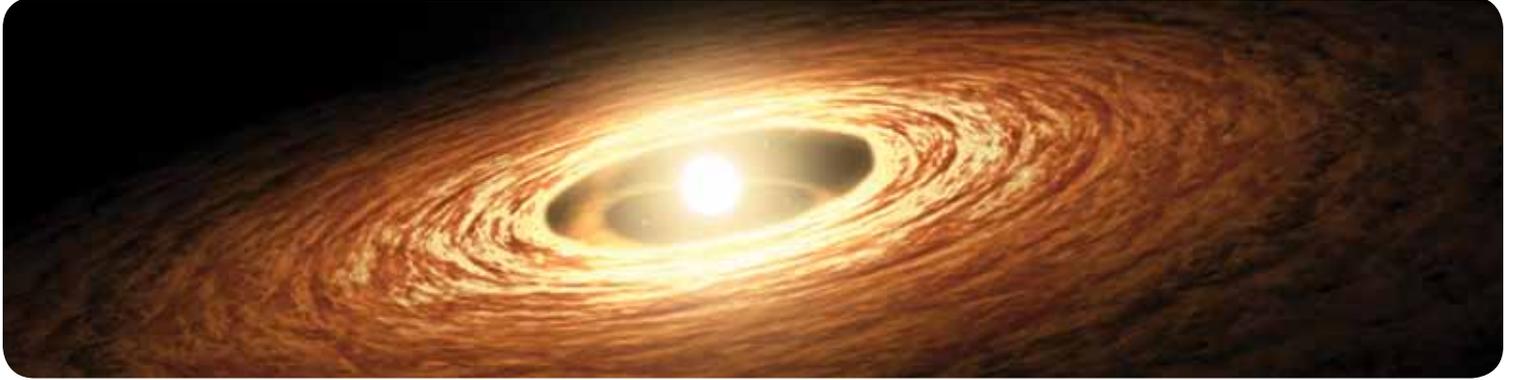


2011 ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



AAS MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The mission of the American Astronomical Society is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.

1. **The Society, through its publications, disseminates and archives the results of astronomical research.** The Society also communicates and explains our understanding of the universe to the public.
2. **The Society facilitates and strengthens the interactions among members through professional meetings and other means.** The Society supports member divisions representing specialized research and astronomical interests.
3. **The Society represents the goals of its community of members to the nation and the world.** The Society also works with other scientific and educational societies to promote the advancement of science.
4. **The Society, through its members, trains, mentors and supports the next generation of astronomers.** The Society supports and promotes increased participation of historically underrepresented groups in astronomy.
5. **The Society assists its members to develop their skills in the fields of education and public outreach at all levels.** The Society promotes broad interest in astronomy, which enhances science literacy and leads many to careers in science and engineering.

Adopted 7 June 2009

2011 ANNUAL REPORT - CONTENTS

4	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
5	EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE
6	FINANCIAL REPORT
8	PRESS & MEDIA
9	EDUCATION & OUTREACH
10	MEMBERSHIP
12	CHARITABLE DONORS
14	AAS/DIVISION MEETINGS
15	DIVISIONS, COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS
16	PUBLISHING
17	PUBLIC POLICY
18	PRIZE WINNERS
19	MEMBER DEATHS
19	SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

Established in 1899, the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is the major organization of professional astronomers in North America. The membership (~7,000) also includes physicists, mathematicians, geologists, engineers and others whose research interests lie within the broad spectrum of subjects now comprising contemporary astronomy. The mission of the AAS is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEBRA M. ELMEGREEN



This past year has heralded exciting developments in astronomy, from planets to cosmology. The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to AAS members Saul Perlmutter, Brian Schmidt, and Adam Riess for their supernova team discoveries of the acceleration of the universe. Thousands of exoplanet candidates have been announced by the Kepler team and ground-based observatory teams. The Mars Science Laboratory is en route to a touchdown in August, and the James Webb Space Telescope is on track for a launch in 2018. Groundbreaking discoveries abound in our highly successful journals, and Reuters announced that the *ApJS* had the three most highly cited science papers in 2011, on WMAP. Congratulations to the authors and our editorial team.

In the midst of it all, the AAS enjoyed a delightful winter meeting in Austin and first-ever summer meeting in Anchorage, thanks to the skillful planning by the AAS staff and the careful science agenda planning led by senior Vice

President Lee Anne Willson. We are excited to welcome a new division to the AAS for the first time in over 30 years: the Laboratory Astrophysics Division, approved by Council and officially introduced in Anchorage, grew out of five years of activities by the Working Group on Laboratory Astrophysics.

The AAS has continued to be engaged throughout the year on federal policy issues related to astronomy. One of our new strategic initiatives, “Communicating with Washington,” is off to a swift and successful start. Bahcall Fellow Bethany Johns has helped facilitate weekly visits by AAS members to Capitol Hill to advocate for the recommendations of the decadal surveys. These visits supplement the annual Congressional Visits Day, which drew a record number of AAS participants this year. This advocacy, including our policy statements and Congressional testimony, is an important component of our AAS goals.

Another new AAS strategic initiative under development, the Astronomy Ambassadors program, will officially start at the winter 2013 meeting. Pre-meeting workshops and online activities will introduce junior AAS members to the tools and techniques of effective outreach, preparing them to carry the excitement of astronomy to their local communities and schoolchildren, and help foster interest in STEM fields. Our training and development to enhance members’ skills in outreach and communication of astronomy are additional components of the AAS mission and goals.

Council retreats are helping us focus on strategic ways to move forward in several areas. We have developed a set of metrics to help us assess our effectiveness in achieving the goals laid out in our Mission and Vision Statement and Strategic Plans. We have produced an Executive Officer Succession Plan to help facilitate future transitions, as well as manuals for the president, vice president, and councilors, to provide guidance to our incoming leaders on Council activities in addition to the training they receive on their fiduciary responsibilities. A longitudinal study is underway within our Demographics Committee, and we have a newly formed Working Group on LGBTIQ Equality. There are many other important issues for us to continue tackling in the years ahead, especially in the areas of underrepresented minorities and employment.

This year is the 50th anniversary since then-AAS President Lyman Spitzer led Council in the formation of the Executive Office, which has helped make the AAS the effective organization it is today. Our accomplishments reflect the hard work of talented and committed AAS staff, officers, councilors, and division and committee leaders. I am honored and grateful to have had the privilege of serving as president of our beloved AAS these past, very quick, two years. I give my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for their collective wisdom, vision, and efforts in striving to make the Society the best it can be, and particularly thank our Executive Officer Kevin Marvel for his dedication to the smooth operations and fiscal success of the AAS in its many facets.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

KEVIN MARVEL



The year 2011 went by like a flash! The AAS Executive Office has been extremely busy enabling the Council's strategic vision for the Society. Our main activities include financial and operational management of our journals, execution of the main Society meetings in January and June and Division meetings.

Additional efforts include operation of the *Job Register*, press and outreach support and public policy activity. To help enable all of our programs we have financial and IT infrastructure and staff. It takes a combined and dedicated effort to fulfill our mission to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the Universe.

