

AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

October 2004
Issue 122

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Robert Kirshner, aaspres@aas.org

After a year of having my rough edges sanded off as President-elect, I am now actually in the Oval Office (it is really an ellipse with Bob Milkey as one focus). The physical proof of this is a large box of stationery with my return address that says (I am not making this up) "*Office of the President.*" If you receive a letter from me, you can check it out for yourself. But check the signature, since the Washington AAS office has a JPG of my personal calligraphy. For Official Use Only.

As incoming President, I got to sit at the left hand of NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe during lunch before his presentation at the Denver meeting. He had a little trouble with the vacuum seal on the coffee pot, and there were no dexterous robots at the table, so I used my human ingenuity to hold the top firmly while rotating the coffee pot clockwise with the handle. Exactly like opening a bottle of champagne: hold the cork and rotate the bottle. But not as much fun.

O'Keefe's speech was quite passionate and made it very clear that he does not want to send astronauts to refurbish the *Hubble Space Telescope*. The preliminary report from the NRC Committee headed by Louis Lanzerotti, and including astronomers Sandy Faber, Riccardo Giacconi, and Joe Taylor gives another perspective, and is well worth reading (<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11051.html>). The committee found that the scientific gains justified a servicing mission, urged exploration of the robotic option, and stated clearly that NASA should "take no actions to preclude a space shuttle servicing mission to HST."

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AAS MEETS IN SAN DIEGO 9-13 JANUARY 2005



The 205th AAS meeting is returning to San Diego 9-13 January 2005. The meeting will be held in the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, easily accessible from San Diego's Lindbergh Field Airport and located directly on the San Diego Trolley line. The downtown area and Old Town San Diego as well as Mexico are just short rides from the Center on the trolley.

The meeting features Invited Talks, AAS Prize Lectures as well as many exciting special sessions. HAD and HEAD are also on the program with their sessions and the Rossi Prize Lectures. Luncheon events include town meetings by NASA, NSF, JWST, ALMA as well as HAD and HEAD business meetings. Check the Extra Events section of the online meeting announcement (www.aas.org/meetings/aas205) for the weekend special functions: College Astronomy Teaching Excellence Workshop, NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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@as.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@as.org.

Judith M. Johnson, 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@as.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript

Submission: *AJ*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*

www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html

OPPOSING THE AAS ENDORSEMENT OF THE AGU STATEMENT

Dear Editor,

In the Final Text of the unfortunate AAS Endorsement of AGU Statement on Climate Change, the words include "increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which is significantly contributing to the warming of the global climate." This is certainly NOT proven at all. Climate change is very far out of the areas of AAS expertise.

Dear AAS Officials: Please, was the well documented Medieval Warm Period (950-1350) due to huge amounts of oil and coal burning then by humans? What caused the "Little Ice Age" from 1750 - 1850 when industrial production rapidly increased? What about the 1970s when the press featured "scientific" claims about 'Worrisome Global Cooling,' amid speculation that Earth may be entering "A New Ice Age"?!?

A considerable fraction of distinguished experts on climate, like Dr. Sallie Balunias (Harvard SAO) are convinced that other causes are far more likely for climate change, such as variation in solar radiation impinging on Earth. Modern computer climate models simply do not mimic actual climate changes. S. Solanki, director of the Max Planck Institute on Solar System Research in Göttingen, Germany led research that shows more solar activity in the last 60 years than in the last 1000 years. Using evidence from satellites and balloons, Douglass, Perkins and Singer in the July 9 issue of *Geophysical Research Letters*, show THERE IS NO WARMING in the past 20 years. Clearly more careful research along these and other lines could be very fruitful.

Fellow members would be enlightened if they read an excellent website on climate change and sources of energy, singer@sepp.org by Meteorology professor S. Fred Singer, formerly of the University of Virginia, and former Director of the U. S. Weather Service.

Howard D. Greyber
San Jose, CA
hgreyber@yahoo.com

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MEMBER DEATHS NOTED

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

Albert G. Petschek **Kevin Prendergast** **Fred Whipple**

A RESPONSE TO THE REORGANIZATION OF NASA

Dear Editor,

Most of my colleagues whose work is supported by NASA seem to have reacted quietly to the current reorganization toward an agency focused on manned exploration and the decline in funding for science—a decline which seems certain even if its magnitude is not. Many are too busy to lobby (a perennial handicap for scientists), but perhaps some feel the same unspoken diffidence I do: that we're lucky to have taxpayer support, and it's inappropriate to act entitled.

What disturbs me is that the ongoing changes were imposed by the executive without particular support from the taxpayers or Congress. If there was a clear preference in the latter quarters for symbolism and adventure—which I don't denigrate—over science, I would accept that. But I don't think there is.

So let's make a case to those who should be framing the direction of the agency: Congress. Let's be sure they understand, as some might not, how very low the science return per dollar is for manned missions. And for those looking for a specific angle to argue, try mine: that in a time of tight budgets the most important thing is to preserve the money spent on small projects like technology development, data analysis and suborbital (balloon and rocket) programs. These are our seed corn, the way we keep our technology ready and young scientists trained, so we can take advantage of bigger opportunities when they come along in better times.

David M. Smith
Santa Cruz, CA

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.

As astronomers, we all have a big stake in this effort to get the most out of HST and it will be very interesting to see how it plays out. But it would be a mistake to lose sight of even bigger changes taking place at NASA. NASA's new focus on solar system exploration is expressed in their mission statement and a new set of "Level 0" requirements (even more fundamental than Level 1!) articulated by the NASA Executive Council. You can read them for yourself at <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewsr.html?pid=13100>. You might find it odd, as I did, that there is no mention of the kind of science that has proved so successful for NASA in exploring the Universe beyond the solar system, with HST and smaller but fantastically important missions like WMAP. These basic requirements don't suggest that studying black holes, gravitational waves, dark energy, or even the assembly of galaxies at the dawn of time must be part of NASA's portfolio.

Of course, nobody should panic. Everybody understands that NASA is committed to JWST and its power to probe the unfolding of the infant Universe in the infrared. Anybody can see that astronomy is more interesting than ever and deeply connected to fundamental mysteries in physics. Who could fail to see the opportunity for space science in that rich setting?

