practices, promotions), and attempts to improve the situation (e.g., strategies for retaining women scientists once they are hired, new efforts targeted at interesting young women in science and engineering).

Examples of each of these three areas:

(1) The CSWA completed a new survey of the 36 major astronomical institutions, to get a 2003 update on the 1992 and 1999 data. CSWA member Karen Kwitter led the effort with exceptional support from volunteer Jennifer Hoffman. The results of this survey are available on the web at <http://www.grammai.org/astrowomen/stats/>. Jennifer Hoffman and Meg Urry also wrote an article describing the results, “Portrait of a Decade: Results from the 2003 CSWA Survey of Women in Astronomy,” which will appear in the June 2004 *STATUS* issue.

(2) A *STATUS* article in the 2004 January issue, written by Mary Ann Mason and Marc Goulden describes how the decision whether or not to have children, and when to have them, affects men and women in academia differently. Women who reach the ranks of tenured professors are much more likely than men to have no children, or had children later in life.

(3) The AASWOMEN issues provided pointers to such things as the NSF publication “New Formulas for America’s Workforce: Girls in Science and Engineering” (available at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods> under publication number NSF 03-207). Each chapter describes a series of projects designed to achieve similar goals, such as exploring “new ways of teaching that have...proven to engage all students more;” helping educators “create a social support system”

to better engage students; designing courses “to appeal to a broader base of students;” and addressing how all aspects of the system - people, pedagogy, course content, and social support networks - can be affected “to achieve lasting change.”

In addition to continuing its normal activities the CSWA focused significant effort on holding the meeting “Women in Astronomy II: Ten Years After” (WIA II), at the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, California, on 27-28 June 2003, and working to follow up on the main issues that were raised at the conference. There were over 150 participants when the WIA II convened approximately ten years after the historic first conference on women in astronomy. The first conference, held in Baltimore in 1992, gave rise to the Baltimore Charter <http://opposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/BaltoCharter.html>. I will cover the follow up to WIA II later in this summary.

The purpose of the second conference was to examine how far the profession has progressed, and to identify the next steps. The motivation was not only equity and fairness for women astronomers but also the practical issue of providing the best workforce possible to achieve national goals. I will focus on only one aspect of the conference below, the outcome of the discussion of seven breakout groups, since Meg Urry wrote a substantive article on the meeting, “Summary of Women in Astronomy II Conference: Diversity Breeds Excellence,” that appeared in the October and December 2003 issues of the *AAS Newsletter*. See <http://www.aas.org/publications/nlarchive/index.html> for access to these issues. Additionally, two articles appeared in the January 2004 issue of *STATUS* detailing alternate perspectives on the meeting. One was “A Graduate Student’s Perspective on the Women in Astronomy II Conference” by Jane Rigby. The other was “The Postdoc Perspective on the Women in Astronomy Conference” by Elizabeth Holmes. Furthermore, details on the program, including speakers and their presentations, a list of participants, etc. can all be found off the link <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/WIA2003.html>.

The proceedings of the meeting are currently being edited, and will be available off aforementioned link when completed. Our thanks to Dr. Fran Bagenal (University of Colorado), who chaired the Program Committee, and committee members Daniela Calzetti (STScI), Claude Canizares (MIT), Debra Elmegreen (Vassar College), Kevin Marvel (AAS), Melissa McGrath (STScI), Charles McGruder (Western Kentucky U.), Caty Pilachowski (Indiana U.), Andrea Schweitzer (Southwest Research Institute), Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt U.), Silvia Torres-Peimbert (UNAM), Meg Urry (Yale U.), and Donna Weistrop (UNLV). Drs. Judy Cohen, Wal Sargent (Caltech), and Barry Madore (Caltech/Carnegie) did an exceptional job as the Local Organizing Committee. Financial support was provided by Caltech, the Carnegie Institutions of Washington, the AAS, NASA, AURA, AUI, the Research Corporation, JPL, and Dr. Alice Huang (Caltech).