In 2011 we held our winter meeting in Seattle, WA and our summer meeting in Boston, MA. Both were well attended and resulted in positive financial outcomes. The Society does not derive direct support from its journal publication activities to support other projects or programs, so it is important to ensure meetings do not lose money. The Seattle meeting had nearly 3000 registrants, while the Boston meeting had just over 1300. We also supported the DDA and SPD meetings in 2011. The DPS met in Nantes, France with the Europlanets organization. Branching out from strictly AAS meeting support, we organized the Extreme Solar Systems II meeting in Jackson Hole, WY. Supporting non-AAS conferences is a new activity for us and we were excited that the attendees and organizers of ESS II gave a big thumbs-up to our meeting services team for the support they provided. If you are thinking about organizing a meeting, but don't want the hassle of handling all the logistical details, give us a call: we can help. We are also undertaking a new meeting activity in 2013, organizing competed topical conferences. We hope to grow this program over time, while providing a venue for the very best and most exciting focused scientific meetings each year. Look for details on the AAS web site.

Our public policy activities have been substantial and are detailed elsewhere in this report. Our new program, *Communicating With Washington*, is a short-term

effort to bring the three NRC Decadal Survey Reports on Astrophysics, Heliophysics and Planetary Science to the attention of policy makers, specifically Congress. I encourage everyone to consider participating in this program. See the Public Policy description for more information and the website for signing up.

Our journals continue to exceed expectations. We own and carefully oversee two of the most important titles in our discipline, the *Astrophysical Journal* (including *Letters and Supplement*) and the *Astronomical Journal*. For 2011, the *ApJ Supplement* received special recognition for publishing the top three science articles of 2011 (according to Thompson-Reuters). The three papers were published by the WMAP team on their seven-year results and received significant numbers of citations (794) during the year. Our subscriber base continues to grow, while we dropped our author charges by 12.5% in 2011. In addition, we began an effort to expand the reach of our journals by providing access in US public libraries at no cost to the library. This effort will be fully under way in 2012 and represents the Society's effort to ensure public access to research results. Based on a successful trial effort with public libraries, we will likely expand the program to include high-school libraries as well. Please see the section on Publishing later in this report.

Our other activities are making progress as well and space alone stops me from singing their praises. Sections on our financial position, press activities and fundraising activities highlight just some of the many projects and programs carried out to support the AAS's mission. I remain particularly energized by the Council's engagement in strategic governance of the AAS. They dedicate two days at each meeting to fulfill their oversight duties and this model allows one day of open-ended discussion and thinking with a one-day business meeting, structured to encourage active and open dialog.

Your elected leaders are the key to a successful organization and I thank them for their time, while thanking you for electing them. Together the elected leadership and the Executive Office are accomplishing much on behalf of our members and our discipline. I look forward to another year of success and passionate pursuit of our mission and goals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Annual Audit for 2011 has been completed by Tate & Tryon. As with past years, the audit report received an unqualified opinion. Our financial performance in 2011 was great. In 2011, there was an overall increase in net assets of \$1.75 million dollars; resulting in a total net assets of \$17,247,476 as of 31 December 2011.

2011 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Through financial support from NSF, we funded the following programs:

- Funded 78 individuals under the International Travel Grant in the amount of \$114,609.
- Funded career workshops at the 2011 AAS winter meeting in the amount of \$21,100.

Through financial support from NASA, we funded the following programs.

- Funded 23 individuals under the Small Research Grant for a total amount of \$77,222.

We are pleased report that the AAS General Fund generated a surplus of \$6,186 and transferred \$90,000 into the General Fund Operating Reserve. At 31 December 2011, the unreserved balance in the General Operating Reserve Fund was \$1,593,012; representing 41.7 percent of the annual operating expenses.

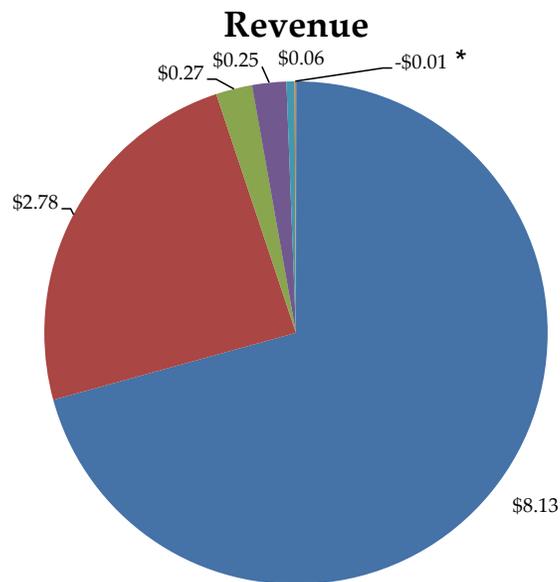
AAS bylaws, Article VIII.3, mandate that each Journal maintain a reserve fund equal or above the level of one-half of the annual operating expenses. In addition to the journal reserve funds, we have a

AAS Balance Sheet		
Assets	2011	2010
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,382,635	783,937
Accounts Receivable	1,190,631	1,275,319
Promises to Give		
Prepaid Expenses	265,219	309,885
Investments	14,290,376	13,588,739
Deposits	65,000	67,000
Property and Equipment	53,615	47,288
Totals Assets	\$17,247,476	\$16,072,168
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	408,263	462,265
Deferred Revenue	2,580,148	2,769,698
Total Liabilities	\$2,988,411	\$3,231,963
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	12,190,433	10,641,793
Temporarily Restricted	1,504,104	1,634,214
Permanently Restricted	564,528	564,198
Total Net Assets	\$14,259,065	\$12,840,205
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,247,476	\$16,072,168

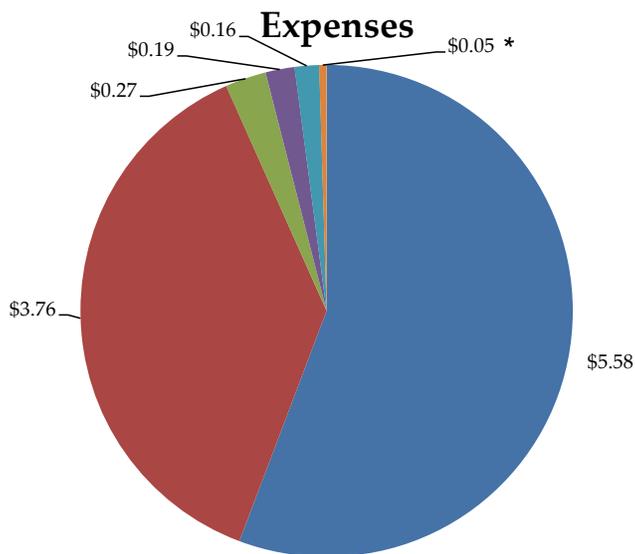
segregated journal archive reserve fund to ensure the long-term maintenance of the electronic journals. As of 31 December 2011, the journal reserve fund balances reached \$8,492,239 representing 130.6% of the 2011 expenses.

