

August 2005
Issue 126

AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Robert Kirshner, aaspres@as.org

Congratulations to you, Craig Wheeler, my comrade in exploding stars, on election as President-elect of the AAS. President-elect, but not yet President, Craig! You have a whole year of training ahead of you. If people want to get on the bandwagon and put 'Wheeler for President' bumper stickers on their cars, that's OK. I've noticed a lot more Red Sox gear this year, too—everybody loves a winner.

I have slowly discovered what this job entails, so I thought I'd write down a few tips for you, Craig, and for anybody else who is forming up an exploratory committee and visiting New Hampshire a lot.

The first order of business for the Society is—running the Society! Things are on a good and steady course, with lively meetings and prosperous journals, but we have one big task for the coming year, and that's finding a successor to Bob Milkey, who has served admirably as the Executive Officer of the AAS. I'm sure we can do this, and I am putting you on the search committee because you are going to have to live with the outcome!

Running the meetings is actually quite a lot of fun. You will have to go to all of them (and I mean **all** of all of them), so this will give you a stake in having some really good talks scheduled for the last day. When people write to you, complaining about being put on the last day, remember to say that that is where we put the very best talks! You will learn, as I learned from Caty Pilachowski, that the President's principal job at the meetings is to say "Thank you" to everybody. It's a volunteer society, pretty much, and all the people who do things for the AAS deserve thanks. It will be your job, Craig, to say it out loud. Frequently.

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PUBLICATION NEWS

Jay Gallagher, Editor
aj@astro.wisc.edu

On 3 January of this year the new editorial offices of *The Astronomical Journal* officially opened for business in Madison and Cincinnati. At the same time, the University of Chicago Press completed a major behind-the-scenes effort to transfer the Seattle *AJ* database to the Chicago Press system. As many of you have seen, the *AJ* is now up and running routinely with the University of Chicago Press web-based manuscript submission and processing system. As expected, we experienced unusual delays in our first few months of operation but we are now able to process most papers in a timely way.

With the transition newly behind us, I'd like to express my appreciation to the many people who helped us through it, including Paul Hodge, Toby Smith, and the Seattle *AJ* crew; Rob Kennicutt and Chris Sneden, and their editorial staffs; Bob Milkey from the AAS office, and Julie Steffen along with the many skilled people at the Press. Special thanks go to two people at the Press—Michael Boudreau, who got us up and running over the New Year's weekend and continues to help us customize the database to meet *AJ*'s needs, and Kerry Kroffe, who tries to keep us on track in so many other areas.

So, now that we are running in a close-to-normal manner, what happens next? This summer we will work to bring other features into service, including the return of an online list of submitted and accepted papers. Our editorial group is drafting, revising, and clarifying written directions to describe the new system accurately, and we continue to seek ways we can improve and streamline our operations. We also hope to update the look of our Web pages and add more *AJ*-specific features later this year.

As always, we appreciate hearing from our authors and readers about those things you do and don't like, along with suggestions for improvements you'd like to see. We look forward to working with each of you as we take the *AJ* into its next phase.

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Washington News



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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@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.

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@aaas.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript

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

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

AAS Email Policy

To unsubscribe from AAS emails, contact address@aaas.org

For address changes contact address@aaas.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

You will also find that a lot of items pop up out of nowhere and land head-first in the President's in-box. For example, you may have read about the brouhaha at the Smithsonian Institution concerning the showing of "The Privileged Planet: the Search for Purpose in the Universe" I got a letter from the American Institute of Physics urging me to sign a protest to the Smithsonian Regents, stating that this film advocates intelligent design and is sponsored by the Discovery Institute. Apparently, this group has been active in putting warning stickers on biology books. Something like: "Warning, this book contains scientific information, and may be hazardous to your preconceptions." I am no friend of intelligent design zealots, and I think the AAS should articulate its views on science based on evidence (we're for it!), but I didn't want to jump on a bandwagon to condemn the National Museum of Natural History for their failure to understand the viewpoint of a film I had not seen. I hope they will mount a good exhibit on human origins that we can admire and praise. Anyway, you will have to make similar judgments. While you will have me as Past President and eminence grise *after* the members' meeting next June, you will have to make the call. As the umpire-philosopher said, "I call 'em the way they are!"