One key component of the WIA II meeting was a session that consisted of seven broadly defined breakout groups: Family Issues, Outside Academia, Changing the Culture, How Women Can Achieve Success, Small and Women’s

Colleges, Responsibilities of Larger Institutions, and Hiring. Each group came up with a number of suggestions and recommendations. The primary recommendations fell into seven categories, with a few key suggestions for each category:

- 1) Better statistics
 - a. We need a systematic longitudinal study of career trajectories astronomers follow, and why.
- 2) Mentoring
 - a. Scientists, especially women and minorities, need mentoring both formally and informally, throughout their careers.
 - b. To be effective, training for mentors is critical.
- 3) Innovative career paths
 - a. The astronomical community needs to recognize that many astronomers do not end up as faculty at major research institutions.
 - b. With this recognition comes the need to provide information on innovative career paths to young scientists.
 - c. Ultimately, to maintain the health of the field, graduate institutions need to restructure graduate programs to include these alternate career paths.
- 4) Balance between career and families
 - a. Families need flexibility (childcare, family leave, postponing the tenure clock) from employers.
 - b. More attention needs to be paid to the fact that it currently takes 16-20 years for astronomers to achieve a stable job situation (grad school + postdocs + tenure-track), and these years overlap with those for raising a family.
- 5) Professional training for decision makers
 - a. In order to be effective and avoid potential legal ramifications, scientists should be trained how to mentor, how to recruit, and how to interview.
- 6) Major consortia (AURA, NCAR, AUI, USRA) lead by example
 - a. An opportunity is available for the major consortia to begin a culture change by developing a common set of “best practices” for such things as hiring, recruitment, family leave, etc.
- 7) Hiring practices
 - a. There is a need for better statistics on how women and minorities proceed along their career paths.
 - b. The average 16-20 year timeframe to achieve stable employment is unacceptable, and institutions need to begin to look at ways to shorten career paths if they wish to retain the best scientists.
 - c. In order for institutions to attract the best scientists, especially women and minorities, they should begin proactive recruitment practices.
 - d. The astronomical field should be looking for solutions to the “two-body problem,” including examining what does and does not work in fields outside our own.

The CSWA has decided that the most effective way to produce the “next steps” for the profession as a whole towards equity and fairness, as well as an excellent, diverse workforce, is to use the recommendations and suggestions provided by the breakout groups during the WIA II as a starting point for the development of a set of realistic recommendations. The goal is to present these recommendations to

the AAS Council for endorsement in January 2005.

The committee is currently creating a draft set of recommendations. As a part of the process, we are soliciting comments and suggestions from the AAS community at large. Our initial step was to hold a session during the January 2004 AAS meeting where first the results from the WIA II breakout groups were presented to the community, then several institutions shared the actions that have been taken to implement some of the suggestions from WIA II. These presentations were followed by an active open discussion. This entire session was summarized in the March 2004 AAS *Newsletter*. Presentations from that session are available on the web at <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/WIA2003.html> under ‘‘Meeting Summaries.’’

After the January AAS meeting, the CSWA began a series of telecons and email discussions to formulate the draft recommendations. Our next step will be to provide a draft for viewing, comments, and suggestions, through the ‘‘Members Only’’ AAS web pages. Our target is to provide this draft prior to the June 2004 AAS meeting. Details of when the draft is available and how to access it will be published in the committee’s weekly electronic newsletter, AASWOMEN. We will hold a session on Thursday, 3 June from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Denver AAS meeting to discuss the progress made on the draft with the astronomical community. We will then incorporate the comments and suggestions we receive from the community into a version to be presented to the AAS Council in January 2005.