AAS Statement of Activities		
Unrestricted Activities	2011	2010
Revenue		
Journals	8,134,275	9,018,222
General Programs	2,772,112	2,567,202
Grants and Contracts	274,833	651,039
Divisions	257,478	392,432
Other	63,682	143,193
Bequests and Memorials	(14,066)	98,968
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	72,706	459,387
Total Unrestricted Income	\$11,561,020	\$13,330,443
Expenses		
Journals	5,577,601	5,666,847
General Programs	3,756,596	3,922,692
Grants and Contracts	274,847	387,495
Divisions	185,226	55,350
Other	160,474	266,053
Bequests and Memorials	57,636	49,644
Total Expenses	\$10,012,380	\$10,348,081
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,548,640	\$2,982,362
Temporary Restricted Net Assets		
Divisions	(25,974)	59,420
Bequests and Memorials	(23,735)	101,950
Contributions and Other	(7,695)	83,158
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(72,706)	(459,387)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(\$130,110)	(\$214,859)
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions and Other	330	75,675
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$330	\$75,675
Change in Net Assets	\$1,418,860	\$2,843,178
Net Assets Beginning of Year	12,840,205	9,997,027
Net Assets End of Year	\$14,259,065	\$12,840,205

**Annual Revenue and Expenses
(in millions of dollars)**



*Bequest and Memorials includes Asset Released from Restrictions



- Journals
- General Programs
- Grants and Contracts
- Divisions
- Other
- Bequests and Memorials

PRESS & MEDIA

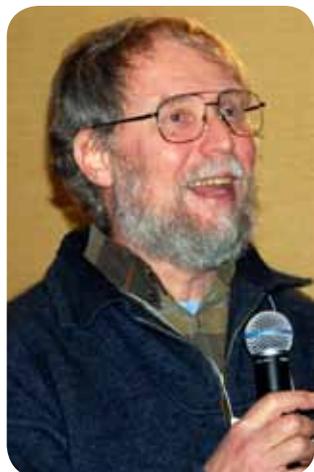
The role of the AAS Press Office is to ensure media attention to newsworthy scientific results that are presented at Society meetings, presented by AAS members or other astronomy researchers at scientific conferences worldwide, published in peer-reviewed journals, or announced in press releases from recognized astronomy-related institutions. An ancillary role is to ensure media recognition for recipients of major astronomical prizes and honors, especially those awarded by the Society or its Divisions. These responsibilities fall to the AAS Press Officer, Dr. Richard Tresch Fienberg, who organizes press conferences at AAS meetings, handles media inquiries and requests for expert referrals, and manages the AAS press-release-distribution service, which forwards astronomy-related releases from public-information officers to journalists all over the world and working in all forms of print, broadcast, and electronic media. Rick is a member of the AAS Executive Office staff, though he works from home near Boston. Assisting as volunteers are Deputy Press Officers Dr. Larry Marschall (Gettysburg College) and Dr. Inge Heyer (Loyola University Maryland).

Rick has continued to modernize the Society's media functions. Live interactive webcasts of press conferences, which facilitate the participation of off-site journalists, are now a regular and popular feature of AAS meetings. The media database created by former AAS Press Officer Dr. Stephen P. Maran relied on program that is no longer

supported by its publisher; Rick successfully converted it to FileMaker Pro, which runs on both Windows PCs and Macs.

The 217th AAS meeting in Seattle attracted 80 press registrants. Another 24 reporters requested the webcast password. Corresponding numbers for the 218th meeting in Boston were 60 and 13, respectively. As is typically the case, on-site press registrants were a mix of approximately two-thirds reporters and one-third public-information officers (PIOs). Rick organized 11 press conferences at the Seattle meeting and six at the Boston meeting (there is always more news at our winter meetings than at our summer meetings because the former have many more attendees and papers than the latter).

We have been forwarding press releases to the news media by email for more than two decades. We maintain two lists: one for reporters eligible to receive embargoed releases, and one for PIOs (who, according to rules established by *Science* and *Nature*, are ineligible to receive embargoed releases). The lists now include some 2,000 email addresses, with about 1,700 of them on the press list and 300 on the PIO list. On average, we forward about 100 ± 20 press releases each month. We receive dozens more, but we only forward those we think would be of interest to our list members.



L-R: Rick Fienberg, Larry Marschall, Inge Heyer

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Through its education and outreach program, the AAS nourishes a scientific outlook in society to help increase public support for scientific research, improve science education at all levels, attract young people to careers in science and technology, and make evident the connections between science, technology, and prosperity. The highest priorities of the AAS in these areas are to promote and support training the next generation of astronomers to become successful scientific researchers and educators and to encourage and support high-quality research on the teaching and learning of astronomy. To disseminate that research, the AAS publishes *Astronomy Education Review* (*AER*), a peer-reviewed, online journal for everyone who works in astronomy and space-science education.

Thanks to the Center for Astronomy Education (CAE), the Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars (CATS), and the Association for Astronomy Education (AAE), weekend workshops and oral and poster sessions on various aspects of astronomy education continue to be regular features of AAS meetings. Members of these groups also ensure that *Spark*, the AAS education newsletter, is published twice each year, usually coincident with the Society's winter and summer meetings.

The Astronomy Education Board (AEB) provides oversight of AAS educational activities by giving advice to the Council, the Executive Officer, the Education Officer, and, since 2009, the Education & Outreach Coordinator. Dr. Rick Fienberg, who also serves as AAS Press Officer, fills that last role to encourage and support members' efforts in education and outreach and to manage AAS education programs that can't be maintained through volunteer effort alone. Among Rick's duties, he chairs the Small Research Grant committee (in part because a key criterion on which proposals are evaluated is the extent to which they involve students) and serves as AAS liaison to other scientific societies' education programs. Working with his counterparts at the American Institute of Physics (AIP), Rick has made participation by the Society of Physics Students (SPS) a regular feature of winter AAS meetings; SPS exhibits at the undergraduate reception and holds a special evening poster session at which a well-known astronomer gives a career-oriented "pep talk" to the attending students.

Rick also coordinates judging for the Rodger Doxsey Travel Prize, which provides graduate students or postdocs within one year of receiving or receipt of their PhD a monetary prize to enable the oral presentation of their dissertation research at a winter AAS meeting. He also coordinates judging for the Chambliss Student Astronomy Achievement Awards, which recognize exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students who present posters at AAS meetings.

Rick continues to work on strengthening the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program, which sends AAS members on short visits to colleges and universities that do not have robust astronomy programs. The goal is to ensure that the program supports not only the part of our mission statement that commits the Society to training, mentoring, and supporting the next generation of astronomers, but also the part that commits us to promoting increased participation of historically underrepresented groups in astronomy. Rick wrote a proposal to overhaul the Shapley program, covering everything from the selection of lecturers and host institutions, through outreach and publicity, to follow-up and evaluation. With the Council's support and in collaboration with the AEB, and with help from a volunteer AAS member recruited by AAS Executive Officer Dr. Kevin Marvel, he is working on implementing the plan.

Rick is also working with the AEB on a new education-and-outreach initiative called Astronomy Ambassadors. Conceived by AAS President Debra M. Elmegreen, the Ambassadors program was originally designed to dispatch advanced undergraduates and early graduate students to local middle schools and high schools, where they would talk about their research, answer questions, and encourage interest in STEM ("science, technology, engineering, and mathematics") careers. A number of challenges arose that forced a rethinking, and a committee was formed to meet in early 2012 to come up with an alternative approach. The results of that effort was a new series of pre-meeting workshops to train young AAS members in best practices for community outreach.

MEMBERSHIP

With more than 7,000 members in the US and more than 1,100 outside, the AAS membership is geographically diverse, with many members from countries beyond North America. The AAS is proud to draw members from countries all around the world as astronomy is clearly a global endeavor that knows no borders...after all, *one sky connects us all*.