But these requirements are aimed quite sharply at something else: "extending human presence across the solar system and beyond." Many AAS members will see themselves as part of that human presence, but having so much astronomy compressed into "and beyond" makes me wonder if the ground has not shifted beneath our feet. The whole elaborate process of Decadal reports, followed by careful working out of roadmaps with lots of community input through a vigorous advisory mechanism has been a good thing for the astronomical community, and a good thing for NASA. This new change in direction doesn't seem to involve any of those sources of wise counsel. I think we should pay attention to this, talk to our colleagues at NASA, and try to understand what is happening. We live in interesting times. Would you prefer coffee or champagne?

AAS Meeting continued from front page

Postdoctoral Fellows (AAPF), Astro 101: A Continuing Dialog, a Career Workshop and a session on Winning Small Grants to do Education & Public Research with NASA's Office of Space Science Program. A tour to Mt. Palomar is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. The Undergraduate Orientation and the Graduate Student – Employer Networking receptions continue as well as special evening sessions on SIM and TPF.

Highlighting Tuesday evening will be a session on Astronomy, Space Science and the New NASA. The AAS Job Center will be held as normal. Computers for checking email will be available as well as many Ethernet connections for laptops. This meeting is being hosted by the AAS Executive Office.

FROM THE AAS SECRETARY

John Graham, aassec@as.org

Committee Vacancies Need to be Filled

Vacancies for several AAS committees will be filled by Council at its meeting in San Diego in January 2005. Current committee members are listed under "Council/Committees" on the AAS homepage, www.aas.org. Committees that have vacancies, followed by the number of vacancies on each (in parenthesis) are:

Russell Lectureship Committee (2)
Heineman Prize Committee (2)
Warner and Pierce Prize Committees (3)
Annie J. Cannon Prize Committee (1)
Van Biesbroek Prize Committee (3)
Tinsley Prize Committee (3)
AAS Education Prize Committee (2)
Weber Award Committee (2)
Henri Chrétien Grant Committee (2)

The Council takes advice from the Committee on Appointments for committee posts, AAS Members may themselves volunteer for committee, or suggest other Members for one of the vacancies. To be most useful to the Committee on Appointments, who may not know everyone, please include the date of Ph.D., as well as a few sentences conveying to the Committee the background and area of expertise of the named individual.

Please assist us with this! We need to have both quality and breadth on our committees in order to help them make wise and fair recommendations to the Council.

Input must be received in the Office of the Secretary no later than **1 December 2004**. Submit suggestions to John A. Graham, AAS Secretary, by email to aassec@as.org or at the Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015, Tel: (202) 478-8867, Fax: (202) 478-8821.

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 becoming 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.) If any of you have questions, please contact me at aassec@as.org.

2005 Membership Invoices

AAS members will be receiving their 2005 Membership Invoices soon after this issue of the *AAS Newsletter*. Since virtually everyone eventually does pay their dues, please consider prompt payment of your dues! Prompt payment saves the Society staff considerable effort and time in reminders, which translates into saving money for all of us!!!

San Diego Meeting Sessions Will Need Chairs

AAS members are invited to volunteer to chair one of the oral paper sessions at the AAS meeting in San Diego in January 2005. A session chair should be at least a few years beyond the Ph.D., and have had experience, i.e., being the lead author in presenting at least two or three oral papers at AAS meetings. Watch for the Final Program on the Web, and after it has been posted, review its contents, and then list in order of preference two, three or four oral sessions that you would be willing to chair, in or near your field of expertise. Email your preferences to John Graham, AAS Secretary, at aassec@as.org, and he will respond once final chair assignments are known. We do appreciate your help in this important task. Please consider volunteering if you know you'll be in San Diego.

2004 AAS ELECTIONS FINAL SLATE

The following people have been nominated for office; most of the terms begin June 2005. An election ballot will be enclosed in the December *AAS Newsletter* and must be returned to the Secretary's office by **31 January 2005**.

President	David J. Helfand J. Craig Wheeler
Vice-President	Robert D. Mathieu Paul A. Vanden Bout
Treasurer	Hervey Stockman
Councilors	Gary J. Ferland Lee W. Hartmann Suzanne L. Hawley Brian R. McNamara James S. Ulvestad Kim Venn
Publications Board Chair	Michael F. A'Hearn Joel E. Tohline
USNC-IAU, Cat. I	Paul W. Hodge Patrick S. Osmer
Nominating Committee	Spiro K. Antiochos John Bally Edward M. Sion

DIVISION NEWS

DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY

Marc Murison, Secretary

Call for Brouwer Award Nominations

The Brouwer Award Selection Committee (BASC) of the DDA invites nominations from any member of the AAS for an award competition. The Brouwer Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of dynamical astronomy, including celestial mechanics, astrometry, stellar systems, galactic and extragalactic dynamics. It is open to candidates of any age or nationality, occupation, or specific field of interest. The Award consists of an honorarium of \$2,000 plus an appropriate certificate.

Letters of nomination should cite the achievements in or contributions to dynamical astronomy that might appropriately be recognized by the Award. Nominations should be supported by copies of the vitae and bibliography of the nominee and by letters of recommendation from three knowledgeable people testifying to the long-term impact of the nominee's contributions to dynamical astronomy. Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to the BASC Chair (from whom further information may be obtained) so as to be received not later than 31 December 2004: Dr. Donald K. Yeomans, JPL, MS 301-150, Pasadena, CA

91109-8099, donald.k.yeomans@jpl.nasa.gov. Additional information regarding the Brouwer Award may also be found at the DDA web site.

DDA Student Stipend Program

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Division is making available two student stipends to encourage student participation at the annual meetings held each spring. The stipends are \$400 each, and meeting registration and abstract fees are waived. Any full or part-time student presently enrolled in an academic program at a college or university is eligible and encouraged to apply. For the 2005 meeting, submit an abstract of a paper for presentation, along with a letter of recommendation from an adviser, to: Dr. Daniel Scheeres, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2140, scheeres@umich.edu.

DDA on the Web

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

SOLAR PHYSICS

Ed DeLuca, Chair

Right: The GONG 2004 - SoHO XIV Helioseismology Extravaganza was a well attended success hosted by Yale University in July and organized by Sarbani Basu. The publication should be out shortly from ESA, and more information is available at <http://www.astro.yale.edu/sogo04/>.

Left: Sarbani Basu was awarded the coveted "Hero of GONG" awards for hosting the very successful GONG 2004 - SoHO XIV Helioseismology Extravaganza.



COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF MINORITIES IN ASTRONOMY

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

Affirmative Action and the Future of Student and Faculty Diversity: A Special Lunch Talk at January 2005 AAS Meeting

The Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA) is pleased to host a special presentation on the current legal landscape of affirmative action in the wake of the Supreme Court's recent rulings in the University of Michigan cases. This special presentation will take place on Tuesday, 11 January 2005, during the lunch break at the AAS Meeting in San Diego.

The presenter will be Ms. Ann Springer, Associate Legal Counsel for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). On behalf of the AAUP Ms. Springer has authored numerous legal briefs and position papers related to affirmative action in higher education, including an amicus brief supporting the University of Michigan in the Supreme Court's cases *Gratz v Bollinger* and *Grutter v Bollinger*.

In its rulings in those cases in June 2003, the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the University of Michigan's undergraduate admissions policies, which included a system of "points" giving applicants belonging to various groups (including under-represented minority groups) an advantage in admissions. But the Supreme Court also re-affirmed the validity of the University's graduate admissions policies, in which admissions officers considered the race of the applicant as part of a less "automated" evaluation process.

Whether one reads the Supreme Court's decisions favorably or disapprovingly, these decisions will make an impact upon higher education as faculty and administrators try to determine whether and how their institution's policies need to be changed. While decisions regarding student admissions policies are perhaps the most directly affected, there are also potentially significant policy implications for special programs, and for student and faculty recruitment. As well, the very question of student and faculty diversity as a goal in higher education is being re-examined.

Ms. Springer's presentation will examine the Supreme Court's decisions in the University of Michigan cases, their legal framework, and the current legal landscape for affirmative action. It will then address the practical implications of the decisions and their current and future effects on diversity in student admissions and faculty recruitment.

The January 2005 issue of *Spectrum* will feature articles on this subject, including an AAUP position paper authored by Ms. Springer. For more information on affirmative action, and/or to subscribe to the *Spectrum* newsletter, please visit the CSMA website at: www.aas.org/csma.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek, CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory (knezek@noao.edu)

CSWA Membership Changes

At the June 2004 AAS Council meeting, three committee members were selected to serve on the CSWA. I want to welcome incoming CSWA members Francesca Primas (ESO/Garching, Germany), and Joan Schmelz (U. Memphis/Memphis, TN). I'm also delighted to announce that Amy Simon-Miller (GSFC/Greenbelt, MD) has agreed to serve an additional term. They will all be serving from 2004 to 2007. They will join continuing members Neal Evans (U. Texas/Austin, TX; 2000-2005), Lisa Frattare (STScI/Baltimore, MD; 1999-2005), James Ulvestad (NRAO/Socorro, NM; 2004-2006), Stephanie Wachter (IPAC/Pasadena, CA; 2004-2006), Kimberly Weaver (GSFC/Greenbelt, MD; 2004-2006), and myself, Patricia Knezek (WIYN Observatory/Tucson, AZ; 2002-2005). I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to outgoing members Michael Rupen and Liliya Williams for their many contributions to the committee.

We encourage you to contact one of the CSWA members if you have comments, questions, and/or suggestions. We also suggest that you check out the CSWA web site, which is ably maintained by Amy Simon-Miller, see <http://www.aas.org/cswa/>. Among the new additions to the web site is a link to the talks given during the "Astronomy Workforce" special session held during the June 2004 AAS meeting in Denver. These talks present some very interesting statistics on the progression of women through the field.

The Pasadena Recommendations to Promote Equity in Astronomy

The CSWA has been hard at work, and completed the first draft of the Pasadena Recommendations. These Recommendations are based on the suggestions that were made during breakout sessions at the Women in Astronomy II Meeting (WIA II) held 27-28 June 2003. We also incorporated a preamble to the recommendations themselves to place the document in context, and then focused on five areas: (1) Tenure-Track Hiring, (2) Career Advancement and Recognition, (3) Institutional Policies, (4) Varied Career Paths, (5) Cultural Issues, and (6) Statistical Information.

As the next step of this process, we solicited comments and suggestions from the AAS community at large. The draft was available for viewing, comments, and suggestions, through the "Members Only" AAS web pages from mid-July through mid-September. We are incorporating the comments and suggestions from AAS members for the presentation to the AAS Council in January 2005. We appreciate the efforts of the many members who took the time to carefully read through the document. Their astute comments and suggestions are enabling us to significantly improve the Pasadena Recommendations, and to present to the Council a document that truly represents the consensus of the membership.

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Full Name _____ Year PhD Received _____

Institution _____ Current Position _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Please check all the boxes below where the associated statements apply:

Applicant is a Federal Employee. Indicate below to whom the grant check should be made out:

Applicant is a graduate student. Provide advisor's name, contact information and expected degree completion date. Attach recommendation letter from advisor to this application.

Anticipated Degree Date _____

Indicate on the line below the complete meeting information (title, date and location); please use a separate application form for each meeting:

Please **justify need to attend** and **describe the activities** in which applicant will participate (e.g. invited speaker, Commission member, contributing paper, etc.).

Estimated air fare _____ Anticipated carrier _____

NB: Maximum allowable fare, economy rate round trip from nearest large airport. If not a US flag carrier, please explain below why not.

Applicant sought funding from other sources. Explain why funds could not be obtained from applicant's grant or institution (attach additional pages, if necessary):

Do you have access to grant funding to support travel? Yes No

Have you travelled internationally in the last twelve months? Yes No

Please sign the following statement: If I receive this travel grant, I will comply with all reporting requirements, acknowledge the grant in any related publication (i. e., conference proceedings), and return my report in a timely manner.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

DEADLINES:

18 February 2005, for meetings between 18 February 2005 and 5 August 2005

5 August 2005, for meetings between 5 August 2005 and 24 February 2006

MAIL OR FAX APPLICATION TO:

Travel Grant Selection Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2000 Florida Ave., NW, # 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231

Fax: 202-234-2560

Quick Notes

The January 2005 San Diego Meeting

There will be a good number of astronomy education-related sessions at the San Diego AAS Meeting, starting with the *College Astronomy Teaching Excellence Workshop*, the *Astro 101: A Continuing Dialog* and the Undergraduate Orientation before the meeting, *Uses of Modern Technology in Introductory Astronomy Education* and *Cool Astronomy* on Monday, a session on *Structures to Facilitate Networking among Teachers of Introductory Astronomy* and a plenary talk given by Eugenie C. Scott, Director of the National Center for Science Education, Inc. on Intelligent Design and the Creationism/Evolution Controversy on Tuesday, followed by *Astronomy Teaching through Humanities: Poetry, Fiction, the Visual Arts and More* on Wednesday. Please check the meeting program for more information on these sessions.