Finally, as a separate follow up step to the WIA II conference, the CSWA is co-sponsoring a special session entitled ‘‘The Astronomy Workforce’’ on Thursday, 3 June from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Denver AAS meeting with the Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA). *STATUS* editor Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado) is organizing it. The purpose of this special session is to present the demographics of the astronomy profession and discuss solutions (both institutional and personal) to the challenges posed by the evolution of the astronomy workforce. The aim is to involve a broad audience from across the astronomy profession. In particular, this session will focus on the challenges astronomers are facing to try and balance their profession and their family. The program is as follows:

- Workforce Supply and Demand in Astronomy and Physics R.L. Ivie, K.M. Nies (American Institute of Physics)
 - AAS Statistics and the 60% Cohort K.B. Marvel (American Astronomical Society)
- Pragmatic Approaches to Family Issues and Workforce Implications
F. Bagenal (Univ. of Colorado)

9.5 Working Group for Professional-Amateur Collaborations (WGPAC)

Richard Tresch Feinberg, Chair

In recognition of the useful scientific results that are possible when professional and amateur astronomers work together, in 1999 the American Astronomical Society established the Working Group for Professional-Amateur Col-

laboration (WGPAC). This committee, whose members have been drawn from a wide spectrum of amateur organizations and professional research projects with amateur involvement, hopes to energize collaborative observing efforts worldwide. The number of such collaborations continues to grow, and the types of projects in which amateurs and professionals work together are becoming more diverse and exciting all the time. Pro-am collaborations have typically involved discoveries and follow-up work on comets, asteroids, novae, and supernovae. Recently pro-am collaborations have begun to play a role in studies of newborn stars, brown dwarfs, and even extrasolar planets.

9.5.1 WGPAC Activities

Many accomplished amateurs yearn to contribute directly to scientific research, and many professional astronomers would love to take advantage of amateurs’ increasingly sophisticated capabilities. Over the years amateurs and pros have worked together through organizations such as the American Association for Variable Star Observers and the International Occultation Timing Association. But for those who wanted to work one-on-one with a professional or amateur partner, opportunities were few and far between.

The WGPAC has taken a major step toward increasing such opportunities by launching an online ‘‘registry’’ service aimed at pairing eager backyard observers with willing researchers. The registry, at www.aas.org/wgpac/registry/, is a searchable database that allows amateur astronomers to detail their abilities and professionals to make known their observational needs. The registry will provide an important missing link in furthering pro-am collaboration.

Any interested observer can create an entry in the ‘‘amateur’’ section with basic information like name, e-mail address, telescope specifications, and observing experience. Similarly, astrophysicists can post details about their research projects and what kinds of observations are needed in the ‘‘professional/project’’ section. Both sets of listings can be searched for particular interests or needs, though the search capabilities have not yet been finalized. Indeed, while the registry got off to a good start this year, increasing demands on the time of those contributing to its development have stalled progress in recent months. Unfortunately the same can be said for maintaining and upgrading our informational Web site at www.aas.org/wgpac/.

WGPAC continue to give presentations about the group’s activities and pro-am collaboration more generally at amateur and professional meetings. Those covered in the past year include meetings of the AAS, AAVSO, ASP, ALCON, ALPO, and the SAS. We have begun discussions with the organizers of various scientific and special sessions at next year’s IAU General Assembly to make sure that professional-amateur collaborations are spotlighted at this important meeting as well.

As discussed with the AAS Council at its January 2005 meeting, there is nothing in the AAS bylaws or membership literature to prevent amateur astronomers from joining the society as Associate or Junior Members. At the same time, the society has not promoted membership to the amateur community. Not surprisingly, there are only a handful of

amateur astronomers in the society at present, whereas in the AAS's early years the fraction of amateur membership was as high as 15%.

The WGPAC is looking into how to increase the number of qualified amateur members, to the mutual benefit of the society, the profession, and the amateurs themselves. Surveys are being undertaken at pro-am meetings this spring and summer to ascertain advanced amateurs' interest in joining the society as well as their sensitivity to the membership fee, which is relatively high compared with, say, astronomy-club dues and magazine- subscription prices. We expect to have a report for the AAS Council in January 2006.