Some of the calls are easier—like the new rule proposed by the Federal Aviation Administration for space-based advertising. Thanks to alert work by Pat Seitzer and the AAS Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris, we know about the proposed rule—which seems aimed at keeping space billboards smaller than the resolution of the naked human eye and dim enough to be below its sensitivity.

<http://dms.dot.gov/search/document.cfm?documentid=331155&docketid=21234>

Presumably, this rule would put a dent in the commercial motivation for Pepsi billboards in space, but I hope we can encourage the FAA to go further and restrain any advertising that we could see with telescopes. How would you like your 23rd magnitude supernova at redshift 0.5 to be blotted out by an ad for Saturns at the employee discount rate?

More serious matters await—the AAS has a role to play in keeping the NSF, NASA, and now DOE in touch with the astronomical community during these turbulent budget times. It is always sound practice to advocate proper consultation with the community, and to keep the big picture in sight. NSF Astronomy is taking the novel step of a "Senior Review" to try to readjust its portfolio to match its ongoing support with future developments like ALMA, LST, and GMST. The AAS advocates broad consultation, a transparent process, and a chance for the community to participate in this careful look at the NSF program. Similarly at NASA, there are huge changes afoot and it is important for the AAS to speak up for the community when budget actions create sudden and unfortunate changes. The thoughtful process of decadal reports, community-developed roadmaps for future actions, and a sense of shared plans is not something that NASA should discard. We understand the new emphasis on exploration, but exploration without science is tourism. There are great opportunities for NASA to continue to do pathbreaking science in our solar system, in the planetary systems of other stars, and in the Universe beyond where gravity waves vibrate space-time, black holes drain matter out of our ken, and dark energy propels the cosmos on a way one trip. Craig, our job is to help promote the science of astronomy. The science is so terrific, you'd think this would be easy, but I know it won't be. I look forward to working with you!

SECRETARY'S CORNER

John Graham, aassec@as.org

2005 AAS Elections Preliminary Slate

Vice-President Robert W. O'Connell
Faith Vilas

Education Officer (to be announced)

Councilors Megan Donahue
Martin Elvis
Margaret M. Hanson
Karen J. Meech
John S. Mulchaey
Marc Postman

USNC-IAU, Cat. I Lynne Hillenbrand
James W. Truran

Nominating Committee Christine M. Clement
Nancy R. Evans
Angela V. Olinto
Robert E. Williams

All nominations and supporting materials must be received by **15 September 2005** in the Office of the Secretary. Send nominations to: John A. Graham, Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Reminder for Prize Nominations

The AAS needs your help in getting due recognition for our most outstanding colleagues.

Nominations for the AAS Prizes for 2006 must arrive in the Secretary's Office by 1 October 2005. The Prize nomination form is published in this Newsletter and is also posted online in the members only area of the AAS website. This year, nominations are being received for the Annie Jump Cannon Award, the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize, the Helen B. Warner Prize, the Danie Heineman Prize, the Beatrice Tinsley Prize, the Education Prize, the Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Education, and the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship. The George Van Biesbroek Prize is not to be awarded in 2006 and applications for the 2007 Prize will be accepted up until 1 October 2006.

OMISSION

In the list of AAS members elected to NAS (June 2005 AAS Newsletter) **Dave Jewitt** (University of Hawaii) was not listed. We regret the omission.

2006 AAS PRIZE NOMINATION FORM

Please read the full descriptions of the AAS prizes and awards on www.aas.org or abbreviated information on page 13 of the 2005 AAS *Membership Directory*. All nominations are due by **1 October 2005** and should be sent to the Secretary of the AAS, John A. Graham
Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism
Carnegie Institution of Washington
5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015.