A Reminder: Gadgets and Gizmos

At the San Diego meeting a room will be available for demonstration of instructional technology in astronomy education. It will have power and high speed Internet for about twelve stations and will be open throughout the week to give everyone the opportunity for a hands-on experience. Suitable demonstrations include interactive web tools, instructional software, remote observing tools, audience response systems (clickers) and wireless delivery of content to handheld devices or web phones. Contact Chris Impey (cimpey@as.arizona.edu) if you are interested in using this forum. If you would like to be a presenter, please send a brief statement of intent and description of your demo to Chris Impey by 20 October 2004. Selection of presenters will be carried out by the Astronomy Education Board. Presenters may distribute printed materials and/or CD/DVDs. Only non-commercial, educational presentation are appropriate for this forum.

Thoughts on the Cosmos in the Classroom Symposium

George Nelson, Education Officer

I invite you to learn more about the *Cosmos in the Classroom* symposium that took place July 15 -17, 2004 at Tufts University in Medford, MA, by attending the session at the winter AAS meeting in San Diego. This session is organized by Andrew Fraknoi and George Greenstein. The Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the New England Space Science Initiative in Education sponsored this very informative meeting; the AAS was a co-sponsor.

The *Cosmos in the Classroom* meeting was a unique gathering of professional astronomy teachers from high schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and research universities. Many excellent presentations described the latest thinking and resources in astronomy education for non-majors. Hands-on workshops introduced the participants to new education research, pedagogical tools and techniques. There was time to talk with peers and colleagues about the current state of astronomy education and how it might be improved. Many of the innovations have the potential to substantially increase student learning of important astronomical concepts, but

I worry that the reality of conditions for most astronomy teachers may prevent them from first learning how to use these new instructional tools and then implementing them to improve their instruction.

Two problems especially struck me for which I have no ready answers. At many institutions, particularly so at the two year colleges, the access to even the most basic technology, that underlies many of the most promising innovations, is not available. Classrooms are not equipped and computers and laboratory technology is not available for faculty or students. Also, human resources in most institutions are stretched to the limit. Teaching loads are crushing—often five different classes per semester—and there are no teaching assistants or graders. Because most astronomy teachers have no time for their own professional development or resources to pay for it if they did, they neither learn about new developments nor learn to use those techniques they have heard about.

We are on the verge of being able to make real progress in helping our non-major students to become science or at least a little more astronomy literate. This summer I met a room full of colleagues who want to participate but do not have the means. A common comment was “This is great, but I need it in a form that I can use tomorrow, without relying on technology, and without having to develop any new ‘stuff’ for my classroom on my own. I’d like to be able to do all that, but I just don’t have the time or resources.” The majority of participants did not have the resources to belong to our society.

I want to thank the organizers of the *Cosmos in the Classroom* Symposium for bringing this group together and providing such a rich and stimulating conference. We can’t solve these problems until we get together and lay them out. We’ll look for you in San Diego.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

New Grant Proposal Guide

NSF has published a revised version of the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) (NSF 04-23) that is effective for all proposals submitted after 1 September 2004. This document supercedes all prior versions of the GPG and can be found at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg>. This revision includes a number of changes to ensure consistency with current NSF policies, practices, or procedures, in particular to implement new or enhanced capabilities for proposal submission and award administration in FastLane.

Prospective PI's are strongly encouraged to review the guidelines for formatting of proposals, particularly the requirements for proposal margins, spacing and type density. The GPG guidelines establish the **minimum** type size requirements; however, PIs are advised that readability is of critical importance and should take precedence in selection of an appropriate font.

PI's are also reminded of the requirement to provide complete lists of collaborators with their proposals. These lists are used by program officers to identify and avoid potential conflicts of interest in the selection of reviewers. The omission of this information may result in a significant delay in the review of a proposal. Lists must be in alphabetical order, including current organizational affiliations, and include all persons who have been collaborators or co-authors on a project (including observing proposals), books, articles, abstracts or papers during the 48 months preceding the submission of the proposal. This list should include the names of collaborators even if they have appeared in a previously listed reference.

Please remember that it is possible to submit names of suggested reviewers, or the names of those you would prefer not review your proposal. Program officers consider these suggestions very seriously in the proposal review process.

Proposal summaries must address, in separate statements: (1) the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and (2) the broader impacts resulting from the proposed activity. PI's are encouraged to address the two review criteria in separate paragraphs, clearly labeled with the appropriate review criterion. We remind PI's again that **proposals that do not separately address both intellectual merit and broader impact within the one page Project Summary will be returned without review.**

Upcoming Deadlines for AST Programs

13 October 2004: Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (NSF 03-578)

Program solicitation at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03578/nsf03578.htm>

1 November 2004: Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI)

15 November 2004: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants, including the Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program

In FastLane submissions proposers should specify that the proposal is in response to NSF 04-23 (the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)) and select "AST-Division of Astronomical Sciences" and then "Astronomy & Astrophysics Res. Grants" as the organizational unit to consider their proposals.

20 January 2005: Program for Research and Education with Small Telescopes (PREST) (NSF 04-557). Program solicitation at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04557/nsf04557.htm>

27 January 2005: Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) (NSF 04-511)

Program solicitation at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04511/nsf04511.htm>

Anytime: Research Opportunity Awards, REU supplements, and proposals for Meeting or Conference support.

Volunteer for Panel Reviews

The best way to learn about the review process at NSF and to gain insights into what it takes to write a successful proposal, is to participate in the proposal review process. Each year the Division calls on over 150 people to provide expert reviews and advice on the merit of the proposals submitted to the grants programs. These reviewers perform an essential service for NSF and the community. But they also see a wide range of proposals, both successful and unsuccessful, read about very good, current science, exchange ideas with colleagues on the panel and at NSF, and learn about the process of panel review. The experience is one of the best ways to prepare for writing your own proposal.

If you would be interested in serving on a review panel at NSF, please let us know, by contacting a program officer: Nigel Sharp (nsharp@nsf.gov), Vern Pankonin (vpankoni@nsf.gov), Mike Briley (mbriley@nsf.gov), Randy Phelps (rphelps@nsf.gov), or Eileen Friel (efriel@nsf.gov).