We were intrigued to learn about the forthcoming Chambliss medal for amateur achievement and stand ready to assist the AAS Council and/or Executive Office in developing criteria for the nomination and selection of awardees.

9.5.2 WGPAC Membership

The three-year terms of three WGPAC members expire this year: Gary D. Henson, John Percy, and Janet A. Stevens. Feeling the press of other responsibilities, Henson would like to rotate off the group, but Percy would be happy to serve another term if reappointed, and Stevens definitely wants to be reappointed for another term.

To replace Henson, we are recommending the appointment of Stephanie McLaughlin (University of Maryland), who runs the Small Telescope Science Program for NASA's Deep Impact mission. In this role, she coordinates high-precision amateur CCD astrometry and photometry of Comet Tempel 1. She has agreed to join.

When charter WGPAC member and AAVSO director Janet A. Mattei died, the AAS Council appointed her deputy, Elizabeth O. Waagen, to take her place on the group. Waagen wishes to step aside and have the AAVSO's new director, Arne A. Henden, take her place. Henden has more experience in pro-am collaborations than almost any other professional astronomer, so we are delighted to have him join the WGPAC.

While the WGPAC membership is strong, we feel it would be helpful to have another amateur and possibly another professional member to bolster our expertise in areas where we're not as strong as we'd like. Thus we expect to offer one or two additional recommendations for WGPAC membership to the AAS Council in January 2006.

9.5.3 WGPAC Goals for 2005–06

The WGPAC's long-term goals include bringing the pro-am registry to the attention of professionals and amateurs and encouraging them to register, promoting and facilitating pro-am collaborations through talks and workshops at both professional and amateur meetings, and showcasing successful pro-am efforts in print and electronic media. We also have several short-term goals specific to the coming year:

- Restart development work on the pro-am registry to enhance its functionality and usefulness.
- Update the WGPAC Web site with the latest information and links.

- Develop recommendations to the AAS Council for an approach to increasing amateur membership in the society.
- Increase the international scope of the WGPAC's work via the IAU and its forthcoming 2006 General Assembly.
- Enhance the WGPAC's effectiveness by finding one or two more members interested in contributing to its activities and programs.

Reacting to the recent participation of two amateur astronomers in the discovery of a new exoplanet, OGLE team member Scott Gaudi (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics) said, "These amateur astronomers work all day, then go home and observe all night. Their contribution is a testament to how far amateurs have come. It speaks highly of their dedication to the field. If we can get others involved, that would be fantastic." The WGPAC looks forward to another year of doing just that.

9.6 Working Group on Astronomical Software (WGAS)

Robert J. Hanisch, Chair

Space Telescope Science Institute

Arnold Rots, WGAS FITS Committee Chair
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/Chandra X-Ray Center

The primary role of the AAS Working Group on Astronomical Software is to function as the body that serves the North American community in formulating, reviewing, and endorsing modifications to the FITS data format standard. The WGAS FITS Committee (WFC) serves as one of four regional FITS standards committees, operating under the IAU FITS Working Group. Dr. Arnold Rots (SAO/CXC) chairs the WFC. There has been substantial activity in this area in the past year.

The IAU FITS Working Group became firmly established in 2004 and adopted a new set of voting rules covering the procedures in the IAU-FWG itself, as well as the regional committees. Most of this work was prepared by the IAU-FWG Executive Committee, which consists of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the IAU-FWG and the Chairs of the regional committees. A fourth regional committee, covering Australia and New Zealand, was established.

In concert with the other three regional committees, the WGAS FITS Committee voted again on elevating Appendices B.1 (variable length arrays in binary tables) and B.2 (multi-dimensional arrays in binary tables) to full incorporation in the standard. Both were approved by the WFC on February 15, 2002 with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 5 non-responses. The proposals were subsequently voted on, and approved by, the IAU FITS Working Group.

