

AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

March 2004
Issue 119

Inside

4-5
Proposed Bylaw
Changes

5
Election Results

6
Council Actions

16-17
Atlanta Meeting
Highlights

12-13
2004 Prize Winners

18
Mount Stromlo News



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

AAS Meets in Denver 30 May - 3 June 2004

The AAS 2004 spring meeting returns to Denver, 53 years after the last meeting in Colorado, that was held in Boulder in 1982. The Solar Physics Division will also be meeting with the AAS and many exciting scientific sessions have been planned. The program includes the Hale Prize Lecture, (**The High Energy Sun** - Robert P. Lin, U. California, Berkeley) and the Pierce Prize Lecture, (**X-rayng Active Galaxies Both Near and Far: Exploring the Environments of Supermassive Black Holes** - Niel Brandt, Pennsylvania State U.) In addition, invited talks will be given by Philip Armitage (U. Colorado), Judith Lean (Naval Research Laboratory), Elaine Seymour (U. Colorado) and Max Tegmark (U. Pennsylvania).

The topical sessions for Tuesday, 1 June include: Detecting the First Stars and AGN, Early Science Results from the Spitzer Space Telescope, Professional-Amateur Collaboration for Enhanced Research, Stellar-Solar Connection: What the Stars Teach Us about our Sun, Plasma Astrophysics of Coronae: Solar, Stellar and Accretion Disk, and When the Sun Went Wild.

The topical sessions continue on Wednesday, 2 June and include: AGN Mass Ejection: the X-ray/UV Connection, Galaxy Evolution and Galaxy Clustering in the NOAO Deep Wide-Field Survey's Bootes



continued on page 6



Gallagher Named New *Astronomical Journal* Editor

On 4 January 2004, the Council of the AAS met in Executive Session and voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the AAS Publications Board that Professor John S. Gallagher, III (University of Wisconsin) be the next editor of the *Astronomical Journal*. Professor Gallagher will succeed Professor Paul Hodge of the University of Washington who has served admirably as *AJ* Editor for 20 years and is stepping down to spend more time on research (see the March 2003 *AAS Newsletter*). The transition of the editorial offices from the University of Washington to Wisconsin will happen gradually over the coming year and will be completed by the end of Hodge's term as editor in December 2004. Further announcements to the membership will occur in editorials in the *AJ*, AAS Electronic Communications, and the

June *AAS Newsletter* as the details of the transition become clearer. Manuscripts should continue be sent to Prof. Hodge in Washington until the handover date is announced.

Professor Gallagher was chosen after an international search headed by Professor Leonard Kuhl (University of Minnesota and AAS Treasurer) and described in the June 2003 *AAS Newsletter*. The Committee was very pleased by the number and quality of the applications received both as a result of the advertisement and from personal solicitation. Both the Committee and the Council would like to express their gratitude to those members of the Astronomical Community who were willing to serve the Society in this position. The Search Committee presented their recommendation to the AAS Publication Board in Executive Session at their meeting in Tucson on 3 November 2004. The Publication Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Committee and forwarded it to the AAS Council for their approval.

continued on page 4

AAS Executive Office Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

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

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

User Support: aastex-help@aaas.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE IAU “UNDEMOCRATIC”?

Kaplan et al, *AAS Newsletter* October 2003, raised issues about the IAU and concluded that it is becoming less democratic. Since many recent changes have the opposite intent, we feel it important to respond.

i: “The ‘democratic’ votes at General Assemblies have disappeared” and “Individual members were not involved”.

The main issue here was the vote for the change in statutes. First we note that any decision to change the statutes is voted by the national representatives and not by the General Assembly (GA) (Articles 18 and 15c of the original statutes). There is a good reason for this; voting at GAs involves typically 300-400 of the IAU’s ~9,000 members, which is hardly a true democracy. Draft revisions to the statutes were sent to the National and Finance Committees, and in addition to the Adhering Organizations, for review and comments. Possibly some National Committees did not discuss them in their communities, but inadequate communication is not undemocratic intent.

ii: “Authority has been shifted upward to the Divisions”.

In reality authority has been shifted downward to Divisions. The old Commission structure was too large and unwieldy to be directly involved in the management of the Union activities. Divisions were introduced to make the Union more responsive to its members especially on scientific matters. Division Presidents are elected democratically by the membership. They are increasingly involved in scientific activities of the Union and they have become an important consultative body for the Executive Committee, providing efficient communication links to the other levels. The new statutes go further in this direction by shifting the approval of Commissions, Working Groups, etc. down to the Divisions and Commissions, instead of the GA or the Executive Committee. Changes can thus be implemented in a matter of weeks rather than the 3 years between GAs, and members’ initiatives can be implemented by Divisions with much greater flexibility.

continued on next page

MEMBER DEATHS NOTED

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

**Leverett Davis Julena Duncombe Richard Elston Robert Fried
Friedrich Gondolatsch J. Virginia Lincoln Romulad Zalubas**

DIRECTORY ERRATUM

On page 295 of the *2004 AAS Membership Directory*, the website www.ini.cl was omitted under the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile in Eastern Europe and Eurasia listing.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Caty Pilachowski, catyp@astro.indiana.edu

When this Newsletter hits the streets in early March, much will have happened concerning the future of the Hubble Space Telescope. But as I am writing this column in late January, the President's announcement of a new, focused mission for NASA and the news of the cancellation of HST Servicing Mission 4 are fresh, the emails are flying, and the future is far from certain. What is important to remember, however, in these proverbially interesting times, is that our community draws strength from our broad consensus on the most important issues.

We agree that the safety of our brave astronauts, on whom we rely to service the Hubble Space Telescope, must be as secure as humanly possible.

We agree that the Hubble Space Telescope's extraordinary and sustained scientific productivity has resulted from regular servicing missions and from innovative and highly capable new instrumentation, and that Servicing Mission 4 would enable HST to remain the most broadly productive telescope in the world until the end of the decade.

We agree that sustained HST operations are essential to reap the full benefits of NASA's other Great Observatories in space, the Chandra X-ray Telescope, launched in 1999, and the Spitzer Infrared Telescope, launched just a few months ago. Only if HST operates at full capability through 2009 do we achieve the vision of scientific synergy with these three Great Observatories, examining astronomical sources across the electromagnetic spectrum in X-ray, ultraviolet, visual, and infrared light.

We agree that the Hubble Space Telescope is an international treasure that has inspired the people of America and the world for nearly 15 years. Its impact, not only on science, but also on the dreams and imagination of our young people, cannot be overstated.

We agree that input from the science community in the process of reaching decisions that impact science has been a hallmark of the interactions between the astronomical community and the federal agencies, NASA, NSF, DOE, and others that fund astronomy, and has led to the best and most productive use of federal research dollars.

We agree that American astronomy is enjoying a golden age of discovery as we probe the most profound questions about the origin and evolution of the Universe and all that it contains, including the origin and extent of life on other worlds. And we agree that to sustain the pace and momentum of discovery requires a commitment to a strong space science program.

The events of the weeks ahead will shape the directions of astronomy for the remainder of the decade. As we plan our course through them, let us keep in mind these guiding principles that define our community.

Letters to the Editor continued

iii: "The new statutes have still not been made available".

The changes to the statutes were discussed in the IAU GA newspaper (6, 2) and are posted on the IAU web site, <http://www.iau.org/IAU/Organization/admdoc/>.

iv: "Commissions' default lifetime is only six years".

The fossilized structure of the IAU has endangered its role in today's science. Creating new Commissions had to be facilitated. And regular scrutiny is a normal democratic procedure.

We welcome constructive suggestions on matters of the IAU and will be very supportive of more proactive National Committees in member countries.

Finally, it is intended to encourage more young astronomers to the IAU, and the rigid limit on Commission membership has disappeared. Far from being 'disenfranchised', IAU members now have far more direct influence than ever before. We hope they will use it!

Ron Ekers, IAU President

(Ron.Ekers@csiro.au).

Oddbjorn Engvold, IAU General Secretary
(oddbjorn.engvold@astro.uio.no).

11/10/2003

WERE YOU A PARTICIPANT IN PROJECT MOONWATCH?

Were you a Moonwatcher? If you took part in the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Project Moonwatch in the 1950s, '60s or '70s, we would like to hear from you. From 1957 to 1975 many amateur astronomers (and some professionals) got their start by helping visually locate satellites in the night sky as part of a program coordinated by the SAO. We are working on an NSF-supported project to research the post-World War II history of the SAO, and hope to better

continued on next page

assess the impact of “Moonwatch”, one of its defining programs. Although the Smithsonian Archives contains ample information on Moonwatch, we also need to locate as many members of the program as possible today to fully appreciate the program. At this point we are collecting names and contact information. Interested parties may contact either David DeVorkin at the National Air and Space Museum (David.DeVorkin@nasm.si.edu) or Patrick McCray at the University of California at Santa Barbara (pmccray@history.ucsb.edu).

*Patrick McCray
David DeVorkin*

Note: Letters to the Editor on current issues of importance to astronomers are welcomed. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 250 words. Send to Jeff Linsky, Associate Editor, Letters, (jlinsky@jila.colorado.edu; 303-492-7838 phone; or 303-492-5235 fax) one week prior to the *AAS Newsletter* deadline. Letters may be edited for clarity/length (authors will be consulted) and will be published at the discretion of the Editors.

Gallagher continued

Professor Gallagher received his undergraduate degree in astrophysical sciences from Princeton University and doctorate in astronomy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to returning to Madison, he held positions in a variety of institutions, including the Universities of Minnesota and Illinois, NOAO, Lowell Observatory, and the AURA, Inc. corporate office. He served as Associate Managing Editor for the *Astrophysical Journal* between 1986 and 1991. His contact with the *Astronomical Journal* dates from the publication of his first research paper in 1972. Professor Gallagher is looking forward to the challenge of extending the high quality and excellent reputation of the *Astronomical Journal* that Professor Hodge built as editor.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

(Additions/changes are underlined)

The following proposed amendments to the *AAS Bylaws* are being published for comments prior to being considered at the AAS Council meeting in June of 2004. Any member wishing to comment on these should address the comment by mail or email to Arlo Landolt, AAS Secretary, aassec@rouge.phys.lsu.edu.