ASP NEWS

Michael Bennett, Executive Director,
mbennett@astrosociety.org

Harold McNamara Steps Down As Editor of ASP Conference Series

Dr. Harold McNamara, Professor of Astronomy at Brigham Young University, has retired as Managing Editor of the ASP's Conference Series. Associate Editor Dr. J. Ward Moody, also a Professor of Astronomy at BYU, has been named Interim Managing Editor.

In 1968, Dr. McNamara became Editor of the refereed journal *Publications of the ASP (PASP)*. Under his aegis over the next twenty years, the *PASP* grew by a factor of more than three. In the late 1980s, seeing a need for rapidly-published, low-cost conference proceedings, Dr. McNamara relinquished editorship of the *PASP* and founded the ASP's *Conference Series*, which has grown to become one of the community's leading publishers of conference proceedings, with over 300 volumes produced to date. Recently the *Conference Series* has been upgrading and modernizing its publications process, with the aim of providing even faster publication times. An important new service, electronic access to recent volumes, is also very close to completion.

"Harold's contributions to the ASP over his 36 years of service are beyond calculation," said ASP President Katy Garmany. "The ASP just won't be the same without him." Dr. McNamara received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and joined the faculty of BYU in 1955. He has published over 100 scientific papers, served as a Board member of the ASP from 1968 to 1969 and in 2000 was awarded the AAS's George Van Biesbroeck Prize, which recognizes "long-term extraordinary or unselfish service to astronomy."

Interim Managing Editor J. Ward Moody received his PhD in astronomy from the University of Michigan in 1986. Among other work, he with his advisor Robert P. Kirschner discovered emission-line galaxies within the volume of the Bootes void. He is the author or co-author of 70 research papers, primarily on the nature and distribution of young forming galaxies in clusters and voids. He joined the BYU faculty in 1990.

Garmany announced that she is forming a search committee and that a national search for a new Managing Editor will soon begin. "In the meantime," said Dr. Garmany, "I have complete faith in J. Ward Moody's ability to keep the Conference Series running smoothly. He has served as Associate Editor for five years and is familiar with all aspects of the operation, especially the move to faster publishing and the implementation of electronic access."

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UPDATE FROM THE CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (CASCA)

Gretchen Harris, Past-President CASCA, MTR Panel Representative for CASCA

Canadian Long Range Plan for Astronomy

Since the formal release of the Canadian Long Range Plan for Astronomy (LRP) in May 2000 (<http://www.casca.ca/lrp/>) Canadian astronomers have worked, with the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy, to achieve funding for its goals. We have now secured participation in ALMA (as envisioned in the NAPRA agreement), primarily through new federal funding to the Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics through the National Research Council of Canada (HIA/NRC) as well as a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) has provided support for our participation in both Herschel/Planck and JWST. New development funding for our continuing work toward participation in a Very Large Optical Telescope (VLOT) and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) has been obtained: from HIA/NRC for the SKA and VLOT and from CFI for the design phase of VLOT, now the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT). All of these projects involve university astronomers from across Canada who in many cases are receiving support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) specifically related to science and design planning. A new organization called ACURA (Associated Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy) has been formed in the past year, whose members include all universities with research activities in astronomy. ACURA will represent the institutional interests of Canadian universities and provides a new mechanism for national initiatives in astronomy. ACURA's first effort in this regard has been in support of the TMT proposal to CFI described above.

The work of the past four years has seen a substantial beginning to implementing the LRP, but we still have much more work to do. In March 2004 CASCA established a Midterm Review Panel (MTRP), chaired by Ernie Seaquist, whose mandate is to evaluate the current state of the LRP and make recommendations for the next five years (<http://www.casca.ca/lrp/review.html/>). The panel held one major meeting at HIA/NRC Victoria in April 2004, focusing on past and future implementation of the LRP. A draft report was made available before the CASCA Annual meeting at Winnipeg in June 2004; an open forum held during this meeting gave members the opportunity to discuss the draft report recommendations. CASCA also established an electronic discussion board for feedback on the draft report.

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ASTROPHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AT THE KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Lars Bildsten, Permanent Member, KITP and Professor of Physics, UCSB

The Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (KITP) is a National Science Foundation funded institute located on the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The KITP's purpose is to contribute to the progress in all of theoretical physics.

A New Opportunity: Emerging Topics in Theoretical Physics

The construction of a new wing for Kohn Hall is complete and has added fifteen offices, a fifty seat auditorium and new common indoor/outdoor spaces for interactions. This new space and funding from the Kavli Institute has allowed us to provide a new opportunity for the community. Recognizing that important breakthroughs in science often develop rapidly and stimulate widespread collaborative interactions, the KITP will begin conducting short (a few weeks) programs focused on emerging topics in theoretical physics. KITP's director, David Gross, or the astrophysics permanent member, Lars Bildsten, should be contacted for information before a proposal is prepared.

Intensive Studies

The major activity of KITP are the three to six month programs of intensive study of a particular topic. These involve at least 20 visiting senior scientists (post-PhD) in residence at all times. We encourage minimum stays of one month. Applications are presently being taken for programs in the 2005-2006 academic year. See <http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/> future for information.

Program Proposals Welcomed

Scientists interested in proposing programs for the 2006-2007 academic year should contact any of the astrophysicists of the KITP's Advisory Board (currently P. Madau, C. McKee and D. Stevenson), the director of the KITP (D. Gross) or the astrophysics permanent member (L. Bildsten) for information on proposal preparation. Decisions are made in February 2005, and full proposals should be at the KITP by early December 2004. Visit <http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/suggest/> for further information.

Graduate Student Programs

Graduate students can participate at the KITP either as an affiliate of a visiting senior member (this is typically the case for a graduate student who accompanies their thesis advisor as a participant) or as a Graduate Fellow. The purpose of the graduate fellowship program is to offer a unique opportunity for a select group of physics graduate students to spend a period of 5-6 months at the KITP, participate in KITP research programs and broaden their understanding of physics in areas of current research. Students cannot apply to the program directly, but rather need to be nominated by their PhD advisor. The Graduate Fellows will be fully supported during their stay at the KITP. See http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/grad_fellows for information and deadlines.