I wish to nominate (Name)

of (Institution)

for the following prize (check one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Lectureship | <input type="checkbox"/> Warner Prize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pierce Prize | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Prize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Van Biesbroeck Prize | <input type="checkbox"/> Heineman Prize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weber Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Tinsley Prize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cannon Award | |

Please note: send a letter with this form stating upon which major scientific achievements you base your belief that this person is a suitable candidate for the prize. Enclose a curriculum vitae of the nominee, bibliography and abstracts of three papers illustrative of the candidate's merit, and request that three supporting letters also be sent to the Secretary.

Print Your Name _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

2004 AAS FISCAL REPORT

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

The Society reports its finances in six categories (see Table I) according to the nature of the activities and the source of the revenues:

(1) General Programs: This includes the Society's general operations and administration. In addition, the General Fund covers the income and expenses of all Society programs including educational and public policy activities, and meetings. Also under this heading are the general publications handled by the Executive Office, including the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Job Register*, and the *AAS Membership Directory*.

(2) Journals: Each of the journals published by the AAS is operated as a distinct cost center. AAS bylaws, Article VIII.3, mandate that each Journal maintain a reserve fund equal or above the level of one-half of the annual operating expenses. At the end of 2004 the three AAS journals had reserve funds totaling \$5,582,550, or 88% of the overall operating costs of the journals.

At the close of 2004 the reserve fund for long-term maintenance of the journal electronic archives had reached a balance of \$320,968, including the annual contribution of \$40,000 from the journal operations. To date, nothing has been withdrawn from this fund.

(3) Divisions: These comprise the finances of the five AAS Divisions and their related prizes. The Divisions legally fall under the oversight and fiscal responsibility of the AAS Council, but each Divisional Committee makes the financial decisions of its Division and the fiscal details are reported directly to the members of the Division. The figures in Table I include all Division funds whether held by the Division Treasurers or in the Society's general accounts.

(4) Bequests and Memorials: These include the AAS prizes and other funds established by gifts and bequests to the Society. The timing of the actual awarding of the various prizes causes the fluctuations in expenses between successive fiscal years. The balances of the principle funds on December 31, 2004 were:

Russell Lectureship	\$192,535
Warner Prize	\$54,538
Pierce Prize	\$115,964
Tinsley Prize	\$59,814
Van Biesbroeck Prize	\$58,071
Weber Award	\$104,877
Education Prize*	\$125,932

* Including Wentzel endowment.

(5) Grants and Contracts: The bulk of this category is in Federal Grants

NASA supported AAS Small Research Grants,
NSF International Travel Grants,
NSF funding for the Bok and Lines Awards

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

Summary

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

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

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

Table I. Statement of Income and Expense for 2003 and 2004

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

Table II. Balance Sheet for 31 December 2003/2004

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

2006 MEMEBERSHIP DUES & SUBSCRIPTION RATES**Dues Rates****AAS Membership Rates**

\$118	Full
\$118	Associate
\$41	Junior
\$59	Emeritus

Division Dues (Tentative)

Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA)
AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: \$15

Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS)
AAS Member: \$15, Division Affiliate: \$20

Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) Student
(for first two years)
AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: n/a

High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD)
AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: n/a

Historical Astronomy Division (HAD)
AAS Member: \$8, Division Affiliate: \$10

Solar Physics Division (SPD)
AAS Member: \$8, Division Affiliate: \$10

2006 Membership Subscriptions (Domestic)

For foreign shipping options, contact AAS Membership Department

AJ, ApJ, ApJ Supplement \$50
Electronic Package

Astrophysical Journal (ApJ): Paper only \$290
ApJ: Paper and Electronic Package \$315

ApJ Supplement (ApJS): Paper only \$55

Astronomical Journal (AJ): Paper only \$110
AJ: Paper and Electronic Package \$140

Bulletin of the AAS (BAAS): Paper only \$30

Note: Members desiring paper and electronic access to more than one journal should subscribe to the "Electronic Package" with Paper option for one of the journals and the "Paper Only" option for the other(s).