Proposed Bylaws Change Regarding the Election of Board Members to the AEB

Article II.5 *Eligibility for Holding Office*

All Members of the Society are eligible to become Officers or Councilors. In addition to being a Member, the President-elect also must previously have served as an elected Officer or Councilor. Junior and Associate Members are not eligible to be Officers or Councilors. In addition to being a Member, the Chairs of the Publications Board and Astronomy Education Board (the Education Officer) ordinarily will have served previously or be serving as a member of the Publications Board or Astronomy Education Board, respectively. Associate Members are eligible to serve on Society committees; they are not eligible to chair Society committees. Junior Members are not eligible to chair or to serve on Society committees.

Article VI.4. *Astronomy Education Board*

a. The Astronomy Education Board shall regularly review the Society's education policies and activities, and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Council. This Board will be available to the Education Officer and the Director of Education Activities when called upon for advice.

b. There shall be ten voting members of the Astronomy Education Board, nine serving in rotation for terms of three years, dating from the Annual Business meeting following their election, and the tenth being the Education Officer. Each year the Council shall elect new AEB Members as required from a slate proposed by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Education Officer. Written consent to serve shall be required of all candidates for AEB Membership before their names are placed on the slate. In the event the Education Officer is serving as a member of the Astronomy Education Board at the time of election as Education Officer, that election shall be deemed to create a vacancy on the Astronomy Education Board and the appropriate procedures for filling such a vacancy shall be followed.

Note: If Council votes the Bylaw change which adds the Astronomy Education Board paragraphs to the Bylaws, then the current (2004 AAS Directory) Bylaw Article VI. 4 will become Bylaw Article VI.5. *Additional Committees*.

Proposed Bylaws Change Regarding a Publications Board Chair-elect

Article VI.3.b. There shall be seven (or eight) voting members of the Publications Board, six serving in rotation for terms of four years, dating from the first of January in the year following their election, and the seventh (and eighth) being the Chair (and Chair-elect) who shall be elected by the membership in accord with procedures for election of Council Members. The Publications Board Chair-elect shall serve for a full year on the Publications Board as Chair-elect, beginning with the Annual Business Meeting immediately following election and continuing until taking office as Chair. The Publications Board Chair-elect would have the right to attend Council meetings, but without voting privileges. Each year the Council shall elect new Board Members as required from a slate proposed by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the journal Editors. Written consent to serve shall be required of all candidates for Board Membership before their names are placed on the slate. In the event the Chair is serving as a member of the Publications Board at the time of election, that election shall be deemed to create a vacancy on the Publications Board and the appropriate procedures for filling such a vacancy shall be followed.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Arlo U. Landolt, aassec@as.org

Committee Vacancies Need to be Filled

Vacancies for several AAS committees will be filled by Council at its meeting in Denver the last week in May 2004. Current committee members are listed under Council/Committees on the AAS homepage, www.aas.org. Committees which have vacancies, followed by the number of vacancies on each (in parenthesis) are:

Astronomy Education Board (3)
Committee on Employment (3)
Investment Advisory Committee (1)
Light Pollution, Radio Interference and Space Debris (4)
Committee on Status of Minorities (3)
Committee on Status of Women in Astronomy (3)

AAS Members may themselves volunteer, or suggest other Members for one of the vacancies. To assist members of the Committee on Appointments who may not know everyone, please include the date of PhD, as well as a few sentences conveying the background and area of expertise of the named individual. Our goal is to have both quality and breadth across the AAS committee structure.

Input must be received in the Office of the Secretary no later than **30 April 2004**. Submit suggestions to Arlo U. Landolt, AAS Secretary, by email to aassec@rouge.phys.lsu.edu or at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4001, Tel: 225-578-1160, Fax: 225-578-7001.

Message to Associate Members

Only (Full) AAS Members have the right to hold office or to chair committees of the Society. Many Associate members who are eligible to upgrade to Full Membership and whose expertise could benefit the Society, cannot serve. Associate members, please consider upgrading, and become more involved with Society activities!! There is no increase in dues!! (See a description of the different membership classes in the *Bylaws*, Article I.1, or on the membership application form.) Both of these sources are in the *2004 Directory*; membership information and forms also may be found at the AAS website by clicking on Membership. If any of you have questions, please contact me at aassec@rouge.phys.lsu.edu.

AAS Election

The results of the latest AAS election are presented below. The Society thanks all who agreed to stand for election, for their commitment and service to the community, and congratulates the winners. New AAS Officers and Councilors begin their terms after the Annual Business Meeting on 2 June 2004 at the Denver Meeting.

Vice-President (2004-2007)

Wallace L. W. Sargent

Secretary (2004-2007)

John A. Graham

Councilors (2004-2007)

Jill Bechtold

Karen S. Bjorkman

Alan M. Title

Nominating Committee (2004-2007)

Melissa McGrath

Lee G. Mundy

USNC-IAU, Category I (2005-2007)

Edward F. Guinan

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Council Actions Taken at the 203rd Meeting of the Council of the American Astronomical Society in Atlanta, Georgia, January 4, 2004

1. Adopted the Minutes of the AAS Council's 202nd Meeting (Nashville) as distributed and corrected.
2. Approved Executive Committee actions taken between May 25, 2003 and January 4, 2004.
3. Approved the Executive Office remaining in the American Geophysical Union (AGU) building, and delegated to the Executive Committee the authority to approve a new lease for space in the AGU building.
4. Approved publication of a proposed Bylaws change regarding the election of Board Members to the Astronomy Education Board (AEB).
5. Adopt the "Guidelines on Conflict of Interest Involving AAS Prizes and Awards."
6. Passed a motion that all AAS prize and award nominations have to be filed with the Secretary's Office by the stated deadline; if the deadline is not met, the nomination will not be considered.
7. Adopted the Publications Board report.
8. Appointed John S. Gallagher as Editor of the Astronomical Journal for a five (5) year term 1 January 2005 - 31 December 2009.
9. Passed a motion that the Astronomical Journal Editorial Search Committee be sent a letter of thanks for their services.
10. Adopt the report of the Committee on Appointments.
11. Approved the recommendations from the committees for the Tinsley Prize, Warner Prize, Pierce Prize, Education Prize, the Russell Lectureship and the Weber Award.
12. Approved the CAPP statement endorsing the HST-JWST Transition Panel report.
13. Approved publication of the proposed Bylaws change regarding a Publications Board Chair-elect.
14. Endorsed National Dark Sky Week.
15. Endorsed the "Connecting Quarks to Cosmos Report."
16. Delegated to the Executive Committee authority to approve the Solar Physics Division statement endorsing the NRC Report "The Sun to the Earth – and Beyond: a Decadal Research Strategy in solar and Space Physics."
17. Approved the CSMA Partnership with the National Society of Black Physicists.
18. Accepted the reports, without approval of the proposals, from the various AAS Committees.
19. Passed the following motion:
The Council of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), considering the concerns of the U.S. astronomical community about the implementation of the new origins and coordinates adopted by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) by resolution in 1997 and 2000:
 - 1) asks that the U.S. National Committee of the IAU (USNC-IAU) forward to the IAU a request that the IAU and the International Earth Reference Service

- (IERS) continue to provide information in the prevailing coordinate system;
 - 2) asks the U.S. Naval Observatory to continue to provide information in the prevailing coordinate system in the Astronomical Almanac; and
 - 3) asks the Division of Dynamical Astronomy (DDA) of the AAS to continue to monitor the impact of the 1997 IAU resolutions on time, origin, and coordinates, to engage broader community input, including educators and geophysicists, to assess the impact of the resolutions, and to advise the AAS on its findings.
20. Appointed Brian C. Chaboyer and Brad K. Gibson to three year terms as Scientific Editors of the Astrophysical Journal, 1 January 2004 - 31 December 2006.
 21. Thanked the two outgoing Astrophysical Journal Scientific Editors, J. P. Huchra and Steven N. Shore, and directed that they be sent a letter thanking them for their services.
 22. Elected Maria Theresa Ruiz (Chile) an Honorary Member of the AAS.
 23. Extended R. W. Milkey's contract as AAS Executive Officer from 1 January 2005 through 30 June 2006.

AAS Meets in Denver continued

Field, X-ray Binary and ULX Populations in Nearby Galaxies, Improving our Understanding of Solar and Stellar Coronae: Recent Efforts in Atomic Physics, Virtual Observatories in Solar Physics, Galaxy Structure and Its Evolution, Mars Down to Earth, and Solar Input to the Heliosphere.

The meeting banquet will be held at the Denver Museum for Nature and Science. There will be a reception in the museum before the dinner, and two planetarium shows are scheduled for afterwards. Tours are planned for Sunday to the Mt. Evans Observatory, and on Monday to the Historic Chamberlin Observatory, both of which will host receptions.

There will be several education events, workshops before and after the meeting and many special sessions.

The meeting will be held at the Colorado Convention Center, a short three block walk from the headquarters hotel. This part of Denver abounds with restaurants, shops and many other interesting things to do. The Colorado Rockies stand watch over the city just a short drive away. Finding time to enjoy the natural wonder of a Colorado summer is just one more reason to attend the 204th meeting of the AAS.

The local organizing committee has been working extra hard preparing for the meeting, and promises a wonderful experience for all meeting attendees. Full meeting details are available online at www.aas.org.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

Broader Impact Still an Issue

Beginning in 2002, NSF required all proposals to address specifically the two NSF merit-review criteria - intellectual merit and broader impact - in the proposal summary. While most proposers to the Astronomy Division are aware of this requirement and meet it in their proposal submission, a minority of proposers appears not to realize the importance of this submission requirement. In FY2004, 13 of the 375 proposals submitted to the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants program were returned without review because they failed to address both criteria in the proposal project summary. PI's must recognize that this is an NSF-wide policy issue and that your Division of Astronomical Sciences has essentially no latitude in the action we can take.

We urge PI's to look carefully at the Grant Proposal Guide and the FastLane proposal submission instructions as they prepare their proposals to ensure that they address these requirements. We also encourage PI's to identify separate, appropriately labeled sections in both the project summary and the full project description that discuss "Intellectual Merit" and "Broader Impact".

We also remind proposers that for NSF, the notion of 'broader impact' goes far beyond the commonly used phrase 'education and public outreach' or EPO, and, in fact, includes many of the activities that an active researcher and teacher would already be doing. To help proposers understand what NSF means by 'broader impact', we have collected some examples below. The list is not meant to be exclusive or exhaustive, nor is any proposal meant to include all of them. But it is important to call them out explicitly in the proposal.

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?

- including students (undergraduate, graduate, or K-12) in research
- bringing the research into teaching; do you incorporate your research into your lectures?
- involving graduate and post-docs in undergraduate teaching activities
- encouraging student participation at scientific and professional meetings
- developing or partnering with educators to develop research-based educational materials

How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g. gender, ethnicity, disability, etc)?