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ASP News continued from page 10

ASP Board Election Results

On 15 July, the conclusion of the 2004 voting period, ASP members returned two incumbents to the board and elected one new member. Their three-year terms begin 1 September 2004.

Lynne Hillenbrand, our newest board member, received her PhD in astronomy from the University of Massachusetts, and conducted post-doc research at Cal-Berkeley and Caltech, where she has remained on the faculty. Her research interests center on young stellar populations and the circumstellar disks, which surround them. She teaches introductory and advanced courses and mentors both undergraduate, graduate, and post-doc researchers.

Returning board members are David Levy, who has discovered 21 comets (including his co-discovery of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9), and is a very well-known author, columnist, speaker, and television commentator on astronomy, and Leif Robinson, recently-retired (after 38 years with Sky Publishing Corporation) Editor in Chief of *Sky and Telescope* magazine.

In its meeting on 23 July the ASP board re-elected John Diebel to his second three-year term as one of the two board-designated members. John recently retired from the chairmanship of Meade Instruments, the company he had founded in 1972.

2005 ASP Conference Dates Change

The ASP's 2005 national conference, "Building Community: The Emerging EPO Profession" has been rescheduled for 14-16 September 2005. The conference is designed to bring together all those involved in developing, disseminating, and using astronomy/space science education and outreach materials, products, and programs. The ASP annual members meeting and awards banquet will be held on Friday, 16 September. Watch the ASP website for more information and early-bird registration information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's That Time Again... Time to Renew Your AAS Membership and Subscriptions

The 2005 AAS Membership Renewal Invoices will be mailed during the first two weeks of October. We encourage you to take a moment and return your payment and the bottom portion of your invoice upon receipt. By doing so, you will not only eliminate the need for reminder notices, but also ensure your member services and subscriptions continue without interruption.

And...please consider using your invoice as well to make a tax-deductible contribution to the AAS and/or the Division of your choice. Your dollars will provide much needed support for non-revenue programs sponsored by the AAS, DDA, DPS, HAD, HEAD, and/or SPD.

Contact Dennis Renner at dues@aes.org if you do not receive your invoice by **5 November 2004** or to answer your renewal questions.

Annual Reviews Discounts

AAS Members are once again eligible to enjoy a 30% savings when purchasing current editions of the Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics (September 2004, Volume 42) and/or the Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences (May 2004, Volume 32). To take immediate advantage of these special offers, visit the Members Only Pages at www.aas.org to download the form and place your order directly with Annual Reviews.

Observatory Annual Reports

The annual deadline for receipt of manuscripts for publication in the paper edition of the *BAAS* is **1 November 2004**. However, LaTeX manuscripts may be submitted anytime during the year. They will be processed and posted online as received. Reprints may be ordered and will be printed throughout the year.

Reports may be submitted electronically using LaTeX, or the new Word Toolkit, or Wordperfect as a last resort. Word Observatory Reports are prepared using the AIP Word Toolkit, where authors will type and tag the manuscript. The final page layout will remain the duties of the publisher. Reports must be accompanied by a cover sheet.

Instructions are available online: www.aas.org/publications/baas/baasems.html#obsems.

2005 Membership Directory

One of the benefits of AAS membership is a yearly copy of the *Directory*. The *Directory* is a comprehensive listing of both the members of the AAS and the institutions worldwide that carry out or support astronomical research. The AAS

seeks to constantly improve our *Directory* and asks that all institutions check their listing and forward any corrections or changes to directory@aes.org.

The *Directory* is shipping Third Class at the end of November. If your institution mail room has a policy of discarding Third Class Mail, please ask them to make an exception for the AAS *Directory* that will arrive in clear shrink-wrap. We cannot replace free of charge *Directories* that have been discarded by Members' institutions. If you have not received your *Directory* by January, contact Shantice Jones at jones@aes.org.

Additional copies for yourself or support staff are available for \$25. Download the *Directory* order form online at www.aas.org/forms/dirform.pdf. Look for delivery of the new 2005 *Directory* in December.

Poster Portraits

You've gone through the time and trouble to print your research work on a high-quality color poster, why not include your picture? Including your picture on your AAS poster allows your colleagues to identify you at other times during the meeting or after your poster has been taken down. The AAS encourages all poster presenters to include at least their contact information in some kind of take-away format and recommends including a photo of yourself or your collaborators on the poster itself to foster interaction and discussion at the meeting.

4th Biennial AAS Chairs Meeting

The 4th biennial AAS Chairs Meeting will be held on Saturday, 6 November 2004, at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago. A block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$99 for Friday and Saturday nights. Reservations may be made at 877-865-5322. Identify yourself as attending the "AAS Astronomy Chairs Meeting." The cut off date for reservations at this rate is 20 October.

The AAS has a contract with United Airlines that covers this meeting. You can receive 5% off any published fare including first class. There is a 10% fare reduction with certain class tickets and an additional 5% when purchased 30 days prior to travel. Call the United meetings desk at 1-800-521-4041 and give them the Meetings Plus ID code: 510RE. Your travel agent may also make the reservations to obtain the discount.

Information on the last two meetings (including attendees) can be found at <http://www.astro.virginia.edu/~rtr/astro-chairs/>.

Herbert C. Pollock Award

The Herbert C. Pollock Award, established by the Dudley Observatory, is to provide encouragement and support for an innovative project in the history of astronomy or astrophysics, to be undertaken by a faculty member, research associate, or postdoctoral associated with a college, university, nonprofit research institution or observatory located in North America. Special consideration will be given to proposals that involve the use of the Dudley Observatory Archives, the Dudley Collection of early astronomical works housed at Union College or the Benjamin A. Gould, Jr. library held by Dudley Observatory.

The Award consists of a maximum of \$5,000 to be distributed in the year of the Award. A recipient of the Pollock Award may not reapply for a new award for three years. Completed applications must be received by Dudley Observatory by 19 November 2004.

Mail applications to:
Dudley Observatory
107 Nott Terrace, Suite 201
Schenectady, New York 12308

See www.dudleyobservatory.org for more information.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 November 2004 for the first quarter of 2005. 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://nsosp.nso.edu/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.

AIP Offer for AAS Members

AIP is offering AAS Members a 15% discount for *Landing Your First Job: A Guide for Physics Students*, a book designed to assist student members who are preparing for their first job. Members must use the Discount Promotion Code LYFJ-15 and Mailsources LYFJS in order to receive the discount. Visit the Career Resources section of AIP's website (www.aip.org/careersvc) for further information.