Council Actions

Council Actions Taken at the 206th Meeting of the Council of the American Astronomical Society in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 29, 2005

- Adopted the Minutes of the AAS Council's 205th Meeting (Minneapolis) and approved Executive Committee actions taken between January 3, 2005 and May 28, 2005.
- Accepted the AAS 2005 election results for Officers, Councilors and Nominating Committee.
- Elected Robert P. Kirshner, J. Craig Wheeler, Chris D. Impey, Wallace L. W. Sargent, Hervey Stockman, John A. Graham, and Robert W. Milkey to the Executive Committee for the interval between the annual business meetings June, 2005 to June, 2006.
- Following consideration of member comment, adopted the Bylaw Amendment establishing a new category of International Affiliate Membership beginning with membership year 2006; established the dues and privileges for these as proposed by the Executive Officer.
- Appointed three committees to develop procedures for the award of each of three classes of medals provided by C. Chambliss.
- Resolved to reinstate the Annie Jump Cannon award which will be given annually to a female astronomer, resident in North America, who is within 5 years of receiving a PhD in the year of the award. The winner will present a talk at an AAS meeting. For a period of three years, the prize will be subsidized by the Society.
- Adopted dues and privileges for International Affiliate members as proposed by the Executive Officer.
- Approved the Financial Report for 2004 and accepted the Audit Report for 2004.
- Confirmed Tate and Tryon as the AAS Auditor for fiscal year 2005 and voted to create an Audit Committee to oversee the Society's annual audits
- Adopted the 2006 Budget.
- Accepted the Annual Report of the Investment Advisory Committee.
- Accepted the Annual Reports from the AAS journals
- Renewed appointments as ApJ Scientific Editors; Timothy S. Bastian, Dieter H. Hartmann, Judith L. Pipher, Luigi Stella, and Paula Szkody.
- Appointed as new ApJ Scientific Editors; John S. Mulchaey and Frederic A. Rasio.
- Adopted the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) Annual Report.
- Resolved to continue support of the AIP-State Department Fellowship Program.
- Adopted the Annual Reports from the Astronomy Education Board and the Education Office.
- Passed a resolution of thanks to A.G. Davis Philip for his 11 years of service as Director of the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureships Program.
- Accepted the Annual Reports from
 - t. The Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy.
 - u. The Committee on Employment.
 - v. The Committee on Minorities in Astronomy.
 - w. The Annual Reports from the AAS Divisions.
- Elected Bo Reipurth and Patrick J. McCarthy to 4 year terms on the Publications Board.
- Elected Dana E. Backman, Fran Bagenal, and Lawrence Rudnick to 3 year terms on the Astronomy Education Board.
- Accepted the President's nominations for service on Presidential Committees.
- Accepted the Committee on Appointments nominations for service on the Society's Prize Committees.
- Appointed members of the Standing Committees following recommendations of the Committee on Appointments.
- Accepted the Executive Officer's proposal on AAS Employee Benefits.

FROM THE EDUCATION OFFICE

AAS, ASP and IAPPP Honor Top Astronomy Students at the 2005 Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in Phoenix, AZ

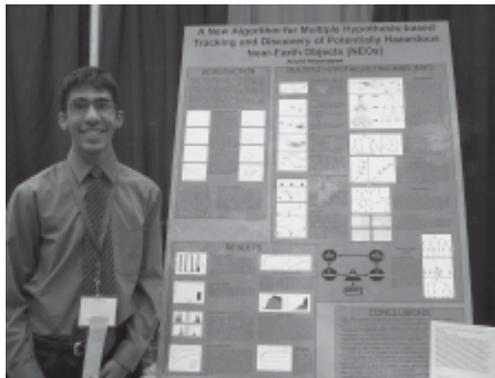
by Susana Deustua

Two high school students, Gabrielle Gianelli and Anand Palaniappan won the 2005 Priscilla and Bart Bok Awards sponsored by the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP). A team of high school sophomores, Mary Masterman and Sarah Louise Howell, won the Richard D. Lines Award, sponsored by the IAPPP and administered by the AAS. Their outstanding astronomical research projects were exhibited at the 56th annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held in Phoenix, AZ during the week of 8-14 May 2005.