- establishing research collaborations with students and/or faculty who are members of underrepresented groups or who are from institutions that serve underrepresented groups

- including students from underrepresented groups in research or educational activities

To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?

- supporting the development and dissemination of instrumentation, multi-user facilities, or tools.
- upgrading computational tools and/or infrastructure

Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?

- making data available to the scientific community and/or the public
- giving scientific presentations to the public (e.g. schools, local groups)
- participating in multi- and interdisciplinary conferences or workshops

What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

- giving examples and explanations of how the research aids society
- analyzing and interpreting research and education results in formats understandable and useful for non-scientists.

Deadline for FY2004 Funding

The deadline for the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program is 22 July 2004. The program announcement (NSF 02-111) has not changed from last year, and can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02111/nsf02111.htm>. If you have questions about the CAREER program, please contact Randy Phelps, Program Director for the Education and Special Programs in Astronomy, at 703-292-4910 or rphelps@nsf.gov.

The Astronomy Division will be shifting the deadline for its Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI) program in FY2004. The new ATI deadline will be 1 November in 2004 and following years. This change will bring the ATI deadline closer to that for the primary research grants program, and will facilitate the coordinated review of proposals within the division. Please contact Andy Clegg, Program Director for the ATI program, at 703-292-4892 or aclegg@nsf.gov, with questions.

Opportunities for Collaborations with Mathematicians

The NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences sponsors a program on Interdisciplinary Grants in the Mathematical

continued on page 11

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek (CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory)

New Co-editor for AASWOMEN

The CSWA is pleased to announce that Jim Ulvestad of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO, julvesta@nrao.edu) has agreed to serve as a co-editor for AASWOMEN. He is already serving as a member of the CSWA, and will be joining Patricia Knezek (WIYN, knezek@noao.edu) and Michael Rupen (NRAO, mrupen@nrao.edu), to help gather, prepare, and edit material for the weekly electronic newsletter.

If you are unfamiliar with the newsletter, the CSWA invites you to check it out. Back issues of the AASWOMEN newsletter are linked to the CSWA website, www.aas.org/~cswa/. The content can include dialog among subscribers on issues of interest, pointers to interesting articles and books, notice of upcoming awards and fellowships, etc. Instructions for how to submit to, subscribe to, or unsubscribe to AASWOMEN can also be found linked off of the CSWA website. And don't forget that more formal and/or longer articles are published in the bi-annual issues of *STATUS* magazine. Back issues of *STATUS* are also available at the CSWA website.

Special Session on "The Astronomy Workforce" to be held at Denver Meeting

The CSWA is co-sponsoring, with the Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA), a special session that will be held during the June 2004 AAS Meeting in Denver. Fran Bagenal (U. Colorado) is organizing the session. 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. More information on speakers and agenda will be published in AASWOMEN.

Report on the CSWA Session at the Atlanta AAS Meeting

The CSWA sponsored a lively and well-attended session at the Atlanta AAS meeting on Thursday, 8 January 2004. The formal presentations are available on the web, linked off of the CSWA web site. Patricia Knezek reported that the CSWA is working to distill the key issues and suggestions from the

Women in Astronomy II Meeting (WIA II) held 27-28 June 2003, and to synthesize them into a solid set of recommendations to present to the AAS Council in June 2004. As a part of this process, we are soliciting comments and suggestions from the AAS community at large. As a first step, the CSWA held this session in Atlanta (see summary below). Using the input from this session, we will complete a draft set of recommendations by the publication of the *AAS Newsletter* issue (March 1, 2004). That draft will be available for viewing, comments, and suggestions, through the "Members Only" AAS web pages until 1 May 2004. We will then incorporate the comments and suggestions from AAS members for the presentation to the AAS Council in June. We anticipate that this set of recommendations will be only the first, and as the astronomy workforce continues to evolve, other recommendations may follow.

The session continued with an excellent summary by Jim Ulvestad of the results and key recommendations from the Breakout Groups of the WIA II meeting. There were seven 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 with the primary set of recommendations falling into seven categories:

- Acknowledging the need for better statistics, and recommending a systematic longitudinal study.
- Emphasizing the importance of mentoring scientists throughout their careers, both formally and informally, and concluded that training for mentors is critical.
- Recognizing that many astronomers are on "innovative career paths" (i.e. no longer ending up as faculty at major research institutions). It is important that information be made available to young scientists about these career choices, and recommended that restructuring of graduate programs be considered to include training for alternate career paths earlier on (e.g. astronomy research + project management).
- Focusing on the balance between career and families, stating that families need flexibility, such as childcare options and family leave. There also needs to be an acknowledgment that for many scientists, it takes 16-20 years after college to arrive in a stable and/or permanent job, and these years directly conflict with the prime years for raising a family.
- Recommending professional training for decision makers, especially in the areas of mentoring, recruitment, and interviewing.
- Suggesting that the major consortia (AURA, NCAR, AUI, USRA) meet to discuss and develop a set of "best practices" to be followed by all consortia on key issues.
- Addressing hiring practices, and requesting better statistics while recommending that steps be taken to shorten career paths, incorporate proactive recruitment practices, and

develop solutions to the “two-body problem”.

Speaking for Harriet Dinerstein and Neal Evans (Texas), who unfortunately could not attend, Patricia Knezek (WIYN) then presented the steps that the astronomy department at the University of Texas has begun as a result of the WIA II meeting. WIA II attendees from Texas began by reporting out about WIA II to their scientific staff and students. The department immediately increased the number of invited women speakers for colloquia. It incorporated many of the “best practices” recommended at the conference when constituting its most recent faculty search committee, including the presence of two women on the search committee, and actively seeking applicants. In addition, the department arranged to present a summary of the WIA II to the Dean and department chairs within the College of Natural Sciences, and is working with them to garner support for the “best practices” at the College level.

Richard Green (NOAO) followed with a presentation of the steps being taken at NOAO. Like Texas, WIA II attendees from NOAO began by reporting out about WIA II to their scientific staff. NOAO is also incorporating many of the “best practices” from the conference, such as ensuring women are members of job search, promotion, and tenure committees, and

continued page 19

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Anita Krishnamurthi

AAS Employment Committee Hosts Panel Discussion on Grant Writing

The AAS Committee on Employment organized a panel discussion on “Grant Writing: Best Practices for Successful Proposals” at the Atlanta AAS meeting in January 2004. This session was very well attended, especially by grad students. The panelists participating in the discussion had experience with different aspects of the grant proposal review process—as proposers, as reviewers of proposals, and as program officers at funding agencies that administered the review process. The panelists were Kirk Borne from George Mason University, Charles Bailyn from Yale University, Kathy Eastwood from Northern Arizona University, and Dan Golombek from STScI.

Kirk Borne discussed several useful tips for writing successful proposals that included knowing where to look for announcements, awareness of proposal cycle dates, and considering non-traditional funding programs. He also provided a checklist to follow for submitting a proposal.

Charles Bailyn provided insights into the process of reviewing proposals and how a review panel reaches a consensus agreement. Four important take-away points from his talk

were: (1) Don’t mess with the format, (2) Address the criteria, (3) Why is your proposed project interesting and how does it connect to the bigger picture?, and (4) Be very clear about what you intend to do and what the pros and cons of your proposal are.

Kathy Eastwood served as program officer in the Astronomy division at NSF for a few years and spoke of her experience with organizing and running proposal reviews. She stressed quality writing, not leaving unanswered questions, and addressing the “big picture” as important aspects of a good proposal. She also clarified that it is best to ask for the correct amount of funding needed to carry out a project rather than inflating numbers or asking for less money than needed. (Kathy and Charles also did a very funny skit, enacting what really goes through people’s minds when planning review committees!)

Dan Golombek served as a discipline scientist at NASA HQ and oversaw the ADP, ATP, and LTSA grants. He encouraged people to participate as panelists in reviews because it is a good way of gaining experience with the process. He also mentioned that program officers are happy to clarify any questions about the proposal solicitation and are a resource to call upon.

All the panelists stressed the importance of paying careful attention to the text of the proposal solicitation and tailoring the proposal carefully to meet the stated requirements. They also said that the reviewers are busy and not always experts in every specific field, and hence it is important to be concise and clear about the broader importance of proposed research.

The presentations by Kirk Borne and Dan Golombek, along with some noteworthy points that came up during the Q&A session, are available at the AAS career services web site at www.aas.org/career/.

The Employment Committee would also like to thank the people who filled out the survey on possible topics for future sessions. We always appreciate ideas and suggestions for how we can better serve you. We will be organizing sessions at future AAS meetings based on your feedback.

National Postdoctoral Association

The National Postdoctoral Association (nationalpostdoc.org) in collaboration with Sigma Xi is compiling a database on institutional policies relating to postdoctoral researchers. The goal of the database is to provide a comparative resource for individuals beginning a postdoc position as well as to institutions who seek to compare their policies with other institutions. The database will be publicly accessible. Please encourage your institution to submit their information to this database as the more comprehensive it is, the more useful it will be to both postdocs and the institutions that seek to recruit postdocs. Full information on submission of information is available online at the NPA website.

continued on next page

Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers

The 2nd Convocation on Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers will be held 15 April 2004 in Washington D.C. The purpose is to evaluate the impact of the COSEPUP Guide to “Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience.” This meeting will focus on collecting effective practices and determining next steps; and the majority of the meeting will be spent in moderated working groups. The primary Academies product from the meeting will be a proceedings transcript, and participating groups may decide to release policy papers.

For more information or to register, please visit the announcement website at <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/postdoc/>. There is no fee to attend.

STATUS OF MINORITIES IN ASTRONOMY

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

CSMA Hosts Special Session in Atlanta

The CSMA hosted a special session at the January AAS meeting in Atlanta to introduce AAS members to various professional organizations of minority scientists. Representatives from three organizations gave presentations about their activities aimed at increasing the representation of minorities in physics and related disciplines. The organizations represented were:

- SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science)
- APS COM (American Physical Society Committee on Minorities)
- NSBP (National Society of Black Physicists)

Read more about these organizations, including dates and locations of upcoming meetings, in the January 2004 issue of the *SPECTRUM* newsletter. *SPECTRUM* is available online at the CSMA website: www.aas.org/csma.