APS Congressional Science Fellowship

The American Physical Society is currently accepting applications for the Congressional Science Fellowship Program. Fellows serve one year on the staff of a senator, representative, or congressional committee. They are afforded an opportunity to learn the legislative process and explore science policy issues from the lawmakers' perspective. In turn, Fellows have the opportunity to lend scientific and technical expertise to public policy issues.

Qualifications include a PhD or equivalent in physics or a closely related field, a strong interest in science and technology policy and, ideally, some experience in applying scientific knowledge toward the solution of societal problems. Fellows are required to be US citizens and members of the APS.

Term of appointment is one year, beginning in September of 2005 with participation in a two-week orientation sponsored by AAAS. Fellows have considerable choice in congressional assignments. A stipend of \$50,000 is offered in addition to allowances for relocation, in-service travel, and health insurance premiums.

Application should consist of a letter of intent of approximately two pages, a list of key publications, a two-page resume and three letters of reference. Please see the APS website http://www.aps.org/public_affairs/fellow/index.cfm for detailed information on materials required for applying and other information on the program.

All applications must be postmarked by 17 January 2005 and should be sent to the following address:

APS Congressional Science Fellowship Program
C/o Jackie Beamon-Kiene
APS Executive Office
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3843

Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics
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Visiting Researchers: KITP Scholars

The purpose of this program is to support the research efforts of faculty at U.S. colleges and universities that are not major research institutions. Applicants from non-Ph.D.-granting institutions and from institutions with greater emphasis on teaching (as measured, for example, by teaching load) are particularly encouraged to apply. Active theorists at national labs with large programmatic responsibilities are also encouraged to apply. Ongoing research activity is an important criterion. Each award funds a total of three round trips and up to six weeks of local expenses, to be used over a period of three years. Nearly 50 scholars have been selected to date. See <http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/scholars/> for further information.

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

8th DPS Meeting

8-12 Nov 2004 — New Orleans, LA
Contact: Timothy E. Dowling
(dowling@louisville.edu)
<http://cpl.louisville.edu/DPS/index.html>

Other Events

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/meetingschondrites2004/>

The Spitzer Space Telescope: New Views of the Cosmos

9-12 November 2004 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: Andrea Dean
(spisci1@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/newviews/>

AVS 51st International Symposium & Exhibition

14-19 November 2004 — Anaheim, CA
Contact: Stan Goldfarb
(stan@exxustech.com)
<http://www2.avs.org/call/default.asp>

*Magnetic Fields in the Universe: from Laboratory and Stars to Primordial Structures

28 November - 3 December 2004 — Angra dos Reis, Brazil
Contact: Elisabete M. de Gouveia Dal Pino, Chair (mfuniverse@astro.iag.usp.br)
http://www.sab-astro.org.br/mfu/index_mhd.html

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/>

*The First Symposium on Magellan Science

7-8 January 2005 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: John Mulchaey
(mulchaey@ociw.edu)
http://www.ociw.edu/ociw/magellan_symposium/

Planet Formation and Detection

6-12 February 2005 — Aspen, CO
Contact: Fred Rasio
(rasio@northwestern.edu)
<http://www.astro.northwestern.edu/AspenW05/>

From Young Disks to Planets: New Observations, Models and Theories

7-10 March 2005 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: Rafael Millan-Gabet
(disks05@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://msc.caltech.edu/conferences/2005/disks05/>

Grand Challenge Problems in Computational Astrophysics

7 Mar - 10 Jun 2005 — Los Angeles, CA
Contact: Mark Morris
(pca2005@ipam.ucla.edu)
<http://www.ipam.ucla.edu/programs/pca2005/>

*IAU Colloquium No. 198

Near-Field Cosmology with Dwarf Elliptical Galaxies
14-18 March 2005 — Les Diablerets, Switzerland
Contact: Helmut Jerjen
(jerjen@mso.anu.edu.au)
<http://www.mso.anu.edu.au/IAUC198>

*IAU Colloquium No. 199

Probing Galaxies through Quasar Absorption Lines
14-18 March 2005 — Shanghai, China
Contact: Brice Ménard (menard@ias.edu)
<http://center.shao.ac.cn/qsoals>

IAU Symposium No. 227

Massive Star Birth: A Crossroads of Astrophysics
15-19 May 2005 — Catania, Sicily, Italia
Contact: Peter S. Conti
(pconti@jila.colorado.edu)
<http://www.arcetri.astro.it/iaus227>

*IAU Symposium No. 228

From Lithium to Uranium: Elemental Tracers of Early Cosmic Evolution
23-27 May 2005 — Paris, France
Contact: Vanessa Hill
(Vanessa.Hill@obspm.fr)
<http://wwwgepi.obspm.fr/symp228/index.php>

*Michelson Interferometry Summer Workshop

24-29 July 2005 — Pasadena, CA
Dawn Gelino (dawn@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://msc.caltech.edu/school/2005/>

*9th Asian-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM-2005)

26-29 July 2005 — Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
Contact: Premana W. Premadi
(premedi@as.itb.ac.id)
<http://www.as.itb.ac.id/APRIM2005>

*IAU Symposium No. 229

Asteroids, Comets, Meteors - ACM 2005
8-12 August 2005 — Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Contact: Daniela Lazzaro (lazzaro@on.br)
<http://www.on.br/acm2005>

*News, Expectations and Trends in Statistical Physics (NEXT2005)

13-18 August 2005 — Kolymbari, Crete, Greece
<http://www.polito.it/next-sigmaphi>

IAU Symposium No. 230

Populations of High-Energy Sources in Galaxies
15-19 August 2005 — Dublin, Ireland
Contact: Evert J.A. Meurs
(ejam@halley.dunsink.dias.ie)

*IAU Symposium No. 231

Astrochemistry throughout the Universe: Recent Successes and Current Challenges
29 August - 2 September 2005 — Monterey, CA
Contact: Eric Herbst (herbst@mps.ohio-state.edu)
<http://asilomar.caltech.edu/>

*IAU Colloquium No. 200

Direct Imaging of Exoplanets: Science and Techniques
3-7 October 2005 — Nice, France
Contact: Claude Aime
(Claude.Aime@unice.fr)
<http://www-luan.unice.fr/IAUC200.htm>

Protostars and Planets V

24-28 October 2005 — Honolulu, HI
Contact: Bo Reipurth
(reipurth@ifa.hawaii.edu)
<http://www2.ifa.hawaii.edu/CSPF/ppv/ppv.html>

*IAU Symposium No. 232

Scientific Requirements for Extremely Large Telescopes (ELTs)
14-18 November 2005 — Cape Town, South Africa
Contact: Michel Dennefeld
(dennefeld@iap.fr)

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, 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://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings>.