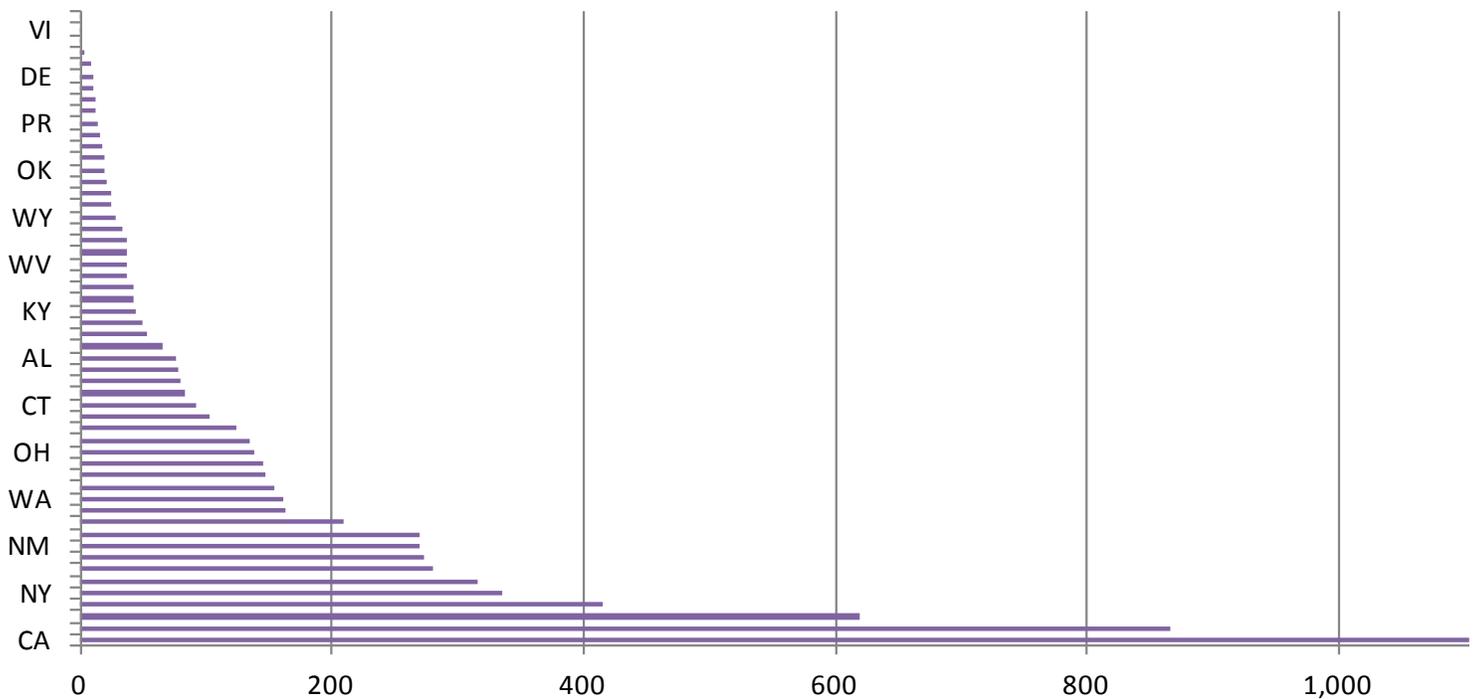
Of course, we know that by growing our membership internationally through, for example, our International Affiliate membership class, we can expand the diversity of our membership to better represent the global astronomical enterprise. Already, many of our services know no boundaries, such as the *AAS Job Register*, *AAS Newsletter*, *Membership Calendar* and *Membership Directory*, and we work actively to ensure a focus in these

publications beyond just North America. The *Directory*, for example, is recognized as the most comprehensive and accurate listing of international astronomy institutions and we are working with the International Astronomical Union to ensure that our list and theirs are consistent, accurate and complete.

Our journals draw authors from all around the world and even our meetings are showing steadily increasing participation from astronomers working outside North America. We need this diversity to achieve our core mission, to enhance and share humanity's understanding of the universe.

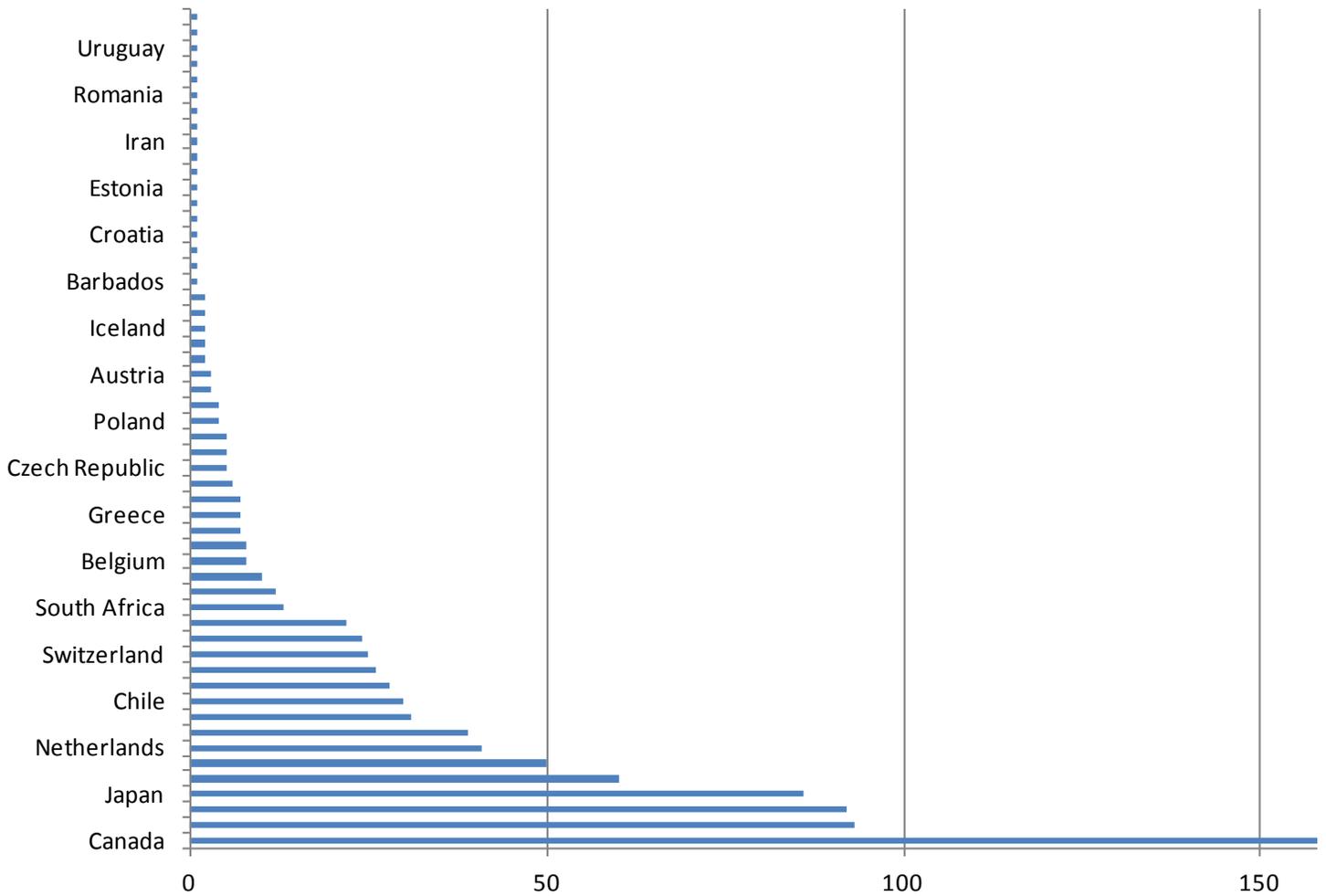
The graphs presented here provide a snapshot look at our geographic diversity both within and outside the US, representing the geographic locations of our members in July 2011.