New NSBP/AAS Undergrad Scholarships for Minorities

In the spirit of fostering cooperation between the AAS and professional organizations serving minorities in physics/astronomy, the AAS Council has approved four new scholarships to encourage minority undergraduates to pursue advanced study in astronomy and space science. Four new scholarships of \$1000 each, funded jointly by the AAS and NSBP, will be awarded annually to undergraduates through a competitive process administered by NSBP. Judging will include participation of AAS members.

NSBP is the largest and most widely recognized organization devoted to the African-American physics community. NSBP represents faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and its annual meetings draw some 600 attendees, with an increasing number of recruiters from graduate programs around the country. Indeed a primary motivation for creating these new scholarships is to bring AAS members into direct contact with minority students at institutions that are the primary producers of minority talent in physics.

The first round of NSBP/AAS scholarships will be awarded at the NSBP meeting in February 2004, with AAS members Charles McGruder and Barbara Williams serving as judges.

Learn more about these scholarships, and about other CSMA initiatives at the CSMA website: www.aas.org/csma. Learn more about the NSBP at: www.nsbp.org

NEWS FROM NASA

Jeffrey D. Rosendhal and
Philip J. Sakimoto, NASA Headquarters

Chicago 2004—*Be There!*

In response to discussions with leaders of various professional societies of minority scientists, the NASA Office of Space Science (OSS) is sponsoring *Chicago 2004: A Workshop to Foster Broader Participation in NASA Space Science Missions And Research Programs*. This workshop is aimed at bringing together NASA personnel, current OSS-funded scientists, and a diverse array of scientists who are interested in participating in future OSS missions and research programs. A specific goal of the workshop is to seed personal contacts among a much more diverse community of investigators than has traditionally been active in NASA space science missions. In addition, all participants are expected to gain insights and contacts leading to a better understanding of how the NASA space science program is organized, planned, and conducted; how missions and research programs are conceived; how mission and research teams are formed; and how successful proposals are constructed.

The workshop will be held at the Hilton Chicago on 28-29 June 2004. Participants will engage in two days of briefings and discussions with ample time for sharing experiences and interests, developing insights, and forming partnerships.

Strong participation by members of the AAS will be a major key to the success of this workshop. To sign up for the workshop mailing list, please visit <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/Chicago2004>. Additional details on Chicago 2004 and other NASA Space Science diversity initiatives may be found in the January 2004 issue of the *SPECTRUM* newsletter (www.aas.org/csma).

ASP NEWS

Michael Bennett, Executive Director, mbennett@astrosociety.org

Let the ASP Help You with NSF's "Broader Impact" Requirement

As NSF proposers are aware, there is now a requirement to address the broader impact, as well as intellectual merit, in all proposals. The NSF is returning proposals if both requirements are not addressed explicitly.

Achieving broader impact can include communicating the results, or the value of your science to non-scientists.

Activities such as promoting teaching, training, and learning, broadening the participation of underrepresented groups, and enhancing the infrastructure for research and education are all possible ways to have a broader impact on society.

If you are having trouble defining how your proposal will benefit society, the ASP may be able to help you. Consider partnering with us. You might want to become involved in a local Project ASTRO site, support and/or participate in an ASP workshop for K-12 or college teachers, contribute to a

teachers newsletter, or help us develop materials for amateur astronomers to use in their widespread outreach activities to many different audiences.

Activities which achieve broader societal impact may not need to be innovative and unique in and of themselves. In many cases, by supporting and enhancing existing successful education or outreach programs, you will be able to very effectively amplify the effect of NSF's funds.

For example, we can help you plan, recruit for, and conduct a teachers workshop at your institution, provide materials, independent evaluation services, and follow-up. The ASP's education and outreach activities encompass both formal K-14 education activities and informal education and outreach.

If you would like to discuss the possibilities, contact Mike Bennett at mbennett@astrosociety.org or call him at 415-337-1100 ext. 111.

News from NSF continued

Sciences (IGMS), whose goal is to enable mathematical scientists to undertake research and study in another discipline. Recipients of an IGMS award are expected to immerse themselves in a discipline apart from the mathematical sciences that makes use of the mathematical sciences in a significant way, and astronomy is a natural candidate. The expected outcome is sufficient familiarity with another discipline so as to open opportunities for effective collaboration by the mathematical scientist with researchers in another discipline. If you would like to develop collaborations with mathematical scientists in research areas of interest, we encourage you to look at the program announcement (NSF 04-518), which can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04518/nsf04518.htm>.

As part of the NSF-wide Mathematical Sciences Priority Area, the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences anticipates funding projects of interest to both the mathematical sciences and the physical sciences divisions (astronomy, chemistry, materials research, and physics). Proposals appropriate to this program are those that address at least one of the following broad interdisciplinary topic areas: (1) mathematical and statistical challenges posed by large data sets, (2) managing and modeling uncertainty, and (3) modeling complex nonlinear systems. Requests for supplementary funding that will significantly enhance existing projects in these areas and for workshops will also be considered. The most competitive proposals will be those that are of interest to both the mathematical sciences and

astronomy. Proposals to this program for FY2004 submitted to the Division of Astronomical Sciences are due no later than 7 April 2004: in future years, the regular AST deadline of 15 November will apply. The program announcement (NSF 04-538) can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04538/nsf04538.htm>, where the most relevant part is Section 2(b).

Please contact Nigel Sharp at 703-292-4905 or nsharp@nsf.gov for more information about these programs.

Pan American Advanced Study Institutes

The "Pan American Advanced Study Institutes" (PASI) Program, is a jointly supported initiative between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Pan American Advanced Studies Institutes are modeled on the NATO Advanced Studies Institutes and consist of short courses of two to four weeks duration, involving lectures, demonstrations, research seminars and discussion at the advanced graduate and post-doctoral level. PASI's aim to disseminate advanced scientific and engineering knowledge and stimulate training and cooperation among researchers of the Americas in the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences, and in engineering fields. If you are considering organizing a conference or workshop in the Americas that might be a candidate for this funding opportunity, see <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03506/nsf03506.htm> for more information.

2004 PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Professor Martin J. Rees

Institute of Astronomy,
Cambridge

Henry Norris Russell Lectureship

Citation states: For significant contributions to high energy astrophysics and cosmology, including predicting superluminal expansion, analyzing the role of black holes in galactic nuclei and binary x-ray sources and

developing the theory of galaxy formation and evolution.

(Photo courtesy of University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.)



Dr. Rodger Doxsey

STScI

Van Biesbroeck Prize

Citation states: For his outstanding, unselfish dedication to making HST one of the most scientifically productive telescopes of all time. The scientific success of HST owes much to his personal efforts over the past 22 years, including operational

developments, efficiency innovations such as the Snapshot Program, as well as the resolution of innumerable problems and emergencies. His calm confidence and inspirational leadership over many long hours has earned him the respect and admiration of NAS space mission teams as well as the gratitude of the international scientific community.



Dr. Thomas G. Phillips

California Institute of
Technology

Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation

Citation states: Dr. Thomas G. Phillips is awarded the AAS's Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation for 2004 in recognition of his

substantial and pioneering contributions over several decades to the development of millimeter and sub-millimeter wave astronomy. *(Photo by Bob Paz.)*



Dr. William Holzapfel

University of California,
Berkeley

Helen B. Warner Prize

Citation states: The AAS awards the Helen B. Warner Prize to Dr. William Holzapfel for his innovative work in designing and building numerous experiments to measure the fluctuations of the

Cosmic Microwave Background as well as for his leadership in the analysis and interpretation of these results. In particular, the ACBAR experiment: the Arcminute Cosmology Bolometer Array Receiver for which Dr. Holzapfel is co-PI, measured the power spectrum of fluctuations on small scales showing that they are consistent with the primary anisotropies in a concordance Lambda CDM Universe. He was the student lead during the construction of SuZIE, the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich Infrared Experiment, which pioneered ground-based bolometric measurements of the Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect at millimeter wavelengths and made the first detection of augmentation of the microwave background shortward of 200 GHz. He has made central contributions to a veritable alphabet soup of microwave background experiments, including DASI (the experiment which measured the polarization of the microwave background), CBI, BIMA/OVRO (SZ) and APEX. Dr. Holzapfel's contributions are widely credited with ushering in the current era of precision cosmology, in which we are able to use experimental data to usefully constrain various models of the Universe.



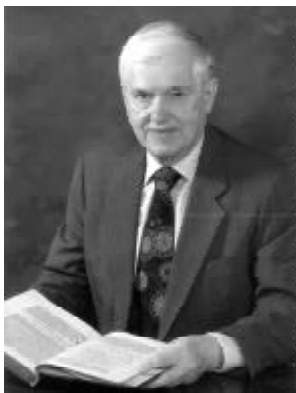
Dr. Niel Brandt

Pennsylvania State University

Newton Lacy Pierce Prize

Citation states: The AAS awards the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize for 2004 to Neil Brandt of Pennsylvania State University for his outstanding contributions to x-ray astronomy. His leadership of the Chandra Deep Field North Survey, his

investigation of high-redshift and broad absorption-line quasars, and his analysis of x-ray grating spectra of AGNs have all played a key role in increasing our understanding of the accretion process around massive black holes.



**Professor Owen
Gingerich**

Harvard University

AAS Education Prize

Citation states: The AAS Education Prize for 2004 is awarded to Owen Gingerich for his inspirational teaching of Harvard undergraduates for 35 years; for the training of several generations of graduate

teaching assistants (who became far better teachers as a result); for introducing the fascination of the history of astronomy to readers around the world through his books and articles; for the creation of laboratory activities that instruct both students and teachers; for his advice and dedicated work on films and exhibits that have brought astronomical ideas to audiences far beyond the classroom; for his work ensuring the accuracy of historical information in textbooks at all levels; for his hundreds of public lectures in a wide array of scientific, historical and public forums; and for his many years of service as editor, reviewer, annotator, and mentor. His service to education has truly been historic! *(Photo courtesy of Bachrach.)*



Dr. Ronald J. Reynolds

University of Wisconsin,
Madison

Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize

Citation states: For his discovery of the warm ionized medium in our Galaxy using Fabry-Perot spectroscopy, his leadership in understanding its origins and for his development of the Wisconsin H-Alpha

Mapper that has revealed its spatial structure.



Dr. Bruce T. Draine

Princeton University

AAS/AIP Heineman Prize

Citation states: Dr. Bruce T. Draine is awarded the 2004 Heineman Prize for his fundamental, pioneering studies of interstellar processes, especially the physics and radiative properties of dust and of magnetized shock waves.

Washington News continued

to off-load the astronauts in a potentially critically injured shuttle. Not insurmountable requirements, but obviously potentially costly.