HONORED ELSEWHERE

Harbeck Receives Hahn Medal

Daniel Harbeck (University of Wisconsin in Madison) has been awarded the Otto Hahn Medal of the Max Planck Society in Germany. The Otto Hahn Medal, which is presented during the General Meeting of the Max Planck Society, is awarded annually to young researchers from a variety of different fields for outstanding scientific achievements.

Harbeck was honored for work including his Ph.D. thesis on “Chemical Inhomogeneities in Old Stellar Populations in the Local Group,” which he completed in 2003 at the University of Heidelberg. He is currently a McKinney Fellow at the University of Madison and was recently awarded the Townes Postdoctoral Fellowship of the University of California in Berkeley.

CASCA Update continued from page 10

The final report is due to be submitted to CASCA, in Fall 2004. Its recommendations will form the basis of our efforts to gain funding for the next five years of the LRP. This work will be carried out by the revitalized Coalition for Canadian Astronomy whose three co-chairs are the CASCA President (or designate), a representative from ACURA, and a representative from Industry. A webpage, linked to the CASCA website to provide information and regular updates on the work of the Coalition will be set up in September.

CASCA Board Evolution

At the June Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Hugh Couchman, Laurent Drissen and Russ Taylor completed highly effective terms of service as (respectively) Secretary, Director, and Past President. The current CASCA Board consists of: Jim Hesser (President), Peter Martin (1st Vice President), Paul Hickson (2nd Vice President), David Hanes (Treasurer), John Rice (Secretary), Nancy Evans, René Plume, David Turner (Directors), and Gretchen Harris (Past President).

Washington News continued from back page

With the reorganization as it stands now, it is likely that there will be a single science advisory committee, which will contain representatives from both the existing SSCAC and the Earth Science Enterprise advisory committee, which formerly reported to an entirely different associate administrator. Now the two committees will be combined and provide advice directly to Dr. Diaz. The various subcommittees are likely to remain in place, with an additional few added to the four we are familiar with from the Earth Science side of the house.

Meetings of these congressionally chartered advisory committees (technically called FACA Committees from the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which governs their function and existence) are open to the public. With me in the “audience” were several concerned astronomers who attend to both gain insight into the direction NASA is moving and to hear first hand the advice the committee and subcommittees provide to NASA. Attendance is useful for two reasons. First, it is important that both members of the committee and NASA know that the community values the existence of these bodies. By taking the time to attend—even if it is just a handful of our colleagues—this message is clearly brought home. Secondly, it allows the process of the advice creation to be communicated to our community when the attendees return to their institutions. From the outside it can appear to be a mysterious process, but watching things play out in person shows that advice is created in a thoughtful and open manner.

Although I don’t recommend a large number of our members attend the advisory committee meetings in the future, I strongly feel our presence should be felt. If you think you would like to attend in the future, you can find the meeting dates posted online on the NASA Space Science web pages (which will likely also be reinvented shortly).

Budget

The budget process remains stagnant, with very little chance of a budget bill being passed by the Senate before the election. The House drafted all 13 FY 2005 appropriations bills and approved ten of them, but postponed floor debate and approval of the bills funding the largest R&D funding agencies such as NIH, NSF, and NASA until September. The Senate has only drafted versions of only four out of the 13 bills and debated and approved just one. Congress has completed action only on the DOD budget, signed into law by the President in early August. Expect a rapid budget process to play out in late November if the Republicans should win the presidential election and a delayed process if the Democrats should recapture the White House.

The House did reduce NASA’s budget by \$1 billion compared to the President’s request and also reduced NSF’s budget by about 2% compared to the request. This could augur a similar action by the Senate, but it is more likely that the Senate will fund these agencies above the House mark and probably above the President’s request. **Letters by AAS members to their members of Congress during October would be useful.** Be sure to highlight the exciting science that both agencies are able to support in astronomy. Be prepared to respond to AAS Action Alerts during the fall as quick action may make the difference between a healthy budget for astronomy and a poor or declining one.



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

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Printed with Soy-Based Inks on
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**San Diego
Meeting Reminders:**

**Abstract submission
deadline
20 October 2004
9:00 pm EDT**

**Early Meeting Registration
8 December 2004
Receive Discount
and Final Program**

WASHINGTON NEWS

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



Although almost all political activity is now focused on the Presidential elections, some work in Washington is going on, though it is unlikely to make the evening news.

NASA Restructuring

First and foremost is the changeover in leadership of the science efforts at NASA Headquarters. Ed Weiler, the long-serving associate administrator for the Office of Space Science has taken on new challenges as director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Additionally, Al Diaz, the former director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center has taken on the challenge of associate administrator for NASA's newly reorganized Science enterprise.

JPL, Goddard and Ames will now all be managed by the Science enterprise. Quoting from the NASA press release on the reorganized NASA : "The new science organization will carry out the scientific exploration of the Earth, Moon, Mars and beyond; chart the best route of discovery; and reap the benefits of Earth and space exploration for society. This combined organization will best be able to establish an

understanding of the Earth, other planets and their evolution, bring the lessons of our study of Earth to the exploration of the Solar System, and to assure the discoveries made here will enhance our work there."

Advisory Committees Meet in San Diego

In late July the Space Science Advisory Committee (SSAC) met in San Diego along with its subsidiary advisory committees, the Origins Subcommittee (OS), Structure and Evolution in the Universe Subcommittee (SEUS), the Solar System Exploration Subcommittee (SSES) and the Sun-Earth Connections Advisory Subcommittee (SECAS). In a busy four day meeting schedule, the subcommittees received reports from various NASA managers and programs. The advisory committee system is a highly important tool for the broader astronomy community. It provides a way for us to communicate our priorities directly to the agency and the agency takes the advice of these committees extremely seriously. Although the reorganization is likely to vary the structure of the subcommittees, the overall concept of an advisory committee activity is secure. This was perhaps the best news from the meeting.