S. Allen (UCO/Lick) and D. Wells are leading efforts to formally reserve FITS MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension) types with the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). MIME types, such as filename extensions .gif, .jpg, .doc, etc., are used so that computers know which programs to use to interpret files. The IETF is the standards body that reviews and approves all MIME type definitions. The WGAS FITS Committee and the IAU FWG have endorsed their ef-

forts and the proposal is in its final stages of becoming a recognized standard – expected in May 2005.

In April 2005 the WFC conducted a thorough review of its membership. Archibald Warnock, William Lupton, Robert Kibrick, and Jeffrey Percival have left the committee and have been thanked for the service they provided to the community during their tenure. It is expected that they will be replaced by two or three new members, resulting in a slightly smaller committee.

Substantial progress has been made in the public discussion of Paper III (“Representations of spectral coordinates in FITS,” by E. Greisen, F. Valdes, M. Calabretta, and S. Allen), which describes spectral dispersion relations. This paper will likely move forward to formal review in the FITS committees in the coming few months.

We wish to acknowledge the decades-long contributions to the FITS standards by Donald C. Wells, who retired from the staff of NRAO in the summer of 2004. Don has long been a staunch supporter of FITS and a prime mover toward technical excellence and political consensus. The WGAS expresses its thanks to Don and wishes him well.

10. JOURNALS

10.1 The Astrophysical Journal

Robert C. Kennicutt, Editor-in-Chief

This report summarizes the activities at the *ApJ* (main journal and *Supplement Series* over the past year. The *ApJ Letters* office will report separately.

10.1.1 Publication Statistics

The flow of papers to the main journal increased slightly in the past year, reflecting a long-term trend. Interestingly the number of pages published declined significantly, with the average printed length of a paper declining by about half a page in 2004, reversing an increase in the previous year. We don’t understand the origin of these large statistical fluctuations, but we do suspect that the increasing use of electronic tables and figures is leading to a slight decrease in the sizes of papers over time.

Publication Summary: *ApJ* Part 1 (1998–2004)

Year	Pages Published	Papers Published	Papers Submitted
1998	17665	1529	1741
1999	18057	1595	1805
2000	19770	1768	1777
2001	19934	1734	1815
2002	19947	1723	1995
2003	22162	1826	2009
2004	20758	1800	2023
% Change	-6.3	-1.4	+0.7

Publication Summary: *ApJ* Supplements (1998–2004)

Year	Pages Published	Papers Published	Papers Submitted
1998	2432	103	117
1999	3322	122	95
2000	3424	182	84
2001	2794	108	76
2002	2916	116	72
2003	2657	115	73
2004	3128	204	184
2004	2654	118	97
% Change	-0.1	+2.6	+32.9

¹The ratio of papers published and submitted in this table does not give an accurate impression of the *Journal* acceptance rate, because a considerable number of papers published are originally submitted to the *Letters* office, and publication numbers can be affected by changes in the peer review and production times for papers.

Notes: (1) Numbers include special issues; (2) Numbers exclude special issues.

Most of the increase in the size of the *ApJ Supplements* was due to the publication of a large special issue devoted to early results from the *Spitzer Space Telescope*. When this issue is removed from the statistics the *Supplements* remained at constant size in 2004, but submissions were up sharply, even without including the *Spitzer* papers. Apparently the author community is still finding value in a journal devoted to compilations of relatively uninterpreted data and models.

Through 2004 the *Journal* was able to maintain its accelerated schedules for peer review and publication times, which are down 35% from 1998–1999. During the summer the University of Chicago Press (UCP) installed a production database system that will improve quality control of the copyediting and production processes, and should lead to further shortening of the publication times.