The AAS quickly worked through an internal process to issue a statement on the issue and ultimately this endorsed (available on the AAS public policy web pages at: www.aas.org/policy/HubbleServicingCancellation.html) the call of Senator Mikulski (R-MD) for an independent review of Administrator O'Keefe's decision.

Administrator O'Keefe asked retired admiral Gehman, the chair of the CAIB, to respond to the senator's request in a timely manner and we are currently awaiting the announcement of his timeline for action. Depending on the outcome of his analysis, the AAS may issue another statement or take direct action to ensure the overall health of astronomy and astrophysics in the North America. The Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy regularly monitors issues such as these and provides rapid advice to the Executive Committee and Council on potential courses of action. Your elected leaders and their appointed committee members should be thanked for their responsible action on this issue in particular and the many other issues they deal with each year.

The President's FY 2005 Budget

For a few days each February, the science policy community becomes a veritable beehive of activity. The cause is the so-called budget roll-out, a annual series of briefings held by the various government agencies and kicked off by the President's budget release.

This year, the priority areas in the budget are winning the war on terrorism, protecting the homeland and strengthening the economy. Auxiliary priorities include education, health care and helping those most in need. Given these priorities, it is easy to expect that science will receive little budgetary attention. However, astronomy actually fares well within this overall negative budgetary environment. Across all government programs, the average increase in discretionary spending as proposed by the President is only 0.5%.

Putting on the Brakes

The President's FY 2005 budget is not good for basic research. Basic Research funding would total \$26.8 billion in 2005, compared to a non-inflation adjusted level of \$26.7 billion in FY 2004. Considering inflation, the basic research budget actually shrinks in the President's 2005 budget. In fact, the overall federal basic research budget growth from year to year has steadily eroded under the Bush administration. From a level of \$21.3 billion in 2001, funding

continued on next page

grew to \$23.8 billion in 2002, 25.3 billion in 2003 and \$26.7 billion in 2004. These increases represent non-inflation adjusted growth in basic research of 11.7% from 2001 to 2002, 6.4% from 2002 to 2003, 5.5% from 2003 to 2004, and 0.3% from 2004 to 2005. Considering inflation, the slow-down is even more dramatic.

NASA

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration received new direction from the President this year in a special announcement that NASA will now be focused on returning humans to the Moon and, subsequently, Mars. The agency budget contains some outlines of how NASA will accomplish this new mission, but many details are left for future budgetary years. NASA's budget actually increases significantly in the President's proposed FY 2005 budget. The full agency budget, including supporting documents is available at <http://www.nasa.gov/about/budget/index.html>.

Compared to the final FY 2004 budget as approved by the Congress in late January, NASA would see a 5.6% increase from \$15.378 billion to \$16.244 billion. The Office of Space Science would also see significant growth from \$3.971 billion in FY 2004 to \$4.138 billion for FY 2005. This represents a nearly 10% increase.

In the NASA budget documents, the FY 2004 comparisons are made to the initial congressional conference report and do not include an across-the-board reduction finally agreed to by the Congressional appropriators. For consistency, here we reference the numbers as presented in the online budget documents. A more complete analysis will be sent to AAS members in the form of a special publication in late February or early March.

Portions of the Office of Space Science budget specifically tied to "Exploration" see increases, other areas see decreases. The proposed reduction in the Solar System Exploration (SSE) budget is marginally offset by the formation of a new enterprise, the Lunar Exploration enterprise, which would receive startup funding of \$70 million for FY 2005. SSE would receive \$1.187 billion compared to \$1.315 billion in FY 2004. Mars exploration would receive \$690 million in FY 2005 compared to \$595 million in FY 2004.

The Astronomical Search for Origins, one of the key funding areas for astronomy and astrophysics within OSS would receive \$1.067 billion compared to \$899 million in FY 2004. The Sun-Earth Connection enterprise is slated to receive \$745.9 million overall, a reduction compared to the FY 2004 funding level of \$755 million.

The Structure and Evolution of the Universe reduction from \$406 million to \$378 million is specifically tied to ramp-outs in the Constellation X and LISA missions, which will be more fully dealt with in the FY 2006 budget (according to the FY 2005 budget documents) and reductions to GLAST, Swift and

various small development projects, as well as operation costs. SEU appears to be the hardest hit portion of OSS in this proposed budget, pointing out the need for AAS and HEAD members to take an active stance in communicating with legislators this year.

NSF

The NSF budget documents make budget comparisons to the estimated final FY 2004 level, which is very close to final appropriated levels. A full comparison with the final appropriated FY 2004 funds will be sent to AAS members in a special publication in late February.

The NSF would see an overall increase of 3.0% from \$5.577 billion to \$5.745 billion, or a little over \$167 million. Within this overall total, the Mathematics and Physical Sciences directorate would receive an increase of 2.2% or \$24 million from an FY 2004 level of \$1.091 billion to \$1.115 billion. The Division of Astronomical Sciences, or AST, resides within this directorate and will receive a 4% (\$7.8 million) overall growth from \$196.5 million in FY 2004 to \$204.4 million in FY 2005. This should be taken in comparison with the increases for the other MPS directorates of 2% for Chemistry, 0.9% for Materials Research, 0.9% for Mathematical Sciences, 3.6% for Physics and 0.9% for Multidisciplinary Activities.

The NSF also supports astronomy through the Office of Polar Programs, the Atmospheric Sciences (contained with the Geosciences directorate), the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account and the Major Research Instrumentation accounts as well as multidisciplinary activities and other initiatives. The NSF maintains detailed budget web pages at: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/news/04/pr0412.htm>.

Analysis

It is always difficult to receive the news that the programs promoting astronomy are not being supported more dramatically within the President's budget. We know the public values the results of our research and that astronomy speaks to all Americans, but we must never forget that astronomy is only a minor percentage of the overall federal budget. On the positive side, in both the FY 2005 NASA and NSF budgets, astronomy sees significant increases compared to the average government program and the overall reduction in basic science funding.

"The President proposes and the Congress disposes" is a well known phrase in Washington. It also is an easy way to remember the fundamental reality that the President's budget represents a marker

for the beginning of the budget process. Only the Congress ultimately sets the true funding levels.

It is up to us, the astronomy public, to carry our needs to our members of Congress. It is not the job of our agency colleagues or the amateur astronomy community or the

continued on page 23

HONORED ELSEWHERE

AAS Members Among NAS Awardees

John N. Bahcall and **Vera C. Rubin** were among 16 individuals selected by the National Academy of Sciences to receive awards honoring their outstanding scientific achievements.

Bahcall received the Comstock Prize in Physics, a prize of \$20,000 awarded approximately every five years to a resident of North America for recent innovative discovery or investigation in electricity, magnetism, or radiant energy, broadly interpreted. Bahcall, Richard Black Professor of Natural Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., was chosen "for his many contributions to astrophysics, especially his definitive work on solar models and his crucial role in identifying and resolving the solar neutrino problem." The prize was established through the Cyrus B. Comstock Fund and has been presented since 1913.

The James Craig Watson Medal, a medal and a prize of \$25,000 plus \$25,000 to support the recipient's research awarded every three years in recognition of contributions to the science of astronomy, was awarded to Rubin, senior fellow, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C. Rubin was chosen "for her seminal observations of dark matter in galaxies, large-scale relative motions of galaxies, and for generous mentoring of young astronomers, men and women." The award was established by a bequest from James C. Watson and has been presented since 1887.

Bahcall and Davis Receive Presidential Enrico Fermi Award

AAS members **John Bahcall** and **Raymond Davis, Jr.** received the Enrico Fermi Award for their research in neutrino physics. Bahcall, theorist, and Davis, experimentalist, are the scientists most responsible for the field of solar neutrino physics and neutrino astronomy. While contributions to nuclear physics and astrophysics are numerous and varied, this award honors their contribution to fundamental physics—the probable determination that the neutrino has a nonzero rest mass. Bahcall's calculations and Davis's experiments have proved that the sun is definitely powered by nuclear fusion reaction, and that electron neutrinos oscillate into many "flavors" on their way from the sun to the earth.

Bahcall received his B.S. degree in physics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1956, his M.S. degree from the University of Chicago in 1957, and his Ph.D. degree from Harvard in 1961. Since 1971 he has been Professor of Natural Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study and Visiting Lecturer with the rank of Professor at Princeton University.

Davis received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemistry from the University of Maryland in 1937 and 1939, respectively. He received his Ph.D. degree from Yale University in 1942. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002.

The Fermi award is a presidential award and recognizes scientists of international stature for their lifetimes of exceptional achievement in the development, use or production of energy (broadly defined to include the science and technology of nuclear, atomic, molecular, and particle interactions and effects).

Walker Named Director of Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory

Dr. Alistair Walker has been confirmed by the AURA Observatories Council as the new director of Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) in La Serena, Chile.

Walker succeeds Dr. Malcolm Smith, who steps down as CTIO director after 10 years of service leading a diverse observatory that provides U.S. astronomers with competitive access to the skies of the southern hemisphere, as part of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO).

Walker has served as deputy director of CTIO since 2000, and has been a member of its scientific staff since 1987. Before that, he spent seven years at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), after being a junior staff member at CTIO from 1977-1979.

He is known scientifically for his work on the astronomical distance scale, and for his close association with CCD camera development, from the early days of these detectors through to their present wide-field imaging capabilities.

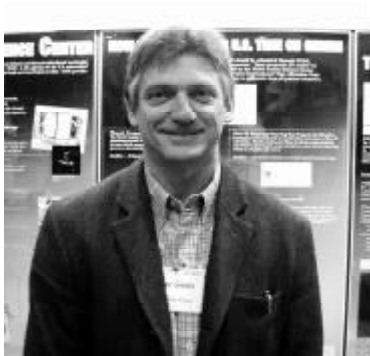
Freeman Wins Vaucouleurs Medal

AAS Member Dr. Ken Freeman (Australian National University, Mount Stromlo Observatory) has received the 2003-2004 Antoinette de Vaucouleurs Medal. Freeman's talks "Galactic Disks" and "Globular Clusters - Cannonballs of the Cosmos" were presented in late January at the University of Texas.

The Board of Regents of the University of Texas, endowed the Antoinette de Vaucouleurs Memorial Lectureship and Medal to be awarded each year to an outstanding astronomer in recognition of a lifetime of dedication to astronomy.