US Members by State - Total 7,786



CA	1,521	CO	269	NJ	125	UT	49	WY	28	ID	12
MD	867	IL	210	GA	103	KY	45	KS	25	NE	12
MA	619	DC	164	CT	93	IA	42	AR	24	AK	11
AZ	416	WA	162	IN	83	SC	42	NV	21	DE	10
NY	335	MI	154	MN	80	MT	38	OK	20	ND	8
TX	315	FL	148	TN	78	WV	38	VT	19	MS	3
VA	280	HI	146	AL	77	LA	37	RI	18	AE	1
PA	273	OH	139	NC	65	OR	37	ME	16	VI	1
NM	270	WI	135	MO	54	NH	33	PR	14		

Non-US Members by Country - Total 1,122



Canada	195
United Kingdom	93
Germany	92
Japan	86
Australia	60
Republic of Korea	50
Netherlands	41
Italy	39
Spain	31
Chile	30
France	28
China	26
Switzerland	25
Mexico	24

Taiwan	22
South Africa	13
Sweden	12
Israel	10
Belgium	8
Brazil	8
Finland	7
Greece	7
Norway	7
India	6
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Ireland	5
Poland	4

Turkey	4
Argentina	3
Austria	3
Bahrain	2
Hong Kong	2
Iceland	2
Lebanon	2
Singapore	2
Barbados	1
Colombia	1
Costa Rica	1
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Egypt	1

Estonia	1
Georgia	1
Hungary	1
Iran	1
New Zealand	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Russian Federation	1
Serbia	1
Uruguay	1
Vatican City State	1
Venezuela	1

CHARITABLE DONORS

The year 2011 began with the Spring Campaign “The Power of Giving” to raise money for the Annie Jump Cannon Award, the Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize, the Helen B. Warner Prize, and the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship. Member contributions for the Spring Campaign totaled \$57,335.25. As the Power of Giving continued through the renewal period, contributions continued and we completed the year with \$95,000.

We are grateful for all charitable contributions to the Society and are pleased to provide special recognition of our donors in this annual report. Questions can be directed to the AAS Membership Services Director, Faye Peterson.

Founders (\$5,000 Plus)

Fishman, Gerald
Wentzel, Donat

Quasar (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Conklin, Edward
Dupree, Andrea
Faber, Sandra
Fraknoi, Andrew

In Honor of Rick Fienberg

Wells, William

Supernova (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (1)

Bell, James
Carney, Bruce
Deluca, Edward

Elvis, Martin

Hu, Esther

Landolt, Arlo

Moran, James

Nolan, Michael

Sargent, Wallace

Willson, Lee Anne

Nova (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous (1)

Balick, Bruce

Bartlett, David

Bennett, Jeffrey

Brissenden, Gina

Brown, G. Stanley

In Honor of Beatrice Tinsley

Burns, Jack

Chiu, Bella

Elmegreen, Debra

Fabbiano, Giuseppina

Hardersen, Paul

Heiser, Arnold

Helfand, David

Lippincott, Sarah

Lowenthal, James

Reynolds, Ronald

Sonneborn, George

Stockman, Hervey

Tokunaga, Alan

Twarog, Bruce

Welsch, Brian

Williams, Thomas

Wilson, Robert

Zavertnik, Helen

In Honor of Roger Doxsey

Zavertnik, James

In Memory of John E Doxsey

Zurek, Richard

Giant Branch (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous (8)

A'Hearn, Michael

Allen, M.

Anders, Edward

Applebaum, David

Armstrong, J.

Bagenal, Fran

Bahcall, Neta

Benner, Lance

Brandt, W.

Bregman, Joel

Bridgman, William

Burke, James

Carlstrom, John

Catacosinos, Paul

Chapman, Robert

Chromey, Frederick

Chupp, Edward

Clark, Barry

Cole, Carol

In Memory of Roger Doxsey

Colgate, Stirling

Cominsky, Lynn

De La Fuente Marcos, Raul

De Vorkin, David

Dickel, John

Dr. Schmadel, Lutz

Dufour, Reginald

Durney, Bernard

Esposito, Larry

Fischer, Lynn

Fitch, W.

Forrest, William

Freedman, Richard

Friel, Eileen

Frieman, Joshua

Gibson, James

In Honor of Brian Marsden

Gilman, Peter

Goodman, Jeremy

Gould, Andrew

Groom, Donald

Hagyard, Mona

Hardebeck, Harry

Harms, Richard

Hauser, Michael

Heeschen, David

Hege, E.

Henry, J.