10.1.2 Editorial Staff and Transitions

Late last year Dr. Ethan Vishniac was promoted from a position as *ApJ* Scientific Editor to Associate Editor-in-Chief, joining Dr. Jim Leibert in that capacity. In addition to overseeing peer reviews the Associate Editors carry out the Editor-in-Chief duties when Kennicutt is traveling, and advise him on day-to-day editorial decisions. Dr. Linda Sparke completed her term as an *ApJ* Scientific Editor (SE) at the end of 2004. The *ApJ* and AAS are very grateful to her for her outstanding service to our community.

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC), Robert Kennicutt, announced that he will relinquish the *ApJ* Editorship at the end of his current term on 31 December 2006, at which point he will have served for 8 years in the position. A search is under way for a successor, with the goal of appointing a new EiC in January 2006, and allowing for a full-year transition period. Independently of this Kennicutt also accepted the offer of a faculty position at the University of Cambridge, and he will spend most of the last 15 months of his editorship working at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge. The editorial office and staff will remain in Tucson, and Kennicutt will maintain contact with the *Journal* via its Web-Based Peer Review system, along with regular teleconferences and visits to Tucson and Chicago. At about the same time the AAS journals staff scientist, Gregory Schwarz, will move to the east coast, but continue to work under the supervision of the *ApJ* office.

10.1.3 Electronic Publishing Highlights

The past few years have seen a steady migration of article content to electronic-only forms, including large sets of electronic tables and figures. In order to make such materials easier for authors to access and use, the journals and the UCP developed new renderings and indexing schemes for large figure and table sets in the on-line articles. The other major activity was the final design for tagging and linking of object

names and datasets in *ApJ* and *AJ* articles. These allow readers to identify astronomical objects in a paper and directly link to the SIMBAD and NED records for these objects, and likewise to directly access archival datasets resident at major data centers. A set of facility keywords has also been established to enable observatories and data centers to more reliably track the publication of their data.

Dataset linking was introduced for the first time in the September 2004 *ApJ Supplements* (*Spitzer* Special Issue), and beginning in early 2005 all of these new capabilities are being introduced into *Supplements*. As the staff gathers experience on implementing the new capabilities they will be phased into the other *ApJ* journals and to the *AJ*.

10.2 Astrophysical Journal Letters

Chris Sneden, Editor

Christopher Sneden (University of Texas at Austin) serves as Letters Editor. John M. Scalo is the Deputy Editor, Elizabeth M. Korves is Managing Editor, and Erik Brugamyer is Editorial Assistant, all at the University of Texas at Austin. Letters Associate Editors are Piet Martens (Montana State University), Fulvio Melia (University of Arizona), Anneila Sargent (Caltech), and Michael Turner (University of Chicago and NSF).

All Letters manuscripts are edited by the Letters Editor and Deputy Letters Editor. The Associate Editors do not directly edit papers, but they are consulted on some scientific editorial questions (such as selection of reviewers for manuscripts, and adjudication of disputed papers).

Since the opening of the Austin editorial offices, the number of Letters submissions has increased from approximately 1000/year (80/month) in 2002 and 2003 to the present rate, projected to the end of 2005, of

1100/year (94/month). Of these submitted papers, about 66% are accepted for Letters publication, 14% are accepted but ultimately appear in Part 1 of the *Journal*, and 20% are either rejected or withdrawn. These percentages appear to be nearly constant over the past several years.

Reviews of manuscripts submitted for Letters publication are supposed to be returned within 14 days. In practice, the average review process takes about 21 days from moment of submission of a paper: 1-2 days of preprocessing by the University of Chicago Press and Austin editorial offices, 3-5 days to locate an expert referee willing to review the paper, and the rest of the time for scientific review. Acceptance of a paper without revision is rare, and normally two review rounds are employed prior to publication.

Papers that are printed in Letters are limited to 4 printed pages. Although the algorithms for page length estimation are not perfect, over the past two years the number of papers that finally exceed this limit when printed is substantially less than 5% of the total.