203rd AAS MEETING 4 - 8 JANUARY IN ATLANTA

Just over 1800 attendees converged on the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia on January 4-8 for the Society's 203rd national meeting. Prizes were bestowed on worthy recipients (their photographs will appear in the next issue of this newsletter) and almost everyone kept an eye or an ear on the news media as NASA's Mars Exploration Rover "Spirit" arrived at Gusev crater and prepared to roll out. The accompanying pictures are all AAS photos by Kelley Knight, © 2004 American Astronomical Society.



Verne Smith (U. Texas-El Paso) gave an invited talk on stellar abundances in the Milky Way and neighboring galaxies.



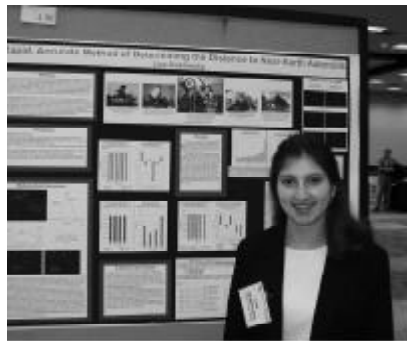
Participants at a session on professional societies of minority scientists included (left-to-right) Charles McGruder (Western Kentucky U.), Philip Sakimoto (NASA HQ), organizer Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt U.), and Michael Williams (Clark Atlanta U.).



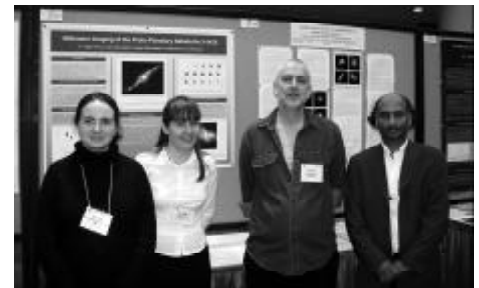
Stellar record breakers: Stephen Eikenberry (left, U. Florida) found what may be the most massive known star; Alyssa Goodman (CfA) and Hector Arce (Caltech) detected a very fast moving young star.



A briefing on SS433 brought together current and past researchers. They included NRAO radio observers Gregory Taylor, Amy Mioduszewski, and Michael Rupen (first, sixth, and eighth from the left), Georgia State U. optical investigators Douglas Gies and Todd Hillwig (second and third from left), MIT X-ray astronomers Herman Marshall and Laura Lopez (fourth and fifth from left), Bruce Margon (STScI, third from the right) who helped discover SS433's huge periodic Doppler shifts, and Georgia journalist Lawrence Krumenaker (far right), who as an astronomy graduate student first reported emission lines in the star.



Lisa Glukhovsky (Milford H.S., CT) explained the "Rapid, Accurate Method of Determining the Distance to Near Earth Asteroids" that won her the Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award (with a \$50,000 scholarship) and the 2003 First Place Priscilla and Bart Bok Prize (with \$5000 scholarship).



Planetary/protoplanetary nebula investigators at the meeting included (left-to-right) Carmen Sanchez Contreras (Caltech), Angela Zalucha (U. Illinois), Patrick Huggins (NYU), and Raghvendra Sahai (JPL).



You can go two deep: Announcing results of the Gemini Deep Deep Survey were (left-to-right) Roberto Abraham (U. Toronto), Patrick McCarthy (Carnegie Observatories), Karl Glazebrook (Johns Hopkins U.), Katherine Roth (Gemini Obs.), and Sandra Savaglio (Johns Hopkins U.).



Eric Bell (MPIA Heidelberg) and Shardha Jogee (STScI) reported on the evolution of elliptical and barred galaxies, respectively.



By all means possible: William Keel (left, U. Alabama) and Daniel Wang (U. Massachusetts) used data from the Chandra, Gemini, and Hubble telescopes, and the VLA, to analyze a spiral galaxy being stripped of its gas in Abell 2125.



Robin Canup (Southwest Research Inst.) described her research on the origin of the Moon.



Volker Bromm (left, CfA) gave an invited talk on the first stars and quasars in the early universe. To his left are, in order, Edward Guinan, Ryan Hamilton, and Laurence DeWarf (all, Villanova U.), who found that 18 Scorpii is "the solar twin."



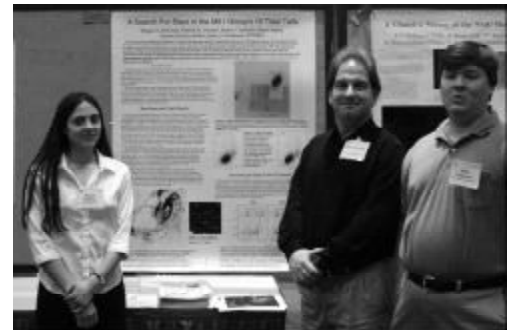
Left-to-right, Harry Teplitz (Spitzer Science Ctr.), Gerard Williger (Johns Hopkins U.), Povilas Palunas (McDonald Obs.) and Bruce Woodgate (NASA Goddard) reported finding a very large structure in the early universe.



Alaa Ibrihim (NASA Goddard) talked about transient magnetars.



Wired for research: the Antennae galaxies were featured in reports by (left to right) John Hibbard (NRAO), Guiseppina Fabbiano (CfA), and Bradley Whitmore (STScI).



Megan DeCesar and Patrick Durrell (both, Penn State) searched for stars in the M81 group's tidal tails with John Feldmeier (right, Case Western Reserve U.)



Sumner Starrfield (Arizona State U.) reported identifying the process that determines whether a binary with accretion onto a white dwarf star becomes a Type Ia supernova instead of a conventional nova.



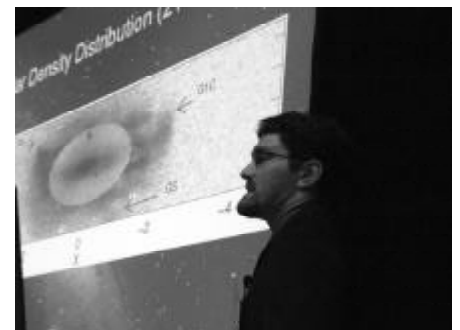
Alicia Soderberg (Caltech) worked on the first spectral observations of an X-ray flash.



Quendella Taylor (right, Penn State) investigated power spectra of diffuse infrared emission in Orion and M17.



U. British Columbia graduate student Evgenya Shkolnik (at left in first photo) discovered a case where a planet is inducing stellar activity; U. California, Berkeley professor Gibor Basri said he believed it. Then Shkolnik was quizzed by (left-to-right in second photo) Kenneth Chang (New York Times), Corey Powell (Discover), and Tariq Malik (Space.com).



Daniel Zucker (MPI Heidelberg) found a giant clump of stars that could be a new satellite of the Andromeda galaxy.

MOUNT STROMLO NEWS

A year has passed since the devastating fire storm swept over Mount Stromlo and the suburbs of Canberra, destroying much of our observatory and over 500 homes.

Since 11 February 2003, most of the Stromlo staff have been working back up on the mountain, in conditions that look much the same as when the fire storm swept through. Burnt trees have been felled in and near the working areas on Mt Stromlo, but demolition of destroyed buildings and building of permanent structures is yet to commence. The complexity and legalities surrounding the reconstruction of the observatory, a national heritage-listed site, together with funding uncertainties have slowed rebuilding the physical plant. The mountain is still closed to the public. In other arenas, however, the Stromlo phoenix has begun to rise.

Some funding for the reconstruction of Stromlo has been provided by the Commonwealth government of Australia (7.3M AU\$), and limited, partial payments against the large insurance claim, which still in the process of being finalized.

Three temporary demountables now provide office space for technical and administrative staff on the mountain; a fourth provides housing accommodation for PhD students whose homes were destroyed during the fire. A large shed, known affectionately as "The Barn" serves as a temporary workshop.



Staff return to Stromlo, determined to rebuild. The shell of the heritage-listed 1924 Commonwealth Solar Observatory (CSO) building is in the background.

and Technology Centre, a reconstructed Administration block, a new wide-field imaging telescope (The SkyMapper, likely to be placed at Siding Spring), and a possible Phoenix spectrographic telescope for Mount Stromlo. External assistance was also sought to provide advice in landscaping, in writing the Conservation Management Plan, now submitted to the Australian Heritage Commission, and to direct the reconstruction process.

The Near-infrared Integral Field Spectrograph, NIFS, destined for Gemini North before it was tragically destroyed in the fire, is now being rebuilt with the assistance of Canberra-based

Auspace, Ltd. The Australian National University made an immediate decision to fund the rebuild of NIFS, far in advance of any indication of insurance returns. NIFS II has successfully undergone one cooldown in their lab, and we are

currently expecting a December 2004 completion. A second Gemini instrument, the Gemini South Adaptive Optics Imager (GSAOI), passed its critical design review ahead of schedule, and has just finished a successful vacuum test. We expect no delays in the delivery of GSAOI to Gemini South.

Working with data already in hand, or taken with Siding Spring, ATNF, and Gemini telescopes, our staff and students continue to conduct news-making astronomical research, winning prizes here in Australia

and abroad. Some of our colleagues overseas have offered telescope time to our PhD students to allow timely completion of their theses; for this we are extremely grateful. We are also indebted to those of our colleagues who have made contributions to a growing, streamlined library (all of the old collection was lost in the fire), in particular to those publishers that donated volumes and the coordinating efforts of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in the US in organizing North American contributions in a large (3000 lb!) shipment of books that will be arriving soon.

In closing, in case there could be any doubt, rest assured dear friends that the spirit of Stromlo and its staff remains high and dedicated to rebuilding an institution that will carry astronomy forward into the next 80 years, as it has for the past eight decades.

Penny D. Sackett, Director, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories

US Volunteers Help Restore Library

The project to donate library materials to the fire-destroyed Mount Stromlo Observatory began in January 2003. News of Mount Stromlo's fire had spread quickly, and many people in the United States, both librarians and academics, had expressed a strong interest in helping the Observatory rebuild its library facility. When the AAS volunteered to spearhead the effort in late January, the project really started to take shape, beginning first and foremost with a formal call for donors.

AAS volunteer Ed Anderson, of Northern Arizona University, coordinated with the people willing to donate books and organized a loose inventory of available material. It was surprising to see how much some people could give—libraries offered extra copies and a few private donors even

continued on page 21

OTHER NEWS

National Research Council

On 12-13 November 2003, the National Research Council's Space Studies Board and Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board, conducted a workshop on national space policy, and a report on the workshop, "Issues and Opportunities Regarding the U.S. Space Program: A Summary Report of a Workshop on National Space Policy," was released on 14 January 2003.