Hodapp, Klaus

Hubbard, William

Hufbauer, Karl

Hunter, Deidre

Ishibashi, Kazunori

Jackson, William

Jones, Harrison

Kalogera, Vassiliki

Keil, Stephen

King, Ivan

Kirk, John

Kraemer, Kathleen

Kraft, Robert

Lee, Martin

Levine, Alan

Liebert, James

Lindsey, Charles

Lockman, Felix

Lukac, Marie

Malhotra, Renu

Massey, Philip

Mathieu, Robert

McNutt, Ralph

Morrison, Nancy

Mueller, Beatrice

Mufson, Stuart

Mumford, George

Nelson, Robert

Nicholson, Philip

Olson, Edward

Peimbert, Manuel

Polidan, Ronald

Prato, Lisa

Protheroe, William

Raymond, John

Rogers, Alan

Rosendhal, Jeffrey

Rumstay, Kenneth

Schmidt, Maarten

Schou, Jesper

Shaffer, David

Shane, William

Shelton, Robin

Sherrill, Thomas

Simpson, Richard

Spencer, John

Squires, Gordon

Stachnik, Robert	Corbin, Brenda	Margrave, Thomas	Tarbell, Theodore
Stanescu, Florin	Corbin, Thomas	Mathis, John	Tarter, C.
Stege, Edward	Coustenis, Athena	Mauche, Christopher	Teplitz, Vigdor
<i>In Memory of John Doxsey</i>	Custodi, Paolo	Mckinney, Nancy & Ronald	Thompson, William
Steidel, Charles	Daltas, Arthur	Mercer, Helen & Harry	Tipton, Rebecca
Stein, William	Daugherty, Joseph	<i>In Memory of John Doxsey</i>	<i>In Memory of John Doxsey</i>
Stevens, Berton	Delsosto, Christopher	Mewaldt, Richard	Trasco, John
Tamres, David	<i>In Memory of Brian Marsden</i>	Milkey, Robert	Trudel, Jean-Louis
Tenn, Joseph	Dickel, Helene	Monet, Alice	Van Hoven, Gerard
Tully, R.	Dinerstein, Harriet	Morabito, Leah	Vargo, Doris
Tylka, Allan	Dixon, William	Moreels, Guy	<i>In Memory of John Doxsey</i>
Urry, C. Megan	Duncombe, R.	Morgan, John	Vrtilek, Jan
Van Ballegooijen, Adriaan	Erskine, Fred	Morgan, Thomas	Wagner, Roland
Walter, Frederick	Eryurt-Ezer, Dilhan	Murison, Marc	Walker, Robert
West, Mary Lou	Fairman, Rita	Murphy, Jim	Walterbos, Rene
Whitney, Charles	Federman, Steven	Nevans, Charlene	Ward, William
Williams, Brian	Fikani, Michael	<i>In Memory of George Doxsey</i>	Wende, Charles
Williams, James	Fischer, Jacqueline	Olling, Robert	Westerhout, Gart
Wing, Robert	Franz, Otto	Osmer, Patrick	Wheaton, William
Yeomans, Donald	Fraquelli, Dorothy	Ouellette, Gerald	White, William
	Frieband, Carol & Neil	Peale, Stanton	Williams, Carol
	<i>In Memory of Jack Doxsey</i>	Pearson, Kae Ellen	Williams, Robert
Main Sequence (\$99 or less)	Gaizauskas, V.	Pepin, Robert	Wilson, Shirley
Anonymous (12)	Gelbord, Jonathan	Peterson, Charles	Winkler, P.
Allen, Ronald	Geller, Harold	Pier, Jeffrey	Wolff, Michael
Asmar, Sami	Gibbs, Michael	Pound, Marc	Woodgate, Bruce
Baines, Kevin	Giordmaine, Joseph	Ray, Paul	Wu, C. Y.
Barlow, Nadine	Gladstone, Randy	Reasenberg, Robert	Yoss, Kenneth
Bartlett, Jennifer	Gott, J.	Rempel, Matthias	Zeilik, Michael
Bayless, Amanda	Hahn, Joseph	Rhodes, Edward	
Becker, Stephen	Hammond, Gordon	Ritz, Barbara	
Berge, Glenn	Haughney, Louis	<i>In Memory of Brian Marsden</i>	
Blaha, Milan	Heney, Mary	Roman, Nancy	
Bodenheimer, Peter	Hindsley, Robert	Romer, A.	
Borkowski, Kazimierz	Hoffman, Veronica	Salvesen, Greg	
Borucki, William	Janiczek, P.	Sandlin, Glenn	
Boyle, Richard	Jenner, David	Saumon, Didier	
Bracher, Katherine	Johnson, David	Schleicher, David	
Bradford, Lawrence	Johnson, W.	Schroeder, Daniel	
Bradley, Paul	Kelsall, Thomas	Schweitzer, Andrea	
Braffman-Miller, Judith	Khurana, Krishan	Sellwood, Jerry	
Brain, David	Killen, Rosemary	Showalter, Glenn	
Brocius, Daniel	Kirk, Randolph	Simkin, Susan	
Brucken, Robert & Lois	Ko, Yuan-Kuen	Simonson, S.	
Buckner, Spencer	Konigl, Arie	Singleton, John	
Caldwell, Douglas	Koshut, Thomas	Skumanich, Andrew	
Carlberg, Joleen	Kubo, Yoshio	Sorensen, Brent	
Castillo-Rogez, Julie	Lawrence, Charles	Stoner, Jeff	
Chiu, Hong-Yee	Leake, Martha	Struck, Curtis	
Clark, T.	Linsky, Jeffrey	Szentgyorgyi, Andrew	
Cody, Regina	Loren, Robert	Takeda, Hidenori	

AAS/DIVISION MEETINGS



As more than one observer pointed out, there is a certain irony in holding a major astronomy conference in Seattle, Washington, a city not exactly known for clear skies. But that didn't keep 2,959 astronomers, educators, exhibitors, and journalists from heading to the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle 9-13 January 2011 for the 217th meeting of the AAS. In doing so, they set a new attendance record for a Society meeting outside Washington, DC. And they got the weather the city is famous for: rain, rain, and more rain—and some slushy snow, too.



Contributing to the high turnout was the fact that this was a joint meeting with the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) and the High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD). For five straight days, every square foot (or meter, if you prefer) of space in the Convention Center was abuzz with activity. Anchoring the science program were 17 prize and invited talks, about 650 contributed oral presentations, and nearly 1,300 posters. Rounding out the busy schedule were numerous career and education workshops, topical special sessions and splinter meetings, Town Hall gatherings with policy makers, scrumptiously catered receptions, and the Society banquet.



There was plenty of interest from the media, too. In 11 press conferences over four days, 40 speakers ranging from graduate students to senior principal investigators presented a wide variety of newsworthy science results concerning everything from antimatter production in Earth's atmosphere to gravitational lensing of the most distant galaxies in the universe. Attending reporters cranked out a steady stream of excellent stories, and if you didn't read them online during the meeting, you probably read them in print or heard them on the radio soon thereafter. One item—a Hubble image of Hanny's Voorwerp—even made it onto David Letterman's hugely popular late-night TV show.



When the 218th AAS meeting convened in Boston, Massachusetts, 22-26 May 2011, the city truly lived up to its grandiose nickname, "The Hub of the Universe." More than 1,350 astronomers, students, exhibitors, and journalists thronged to the Westin Copley Place hotel for the joint gathering of the AAS, the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD), and the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO), which was celebrating its centennial. AAS members of a certain age may remember when it was a rare winter meeting that attracted so many attendees.



The Westin is situated on an oddly triangular lot bordered by some of Boston's busiest streets, so the hotel is oddly triangular too. Navigating from floor to floor and room to room was a challenge at first, but at least you couldn't get stuck going around in circles! There were remarkably few glitches during the week, and AAS staff members were gratified to receive lots of compliments from satisfied attendees on a meeting well run and well worth the time spent.

Newport, Rhode Island, is known for seaside mansions, fast yachts, and historic lighthouses. From 7-10 September 2011, though, the lighthouses spoken of most frequently in the picturesque town were the celestial kind, i.e.,

pulsars, as the AAS High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD) convened at the Newport Marriott. More than 330 participants—fully one-third of HEAD’s members—enjoyed four days of talks, posters, socializing, and sightseeing. Pulsars shared the spotlight with gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, black holes of all sizes, relativistic particles, and other energetic phenomena. Some speakers presented new data from space- or ground-based telescopes, others described new instruments or analytical techniques for probing the high-energy universe, and still others advanced new hypotheses to account for the production of all those X-rays and gamma-rays inundating our detectors.

Everything’s big in Texas—even AAS meetings. Registrations for our 219th semiannual gathering got off to a slow start, but by the time we assembled at the Austin Convention Center in early January 2012 the meeting had expanded to be a near-record holder.

A remarkable 2,928 registrants did their best to keep Austin weird, as instructed by countless bumper stickers and store-window signs throughout the city. Even the science program had grown to Texas size, stretching through the late afternoon of the meeting’s fourth and final day.

And by “fourth” we really mean “sixth,” since the weekend before the main program got under way was chock-full of workshops, committee meetings, and Historical Astronomy Division sessions. As it always does, science took center stage, but the Austin meeting featured much more than the latest results in astrophysics and space science. For example, a series of special sessions and workshops offered professional-development opportunities for attendees at all stages of their careers. And there were so many public-policy Town Hall meetings that you literally couldn’t attend them all, as they had to be scheduled in parallel sessions.

DIVISIONS, COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

The AAS is composed of a diverse group of specialists (and some generalists!) who come together under the broad umbrella of ‘astronomy.’ To help facilitate discussion among these specialists, the AAS bylaws allow for the formation of Divisions and Working Groups as well as establishing both standing Committees and authority for the Council to create additional Committees as needed. Composed of individual members, all three help move our discipline forward.