Letters has published recent special issues on GALEX (the Galaxy Evolution Explorer satellite), and SMA (the ground-based Submillimeter Array). The number of papers for the planned special issue on the Spitzer Space Telescope ultimately grew too large for Letters, and that special issue appeared as an *ApJ Supplement*. Currently papers are being

considered for a Letters issue on the SPEAR (Spectroscopy of Plasma Evolution from Astrophysical Radiation) satellite.

10.3 Astronomical Journal

Paul Hodge, Editor

10.3.1 Overview

The move of the *AJ* editorial offices from Seattle to Madison was the main event of 2004–2005. This move involved not only the relocation of records and a change of editors and staff but also a switch from the custom-built Seattle software system for manuscript ingestion and processing to the Web Peer Review (WPR) system administered by the University of Chicago Press (UCP). The move to WPR, which *The Astrophysical Journal* also uses, is already yielding economies-of-scale returns for the AAS.

Because the *AJ* transition dominated the year, it is the primary topic of this report. Activities prior to June 2004 are therefore included in brief.

10.3.2 Initial Planning

Following the AAS Council's January 2004 appointment of Gallagher as *AJ* Editor beginning in 2005, a transition plan was developed in collaboration with Bob Milkey. This involved several steps:

- Discuss the role, responsibilities, and ethics of an AAS Editor with the AAS Executive Officer, Publications Board, and *ApJ* Editors.
- Develop a memorandum of understanding between the University of Wisconsin and the AAS for the support of an *AJ* Editorial office in Madison.
- Negotiate with the Department of Astronomy for *AJ* editorial office space and release time for the Editor.
- Define the staffing requirements of the new *AJ* editorial office.
- Learn how the Seattle office operated and devise ways to retain this functionality within the structure of WPR.
- Work with UCP staff to configure the new *AJ* WPR system and train editorial staff on effective and efficient use of the system.
- Become acquainted with technical issues associated with the AAS journals.

By June 2004, we had made substantial progress in each of these areas. The University of Wisconsin signed the MOU, the department agreed, and a renovation plan would provide two *AJ* offices by Fall 2004. Training sessions took place at the Press, and face-to-face meetings with AAS journal editors Paul Hodge, Rob Kennicutt, and Chris Sneden provided a firm grounding in journal realities. These activities helped us establish a staffing plan and budget for the ramp up of our Madison offices, which began in summer 2004.

10.3.3 The 2004 Shadow *AJ* Editorial Office

During the summer of 2004, our key tasks were to identify people, equip the office, and set up basic processes for handling manuscripts. We again received strong support from the Chicago Press for these activities, particularly in

searching for the Managing Editor. This concluded successfully with the hiring of Ms. Anita Makuluni, who has prior editorial experience.

We also sought an Associate Editor, initially in Madison and later at a location with direct air service to Madison. I also hoped that the Associate Editor would complement my science expertise and be a younger person. We were very fortunate to have Professor Margaret Hanson of the University of Cincinnati join us in this position. With an Associate Editor in place, we were able to construct an accurate budget for the two offices in 2004 and a budget plan for 2005.

As a final step, the Madison office began to handle papers on an informal basis on the 2004 autumnal equinox. Paul Hodge chose appropriate manuscripts to send us for referee selection and follow-up through a prototype WPR system at the Press. This allowed us to do hands-on training and develop basic mechanisms for handling paper flows, with much appreciated help and comments from Paul.

By late November 2004 we had established our ability to process *AJ* manuscripts with reasonable reliability.

10.3.4 The *AJ* Transition

Moving information on active manuscripts from the Seattle system to WPR presented a challenge. The Press visited the Seattle editorial offices several times and received a great deal of help, especially from Toby Smith. Armed with an understanding of the structure of the Seattle database, the Chicago crew built and tested a software translator that would load WPR with key information on all the papers in the Seattle system. Although this could not be a perfect 1-to-1 migration, we decided not to let perfection block a good and useable effort.