The workshop was intended to explore aspects of the broad question "What should be the principal purposes, goals, and priorities of the U.S. civil space program?" Including the participating members of the two boards, a total of fifty five invitees engaged in a series of five panel discussions and open general discussions over the course of the day-and-a-half event. The goal of the workshop was not to develop definitive answers but to air a range of views and perspectives that can serve to inform later, broader, public discussion of such questions.

While the workshop participants were not asked to reach a consensus and the report is not meant to be taken as a consensus report of the SSB, ASEP, or National Research Council, we were impressed by the extent to which workshop participants did voice broad agreement about many issues about which they held shared views. The enclosed report highlights several key themes that emerged from the workshop discussions, including the following:

1. U.S. space and Earth science programs are currently productive, progressing steadily, and of continuing importance. There are a number of factors that contribute to this success that should be applicable also to the human spaceflight program.
2. The nation's human spaceflight program currently lacks a clear long-term goal, but such a goal is needed for many reasons.
3. The primary goal of human spaceflight should be to explore, which requires that we extend human presence beyond low Earth orbit with Mars as a likely long-term destination. Exploration is a part of our culture; it responds to basic human drives; and it can contribute to the acquisition of new knowledge.
4. A long-term goal of exploration is best pursued via a series of small steps. A sequence of relatively small steps will enable us to learn without committing prematurely to an uncertain path. They can be evaluated for how they progress toward the goal; they afford a series of successes that create momentum and sustain political support; and in the end the accumulated successes make achieving the goal inevitable.
5. While there has been a history of separation and competition between human and robotic efforts now is the time to put the dichotomy behind us and to find and exploit synergies between the two.
6. The chosen long-term goal should drive all implementation

decisions. Thus the essential elements along the path to a goal for human exploration would very likely include the following: (a) the continued robotic exploration of our solar system followed by the development of capable human-machine interfaces and teleoperators, (b) research on the International Space Station focused on addressing the questions posed by human exploration away from low-Earth orbit, and (c) development of a space transportation system to replace the shuttle, all directed towards facilitating the eventual human exploration of some destination beyond low-Earth orbit.

7. Successful pursuit of a long-term exploration goal will require potentially fundamental changes in NASA as an institution with respect to how it involves external human spaceflight stakeholders, defines its own role, communicates and justifies its objectives, and develops management and technical competence. There are also crucial roles for the scientific community in helping replace the old robotic-versus-human dichotomy with a new science-exploration synergy.

AAS members who participated in the workshop include Roger Angel, Reta Beebe, Roger Blandford, Riccardo Giacconi, Wes Huntress, Tamara Jernigan, Thomas Jones, Margaret Kivelson, Karel Schrijver, Ed Stone, and Megan Urry. For further information on the workshop report contact the Space Studies Board at www.nationalacademies.org/ssb or SSB director Joe Alexander at jalexander@nas.edu.

Status of Women in Astronomy continued

crafting job ads to be perceived as inclusive and relatively free of subconscious bias. Management is using NOAO's size and flexibility to offer opportunities to two-career couples. Additionally, NOAO is introducing a voluntary mentoring system for early career scientific staff, including formal training for the mentors. The NOAO management plans to improve conditions for women and minorities by acting on feedback from mentors, exit interviews, and other sources. Finally, to enhance the image of NOAO as a fair and supportive workplace, a series of Newsletter personal profiles will be initiated, highlighting women in the organization in a professional context.

Following these presentations, there was some time for questions and discussion about these recommendations, and what other steps might be needed. The session ended when the room had to be given up for the next session, but the CSWA invites people to give us their input either via the web site we will set up, or via email to Patricia Knezek, knezek@noao.edu.

AAS NEWS

Childcare Funds Available for Denver Meeting

Thanks to a generous anonymous gift from a AAS member, some funding for childcare is available for future AAS meetings. As a pilot program, the AAS will be accepting requests for \$100 grants to help defray the costs of childcare at the June 2004 Denver meeting. Names of childcare providers will be available from the conference hotel, although the AAS cannot vet or endorse any specific provider. The AAS meeting website will offer a section for members interested in coordinating babysitter-sharing. Please look for more information when you receive your preliminary announcement of the June '04 meeting. We anticipate that the deadline for childcare funding requests will be the same as that for late abstracts. In the event that requests for grants exceeds the funding available, preference will be given to applicants in early stages of their careers.

A committee consisting of Dana Backman (AAS Councilor, chair), Alycia Weinberger (AAS Councilor), Susana Deustua (AAS Director of Education Activities), and James Ulvestad (member, CSWA) is investigating the best way to offer childcare assistance at future meetings. The AAS will soon distribute a survey to a subset of the membership asking for more information about childcare needs during AAS meetings. If you receive this survey, please reply!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IAU Commission on Education & Development

The fall edition of the newsletter of IAU Commission 46 on Astronomy Education and Development is posted on the ~~website, newly reachable through~~ www.astronomyeducation.org. All AAS members are invited to become acquainted with the Commission's work and to participate. The website also includes the statement on the importance of astronomy education that was passed by the recent IAU General Assembly. The Commission's Program groups include World-wide Development of Astronomy, Teaching for Astronomy Development, International Schools for Young Astronomers, Exchange of Astronomers, Collaborative Group, Public Education at the Times of Eclipses, and Exchange of Books and Journals.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is **15 May 2004** for the third quarter of 2004. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nsokp@nso.edu). Instructions may be found at <http://www.nso.edu/general/observe/>.

A web-based observing-request form is at <http://www2.nso.edu/general/observe/obsform.shtml>. Users' Manuals are available at <http://www.nso.edu/nsosp/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt. Observing time at National Observatories is provided as support to the astronomical community by the National Science Foundation.

CSO Call for Proposals Due 31 May 2004

The Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) encourages observing participation by astronomers from both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions. For instructions on applying and for information about available instruments, including new bolometer cameras, see <http://www.submm.caltech.edu/cso/cso-call.html>.

Applications for observing time between 1 September 2004 through 31 January 2005 are due by mail 31 May 2004. Applications will be reviewed by an outside peer group.

NASA Infrared Telescope Facility Observing Proposals

Due date for the 1 August 2004 to 28 February 2005 semester is 1 April 2004. See <http://irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/userSupport/indexota.html>. Available instruments include: (1) A 1-5 micron camera with a 0.04 arcsec/pixel scale and a circular variable filter (estimated to be available in Oct.); (2) A 1-5 micron cross-dispersed medium-resolution spectrograph (up to $R=2,500$); (3) A 1-5 micron high-resolution spectrograph (up to $R=30,000$); and (4) A 5-25 micron camera, a low-resolution wide spectral range spectrograph, and high-resolution spectrographs for 8-25 microns. The Adaptive Optics system will be available from November on a shared-risk basis.



AGU's Online Space Weather Journal

The first publication devoted to the emerging field of space weather launched in late October. The new online journal, Space Weather: The International Journal of Research and Applications, is live at www.agu.org/journals/spaceweather.

For complete coverage of the latest space weather research, news, and information, log on today. If you are interested in contributing to Space Weather, manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://spaceweather-submit.agu.org/>.

Space Weather is published by AGU and co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the International Space Environment Service (ISES).

Call for NRAO Observing Proposals

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

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

Notes: (+) A configuration with a maximum baseline of 36 km. The VLBA antenna at Pie Town, New Mexico, may also be requested, which doubles the maximum baseline. (*) B configuration with a maximum baseline of 11 km.

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

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2004 Jun 1 for the session in 2004 Oct/Nov. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2004 Oct 1 for the session in 2005 Apr.

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

NSF MPS Advisory Committee

The Division of Astronomical Sciences is part of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) Directorate at the National Science Foundation. The MPS Advisory Committee (MPSAC) meets semi-annually (in April and November) to discuss the various MPS programs, review interdisciplinary and educational initiatives, and provide advice to the NSF Assistant Director for MPS, Dr. Michael Turner, and his staff, particularly on strategic long-term planning for the Directorate and its Divisions.

Current members of the MPSAC from the astronomy community include Roger Blandford, Lucy Fortson, John Huchra and Joseph Salah. The committee members invite input from the astronomy community on any topic or issue of interest or concern. The next meeting of the MPSAC is scheduled for 22-23 April 2004, and the input can be provided to any of the members through email at the following addresses: Roger Blandford (rdb3@stanford.edu), Lucy Fortson (lucy@cygnus.uchicago.edu), John Huchra (huchra@cfa.harvard.edu), Joseph Salah (jsalah@haystack.mit.edu).

Mount Stromlo News continued

volunteered to send their entire professional library! The AAS offered to reimburse donors for their domestic shipping charges, ensuring that even the most cash-strapped facility would still be able to participate in the donation process.

At the same time Ed was organizing the donors, the NOAO was gearing up to help with the donation process, too. After applying for, and subsequently receiving, an NSF grant, NOAO offered to cover the project's inevitable overseas

shipping costs (books, obviously, are heavy and expensive to ship—particularly to Australia). Similarly, NOAO found that it had the internal space to offer itself as the central receiving point for donations. This meant that all of the



donors could send their items to NOAO, where they would be collected and stored until every last one had arrived. The items would then be re-packed and shipped by NOAO as one bulk shipment.

When the donors received word from the AAS that it was time to ship, boxes trickled in to NOAO, coming slowly at first. Then, some large book shipments arrived, such as the day we received 1300 pounds of books from a personal donor in Washington



state! (We assume he had generously cleaned out his personal library.) Although a loose inventory was in place, nobody was really sure how much material to expect. How many pounds of books would NOAO receive? We planned the space for around two pallets of materials, given that Mount Stromlo had asked to receive monographs more than journals. However, when the storage space at NOAO began to fill, it was clear that we'd probably have more than that on our hands. This was a great sign, though—more books for Mount Stromlo!

In the end, NOAO shipped six large containers to Mount Stromlo. Five of them were sized at 41" x 29" x 25" and the sixth, a tall pallet, stood at 55" x 27" x 60". The total ship weight was a hefty 3271 lbs. NOAO was happy to help with this project, and would like to extend a thank you to all of the donors, volunteers and, in particular, the AAS for making this worthwhile project happen. We wish Mount Stromlo all the best in their reconstruction efforts.