The AAS divisions cover all major areas of astronomical endeavor. 2011 saw the final steps necessary for the formation of a new Division of the Society, the Laboratory Astrophysics Division, which was formally approved in January 2012 by the AAS Council. This is the first new Division of the Society formed in more than 30 years. The other Divisions are: Division for Planetary Sciences, High Energy Astrophysics Division, Solar Physics Division, Division on Dynamical Astronomy and the Historical Astronomy Division. Each has their own governing committee, whose volunteer leaders guide the strategic direction of each Division and partner with the AAS Council to enhance our shared discipline. All AAS members may join any of the Divisions they choose, which have their own membership dues and bylaws. Several of the Divisions have Affiliate Memberships, which allow scientists who would not reasonably be or do not qualify as a member of the AAS to join.

The AAS Committees actually help implement many of the strategic goals of the AAS Council. A full list is available online at the AAS website, but some of the important committees include the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy, Committee on Public Policy, Publications Board and Employment Committee. Some committees require election, while most rely simply on interested individuals to volunteer for service. Each prize has its own selection committee and there are a range of administrative committees that look after the operation of the Society in a variety of ways. Individuals interested in volunteering for committee service should contact the AAS Secretary.

Working Groups are formed by the AAS Council to look after specific issues in our field. Sometimes Working Groups stay active for a long time, like the Working Group on Light Pollution, Space Debris and Radio Frequency Interference, while others (like the now defunct Working Group on Laboratory Astrophysics) ultimately become fully fledged Divisions. A new Working Group was formed by the AAS Council at its summer 2012 meeting on Astrostatistics and Astroinformatics.

PUBLIC POLICY

The AAS conducts a wide range of public policy activities on behalf of the membership and U.S. astronomy. Most of the policy activities are guided by the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP), whose members are appointed by the President of the AAS. The CAPP is charged with staying informed of developments in science policy that might affect the astronomical community in the United States and carrying out advocacy initiatives with federal agencies and Congress.

The John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow is the staff person in the AAS Executive Office who monitors policy issues on a day-to-day basis. (S)he works closely with the Executive Officer and CAPP to engage and disseminate information to both policymakers and the astronomical community.

The National Research Council published the recent decadal surveys, *New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey* in September 2010 and the *Vision and Voyages for Planetary Science in the Decade 2013-2022* in March 2011. The heliophysics decadal survey will be published in the summer of 2012. The decadal surveys represent the consensus of scientific communities' review of the current state of understanding of the science and have a prioritized list of projects, programs and missions important in the next decade. The funding agencies look to these reports for guidance on scientific priorities.

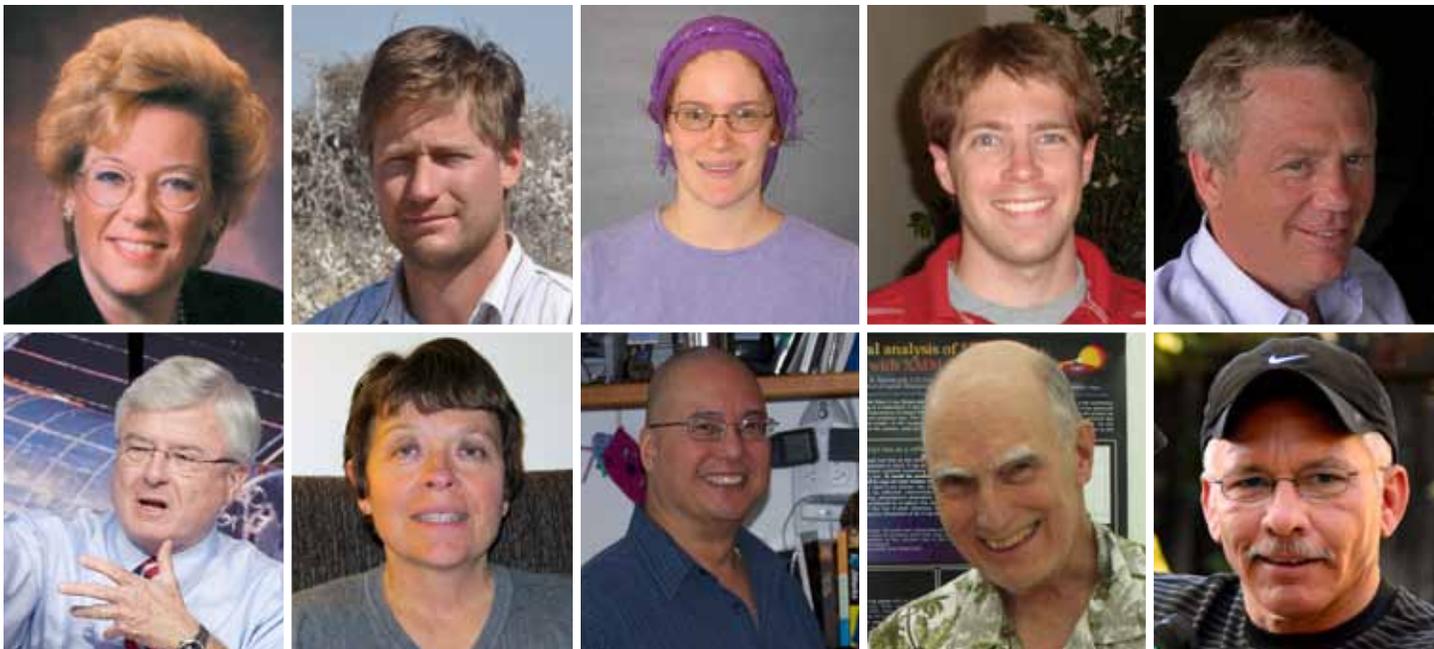
The AAS is a member of several multi-society coalitions in Washington, DC, that work on science and science education policy. These include the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), the Science-Engineering-Technology Working Group (SETWG), the STEM Education Coalition, the Task Force for American Innovation (TFAI). The AAS is also a member of the Intersociety Working Group and authors a chapter every year on the outlook for astronomy funding published in the AAAS Report on Research and Development.

CNSF primarily works on issues related to funding for the National Science Foundation. The coalition organizes an annual exhibition and reception in the Spring on Capitol Hill to showcase NSF-funded projects. In 2012, the AAS sponsored an exhibit by Dr. Jim Beletic, Senior Director in Space and Astronomy at Teledyne Imaging Sensors on astronomy's infrared detectors, the world's best technology made possible by NSF.

SETWG consists of members from various scientific and technical professional societies as well as universities and industry. The group sponsors an annual Congressional Visits Day each Spring. This event brings together research scientists and engineers from all over the country for two days to learn how federal funding for science works and to lobby their elected Representatives and Senators for basic R&D funding. The two-day event in 2012 was held on 24-25 April in Washington, DC. This event introduces AAS members to the federal budget process and science policy formulation and shows them the basics of meeting with Congressional offices.

The Council of the AAS has allocated funds to enable AAS members to participate in a new program, *Communicating With Washington (CWW)*. Volunteers learn how to most effectively communicate with policy makers and travel to Washington, DC to meet with policy makers. The goal is to have one or two astronomers visit Washington every week that Congress is in session and to visit every Congressional office, the Congressional science committee offices, and the White House at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) over the life of the program. The message will be to educate and ask for support for the recommended priorities of the current and previous astronomical decadal surveys for astronomy and astrophysics, planetary science, and heliophysics released by the National Research Council. From 17 February 2012 to 18 May 2012, there were 21 total volunteers in about 14 weeks, from 15 individual states.