The database transition could only take place once. Thus when Seattle shut down, all papers had to be accommodated from that time forward at Chicago. A carefully orchestrated closing of the Seattle *AJ* ftp site just before the end of 2004 coupled with bringing the WPR *AJ* site into operation on 3 January 2005 was successful. All but a handful of manuscripts were automatically transferred to WPR. Following the transition, Michael Boudreau from the Press spent time in Madison for trouble shooting and WPR training.

The new *AJ* editorial office was up and running, albeit with limited efficiency, before the San Diego AAS meeting. As a result, both Gallagher and Hanson began to work on the backlog of manuscripts that arose from the conversion process. These translated manuscripts require more editorial time to process and are more subject to mistakes. We also successfully received the first new manuscripts submitted by authors through the *AJ* WPR Web site.

10.3.5 Moving Towards Routine Operation

As of late April 2005, we are approaching routine operation. New manuscripts are moving through our system with minimal delays. Some manuscripts originally received by Seattle still require special treatment and are therefore processed more slowly.

We now have enough experience to formalize our procedures and further customize the *AJ* version of WPR. The community will see a few more changes as the *AJ* enhances its identity on web pages at the Press.

The geographical separation between the Madison (Editor and Managing Editor) and Cincinnati (Associate Editor) offices sometimes makes itself known, but on the whole we work together smoothly. We are pleased to have been able to hire a student assistant at the University of Cincinnati to work with Hanson and help us update records in WPR (e.g., by merging and updating multiple records that refer to the same person).

Building on the experience of the shadow operations in 2004, we built reliable budgets for the operation of the *AJ* editorial offices in 2006. We now have a reasonably good idea of what it takes to run the journal. In the second half of 2005 we then will be able to turn more attention to future planning and efficiency issues.

The journal itself also appears to be recovering from the transition. The April 2005 issue was very thin—a reflection of the predictable effects of a changeover. Subsequent issues are expected to have only slightly fewer pages than last year. We therefore reduced the estimated page count for 2005 by about 5% and made our budget assessments on that basis.

We now are seeing a slow rise in the number of new manuscript submissions that currently are running near last year's norm in terms of the number of manuscripts. Although it is too soon to make exact predictions about the size of the journal, we do not foresee any major changes.

We received a great deal of help from the Seattle office of the *AJ*, the *ApJ* in Tucson and Austin, the AAS Publications Board, Bob Milkey, and the University of Chicago Press. This made for a good start.

10.4 The Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society

Robert W. Milkey, Editor

The February 2004 issue, Volume 36, Number 1 contained 43 observatory reports totaling 575 pages. This compares to 51 observatory reports totaling 564 pages in 2002. This issue also had the late papers from the 203rd meeting of the AAS. This issue also contained a peer-reviewed paper by Helmut A. Abt titled *Some Incorrect Journal Impact Factors*.

Volume 36, Number 2 had abstracts for the 204th AAS meeting held in Denver, 30 May – 3 June, and the abstracts for the DDA meeting held, 20-23 April in Cannes, France. This issue also had a peer-reviewed paper by Helmut A. Abt and Chayan Boonyarak titled *What Kinds of Astronomical Papers are Still Referenced 50 Years After Publication?*

Volume 36, Number 3 was the program and abstracts for the 8th Meeting of HEAD held in New Orleans 8-11 September. This issue also contained the late paper abstracts for the 204th AAS meeting. Volume 36, Number 4 was the program and abstracts for the 36th Meeting of DPS held in Louisville, Kentucky 8 – 12 November and the late abstracts for the 8th HEAD meeting.

Volume 36 Number 5 contained abstracts and program

for the 205th AAS meeting and the late paper abstracts from the 36th meeting of the DPS. Twenty-four obituaries for AAS members were published in this final issue of 2004; in 2003 the *BAAS* published 22 obituaries. This issue also contained

a peer-reviewed contribution by Greg J. Schwarz and Robert C. Kennicutt, Jr. titled *Demographic and Citation Trends in Astrophysical Journal Papers and Preprints*.