Jessica Bryant, NOAO

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

35th DDA Meeting

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

204th Meeting of the AAS

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

8th HEAD Meeting

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

Other Events

*Planets to Cosmology: Essential Science in Hubble's Final Years

3-6 May 2004 — Baltimore, MD
Contact: Quindairian Gryce (gryce@stsci.edu)
http://sd.stsci.edu/Planets_to_Cosmology/index.html

Beyond Einstein: From the Big Bang to Black Holes

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

*Wide-Field Imaging from Space

16-18 May 2004 — Berkeley, CA
Contact: Andrew Fruchter (widefield@lbl.gov)
<http://widefield.lbl.gov>

*Astrophysics of Planetary Systems

17-20 May 2004 — Cambridge, MA
Contact: Professor Dimitar Sasselov (dsasselov@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/apsconf/>

*Gemini Science 2004

23-25 May 2004 — Vancouver, BC, Canada
Contact: Jean-Rene Roy (jrroy@gemini.edu)
http://www.gemini.edu/science/gem_conf/gem_conf.html

*The Fate of the Most Massive Stars

23-28 May 2004 — Jackson Hole, WY
Contact: masive@etacar.umn.edu
<http://etacar.umn.edu/symposium>

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

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

*The 7th Eastern Gravity Meeting

11-12 June 2004 — Brunswick, MA
Contact: Thomas Baumgarte (tbaumgar@bowdoin.edu)
<http://www.bowdoin.edu/egm7/>

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

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

Ninth Synthesis Imaging Summer School

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

*Cosmic Abundances as Records of Stellar Evolution and Nucleosynthesis: in honor of Professor David Lambert

17-19 June 2004 — Austin, Texas
Contact: Thomas Barnes (tgb@astro.as.utexas.edu)
<http://www.as.utexas.edu/lambert/>

*7th Oxford Conference on Archaeoastronomy

20-27 June 2004 — Flagstaff, AZ
Contact: Bryan Bates (oxford7@earthlik.net)
www.lowell.edu/Public/ox7/index.html

*Physics with Cosmic Accelerators

5-16 July 2004 — Bad Honnef, Germany
<http://www.astro.uni-wuerzburg.de/summerschool/>

*Galaxies Viewed with Chandra

7-9 July — Cambridge, MA
Contact: Paul J. Green (pgreen@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/gals04>

The Nature and Evolution of Disks around Hot Stars

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

IAU Symposium No. 224 - The A-Star Puzzle

8-13 July 2004 — Poprad, Slovakia
Contact: Juraj Zverko (IAUS224LOC@ta3.sk)
<http://www.ta3.sk/IAUS224>

*The SOHO14-GONG2004 Workshop — Helio- and Asteroseismology: Towards a Golden Future

12-16 July 2004 — New Haven, CT
Contact: Sarbani Basu (basu@stro.yale.edu)
<http://www.astro.yale.edu/sogo04>

Cores, Disks, Jets & Outflows in Low & High Mass Star Forming Environments: Observations, Theory, & Simulations

12-16 July 2004 — Alberta, Canada
Contact: Rene Plume & Rachid Ouyed (plume@ism.ucalgary.ca)
<http://www.ism.ucalgary.ca/meetings/banff>

*BIOASTRONOMY 2004 - Habitable Worlds

July 12-16, 2004 — Reykjavik, Iceland
Contact: Thorsteinn Thorsteinsson (thor@os.is)
<http://www.os.is/~thor/bioastronomy04/>

Cosmos in the Classroom 2004: A Symposium on Teaching Introductory Astronomy for Non-Science Majors

16-18 July 2004 — Medford, MA
Contact: Andrew Fraknoi (fraknoiandrew@fhda.edu)
www.astrosociety.org

*SKA 2004

18-24 July 2004 — Penticton, British Columbia, Canada
Contact: Sean Dougherty (sean.dougherty@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)
<http://www.drao-ofr.hia-ihh.nrc-nrc.gc.ca/>

IAU Symposium No. 225 - Gravitational Lensing Impact on Cosmology

19-23 July 2004 — Lausanne, Switzerland
Contact: Yannick Mellier (IAUSymp225@obs.unige.ch)
<http://obswww.unige.ch/IAUSymp225>

Second TPF/Darwin International Conference: Dust Disks and the Formation, Evolution and Detection of Habitable Planets

26-29 July 2004 — San Diego, CA
Contact: Steve Unwin
(stephen.unwin@jpl.nasa.gov)
http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/TPF_darwin/

Astrophysics in the Far Ultraviolet: Five Years of Discoveries with FUSE

2-6 August 2004 — Victoria, BC, Canada
Contact: G. Sonneborn
(george.sonneborn-1@nasa.gov)
<http://fuse-conference.pha.jhu.edu/>

8th International Colloquium on Atomic Spectra and Oscillator Strengths for Astrophysical and Laboratory Plasmas

8-12 August 2004 — Madison, WI
Contact: J. E. Lawler
(jelawler@wisc.edu)
<http://uw.physics.wisc.edu/ASOS8/>

***Chemical Enrichment of the Early Universe**

9-13 August 2004 — Santa Fe, NM
Contact: Chris Fryer (fryer@lanl.gov)
<http://qso.lanl.gov/meetings/meet2004/index.html>

Modest 5-Modeling Dense Stellar Systems

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

***Massive Stars in Interacting Binaries**

16-20 August 2004 — Quebec province, Canada
Contact: A. Moffat/N. St-Louis
(moffat@astro.umontreal.ca/
stlouis@astro.umontreal.ca)
<http://www.astro.umontreal.ca/MSIB/>

***Meteoroids 2004**

16-21 August 2004 — London, Canada
Contact: Peter Brown, LOC Chair
(meteoroids2004@uwo.ca)
www.uwo.ca/meteoroids2004

IAU Colloquium No. 197 - Dynamics of Populations of Planetary Systems

31 August - 4 September 2004 — Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
Contact: Zoran Knezevic
(zoran@aob.bg.ac.yu)
<http://www.aob.bg.ac.yu/IAUCol197/>

IAU Symposium No. 226 - Coronal and Stellar Mass Ejections

13-17 September 2004 — Beijing, China
Contact: Kenneth Dere
(cme2004@bao.ac.cn)
http://lasco-www.nrl.navy.mil/~avourlid/cme_mtg/

***Large Scale Structures and Their Role in Solar Activity**

18-22 October 2004 — Sunspot, NM
Contact: K. Sankarasubramanian
(sankara@nso.edu)
www.nso.edu/general/workshops/2004/

***Galaxy-Intergalactic Medium Interactions**

25-29 October 2004 — Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Piero Madau
(pmadau@ucolick.org)
http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/gimi_c04?id=302

***Workshop on Chondrites and the Protoplanetary Disk**

8-11 November 2004 — Honolulu, HI
Contact: Alexander N. Krot
(sasha@higp.hawaii.edu)
<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/chondrites2004/>

***22nd Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics**

13-17 December 2004 — Stanford/Palo Alto, CA
Contact: Maura Chatwell
(maura@slac.stanford.edu)
<http://texasatstanford.slac.stanford.edu/>

Note: Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention (new or revised listings noted with an asterisk). Due to space limitations, and we publish notice of meetings 1) occurring in North, South and Central America; 2) meetings of the IAU; and 3) meetings as requested by AAS Members. Meeting publication may only be assured by emailing crystal@aas.org. Meetings that fall within 30 days of publication are not listed.

A comprehensive list of world-wide astronomy meetings is maintained by Liz Bryson, Librarian C-F-H Telescope in collaboration with the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre, Victoria, BC. The list may be accessed and meeting information entered at <http://cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings>.

Washington News continued

general public. It is our job and we should take our message to the hill strongly and often.

The AAS co-sponsors a Congressional Visits Day, which allows scientists themselves to carry the needs of the scientific community to legislators. This year, 14 astronomers, some members of the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy and some early-career astronomers will make these visits to convince Congress to increase funding levels where appropriate and necessary.

The AAS will continue to inform its members of the budget situation and also alert them when action on their part can have a positive impact. AAS Informational Emails provide fundamental information while AAS Action Alerts help guide member action when necessary. By following the recommended action in the Action Alerts and reading the Informational Emails, you can do much to help our field continue to be successful in our effort to understand the Universe in which we live.

Upcoming AAS Division Meetings

Division on Dynamical Astronomy

20-24 April 2004
Cannes, France

Solar Physics Division

30 May - 3 June 2004
Denver, CO

High Energy Astrophysics Division

8 - 11 September 2004
New Orleans, LA

Division for Planetary Sciences

7 - 12 November 2004
Louisville, KY



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

Periodical
 Postage
 Paid
 Washington DC

Newsletter 119 March 2004

**Don't forget the
 abstract submission
 deadline for the
 Denver meeting is
 Wednesday,
 24 March 2004,
 9:00 pm EST!!**



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

WASHINGTON NEWS

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



Whew! What a busy month January has been in Washington. Beginning with the President's announcement of a new vision for NASA's human space flight objectives, continuing with NASA

administrator O'Keefe announcing his decision to cancel future servicing missions to the Hubble Space Telescope and ending with the roll-out of the President's budget for FY 2005, the past month will stand as the busiest in recent memory. The AAS has been active in all of these areas and more, but this column will focus on these three dominant developments.

The President's Vision

On January 14, President George Bush outlined a new vision for NASA that includes phasing out the Space Shuttle by 2010, finishing the International Space Station (ISS) by the same time, landing a robotic mission on the moon by 2008 and ultimately returning humans to the moon and constructing a permanent base there by 2020 or so. Although the President did not mention science in his speech announcing this grand new goal, Administrator O'Keefe followed with a clear message that science and robotic probes, the bread and butter of the Office of Space Science, would play a major role in getting NASA where it needed to go.

The Op-Ed pages in the following days erupted. Columns for and against the plan as well as recommending changes to the vision all appeared. Consensus opinion that finishing the ISS and moving on to something else was a good decision, although some in the science community questioned the value of finishing something that they felt would not produce useful scientific results. Science magazine published a comprehensive set of articles on the new vision on 30 January, 2004. The good news is that it does appear that scientific research will play a role in the new NASA vision, but the full details will only become available as the whole agency begins to readjust itself in response to the President's goals.

The Hubble Situation

Shortly after the President's announcement, Administrator O'Keefe announced that future servicing missions to the Hubble Space Telescope would be canceled, leaving the two replacement instruments, WFC-3 and COS on the ground. As justification, O'Keefe stated the new safety constraints placed upon the shuttle by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB).

It is unfortunate that the decision on Hubble was announced so close to the announcement of the President's new vision, essentially connecting the two in the minds of scientists and Hubble enthusiasts. NASA managers were quick to separate the two decisions and pointed to the very strict guidelines

continued on page 13