PRIZE WINNERS



Top row: Sandra Faber, Gaspos Bakos, Rachel Mandelbaum, Steven Furlanetto, Robert P. Kirshner
Bottom row: David S. Leckrone, Grace L. Deming, Edward S. Cheng, Hale Bradt, R. Jay GaBany

Sandra Faber

Henry Norris Russell Lectureship

“for a lifetime of seminal contributions to galaxy evolution and dynamics, the distribution of the mysterious “dark matter” in the universe, for leading the construction of astronomical instrumentation, and for mentoring future leading astronomers.”

Gaspos Bakos

Newton Lacy Pierce Prize

“for the impact he has had on the study of exoplanets, his contributions to our understanding of the unexpected diversity of exoplanet properties, and the extraordinary entrepreneurial spirit and capability he has shown in the development of one of the most successful systems for detecting transiting extra-solar planets (HATNet).”

Rachel Mandelbaum

Annie Jump Cannon Award

“for her ground-breaking contributions to the field of weak gravitational lensing of galaxies.”

Steven Furlanetto

Helen B. Warner Prize

“for his theoretical work in the field of high-redshift cosmology, including ground-breaking work on the epoch of reionization and its observational signatures, opening up new pathways to the study of reionization in the redshifted 21 cm hydrogen line.”

Robert P. Kirshner

AAS/AIP Dannie Heineman Prize

“for his sustained and enduring contributions to our understanding of supernovae and cosmology.”

David S. Leckrone

George Van Biesbroeck Prize

“for three decades of selfless dedication to the instrumenting, servicing, and science programs of the Hubble Space Telescope, through informed advocacy, technical management, and outreach to diverse constituencies in education, government, the science community and the general public.”

Grace L. Deming

Education Prize

“for blazing the trail of astronomy education research, providing us with

the Astronomy Diagnostic Test, the first means within our discipline to assess the success of our instruction, and convincing the astronomical community of the importance of assessment; tirelessly promoting the use of research to guide our instruction even before the field of astronomy education research existed; and being ahead of her time in educating us about the importance of collaborative group learning to improve student understanding.”

Edward S. Cheng

Joseph Weber Award for Instrumentation

“for his critical contributions to the development of several key instruments on the Hubble Space Telescope.”

Hale Bradt

Chambliss Astronomical Writing Award for 2010

“for the astronomy textbook, *Astrophysics Processes: The Physics of Astronomical Phenomena*.”

R. Jay GaBany

Chambliss Amateur Achievement Award

“for being one of the leading amateur CCD astrophotographers for the past decade.”

MEMBER DEATHS

The Society was saddened during 2011 to learn of the passing of the members listed here. The Society, through its Historical Astronomy Division, strives to publish an obituary for each AAS member after we are informed of his or her death. Obituaries are published in the *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* and available online through the AAS web pages. They are also provided to Astrophysics Data System. A complete index is available at aas.org/bass/obits/all.

Thomas Ahrens	Tom Gehrels	Michael Preston Merilan	Allan Sandage
Dipak Basu	Gerson Goldhaber	Hakki Ogelman	Edward R. Schiffmacher
William P. Bidelman	Soren W. Henriksen	John P. Oliver	Richard D. Schwartz
Victor Blanco	Donald Hunten	Benjamin Franklin Peery	William H. Smyth
Edward W. Burke, Jr.	Kimmo Innanen	Elisabetta Pierazzo	Einar Tandberg-Hanssen
Thomas Carr	Myron “Mike” Lecar	Malcolm Raff	Seth L. Tuttle
Angioletta Coradini	Thomas H. Legg	Ernst Raimond	Francois Wesemael
Michael J. Drake	Brian Marsden	George Roberts	
James L. Elliot	Aden B. Meinel	Leif J. Robinson	

SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

January, February, March

- *AAS Newsletter* goes electronic
- AAS Seattle meeting breaks record attendance (for a meeting outside of Washington, DC)—2959
- *AJ* and *ApJ* available for mobile devices
- Inaugural Lancelot M. Berkeley-New York Community Trust prize and inaugural Kavli lecture given in Seattle
- Irene Hansen Osterbrock named Patron of the Society

April, May, June

- AAS journals begin charging authors for “digital quanta” rather than pages
- AAS letter helps secure name of Mount Tinsley in New Zealand (after Beatrice Tinsley)
- Boston summer meeting breaks record attendance—1300
- AAS communications infrastructure revamp gets under way
- Yasuo Tanaka, Malcolm Longair elected as AAS honorary members
- Council approves establishment of new LGBT working group

July, August, September

- Congress threatens to cancel JWST, AAS responds aggressively
- AAS organizes its first topical meeting: Extreme Solar Systems II
- Two AAS members win \$1M Shaw Prize in Astronomy
- “Gang of Four” receives \$500,000 Gruber Cosmology Prize

October, November, December

- *Astronomy Education Review* celebrates its 10th anniversary
- Co-discoverers of dark energy win 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics
- Former AAS President Anneila Sargent appointed to National Science Board by President Barack Obama

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
2000 FLORIDA AVE, NW, #400
WASHINGTON, DC 20009
202-328-2010
AAS@AAS.ORG, AAS.ORG

2011 OFFICERS

President Debra Elmegreen, Vassar College
President-Elect David J. Helfand, Columbia Astrophysics Lab.
Vice-President Lee Anne Willson, Iowa State Univ.
Vice-President Nicholas B. Suntzeff, Texas A&M Univ.
Vice-President Edward B. Churchwell, Univ of Wisconsin
Secretary G. Fritz Benedict, Univ. of Texas, Austin
Treasurer Hervey (Peter) Stockman, STScI
Education Officer Timothy F. Slater, Univ. of Wyoming
Publications Board Chair Anne P. Cowley, Arizona State Univ.
Executive Officer, Kevin B. Marvel

COUNCILORS

2009-2012

Richard G. French, Wellesley College
James D. Lowenthal, Smith College
Jennifer Wiseman, NASA GSFC

2010-2013

Edward F. Guinan, Villanova Univ.
Patricia Knezek, WIYN Consortium, Inc.
Robert D. Mathieu, Univ. of Wisconsin

2011-2014

Bruce Balick, Univ. of Washington
Eileen D. Friel, Boston Univ.
Angela Speck, Univ. of Missouri

EXECUTIVE OFFICE STAFF

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer
Tracy Beale, Registrar & Meetings Coordinator
Chris Biemesderfer, Director of Publishing
Kelly E. Clark, Chief Financial Officer
Kim Earle, Director of Meeting Services
Megan Feeley, Meetings Abstract Administrator
Rick Fienberg, Press Officer/Education & Outreach Coordinator
Lisa Idem, Meetings Manager
Scott Idem, Director of Information Technology
Bethany Johns, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow
Judith M. Johnson, Director of Communications
Jerry Lin, IT Support & Web Applications Developer
Faye C. Peterson, Director of Membership Services
Tracy Rowe, Executive Office Assistant
Crystal M. Tinch, Communications Manager

Front cover:

PIA12008: Silicate Crystal Formation in the Disk of an Erupting Star, credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech. Infant Stars in the Small Magellanic Cloud, credit: NASA, ESA and A. Nota (STScI/ESA). PIA11613: Post-Equinox Color, credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute. Hubble NICMOS Mosaic of the Galactic Center, credit: NASA, ESA, and Q.D. Wang (University of Massachusetts, Amherst).