Gabrielle Gianelli, a 17-year old junior at Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando, Florida won the AAS-ASP Bok First Place Award and a \$5000 scholarship for her project “**Fractal Dimension Analysis of Putative Martian Coastlines.**” Gianelli investigated the fractal nature of a possible shoreline on Mars. Her project involved the fractal analysis of high resolution images of the martian surface. She compared her results to those of terrestrial coastlines, concluding the fractal dimensions were similar. Gianelli’s teacher/sponsor was Dr. Judith Legault.

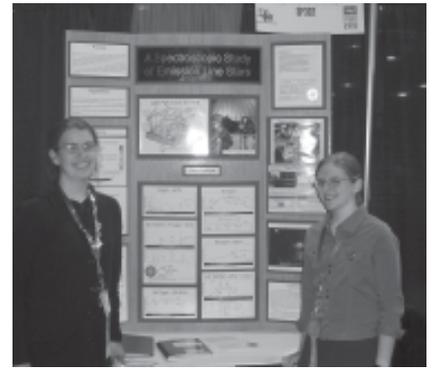


Anand Palaniappan, a 17-year old senior at Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri won the AAS-ASP Bok Second Place Award and a \$3000 scholarship for his project “**A New Algorithm for Multiple Hypothesis-based Tracking and Discovery of Potentially Hazardous Near Earth Objects**” Using simulated images of a planned large field of view telescope project, PAN-STARRS, Palaniappan developed an algorithm and wrote the software that discovers and distinguishes the tracks of near earth objects from among the thousands of objects seen on each PAN-STARRS image. Palaniappan’s teacher/sponsor was Pam Close.



Mary Masterman and Sarah Louise Howell, a team of two 15-year-old sophomores from the Classen School of Advanced Studies and Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, won the Richard D. Lines Award and \$5000 scholarship for their project “**A Spectroscopic Study of Emission Line Stars.**” Masterman and

Howell assembled an SBIG spectrograph, added a CCD camera, and mounted the assembly on the 24-inch telescope of a local college. After the testing and engineering shakeout, they used the instrument to observe and analyze spectra of Wolf-Rayet and other emission line stars. The team’s teachers/sponsors were Jeffrey Baughman (Westmoore High School) and Carolyn Bish (Classen SAS).



All four students have been invited to publish papers describing their projects in the IAPPP Communications, an international journal specializing in collaborative astronomy research projects involving students, amateurs and professional astronomers and will each receive a one year AAS Junior Membership. They will be invited to present their projects at the upcoming Washington DC AAS meeting. The high school science departments of each student will receive \$1000. Since 2000, the scholarships and science department contributions have been provided by a grant from the National Science Foundation, Division of Astronomical Sciences, and administered by the AAS on behalf of the three participating professional organizations.

The AAS-ASP-IAPPP judging team consisted of lead judge Dr. Catherine Garmany of the National Optical Astronomical Observatory, Dr. Susana Deustua of the American Astronomical Society, and Dr. Per Aarnestad of Arizona State University (retired). Garmany presented the Bok and Lines Awards on behalf of the AAS and ASP and IAPPP during the Special Awards ceremonies, held at the Phoenix Convention Center on Thursday evening, May 12th.

Science Service publishes the weekly *Science News*, and hosts the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Each year more than three million students complete science research projects. About 1,200 students from over 50 countries earn the right to compete at the Intel ISEF for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, and scientific field

trips. The Grand Prize awardees are invited to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden. Science Service began the ISEF in 1950. The AAS, ASP and IAPPP have co-sponsored special awards in astronomy at the annual ISEF since 1991. Additional information about the ISEF can be found at www.sciserv.org.

DIVISION NEWS

SOLAR PHYSICS DIVISION (SPD)

James Klimchuk
Chair, SPD, spdchair@as.org

The 2005 Solar Physics Division (SPD) meeting was held jointly with the American Geophysical Union (AGU) on 23-27 May in New Orleans. Much exciting science was presented on a broad range of topics covering the solar interior, through the photosphere and corona, and extending into the solar wind. Many talks and posters addressed fundamental physical processes, such as the dynamo, magnetic reconnection, plasma heating, and particle acceleration. Others illustrated new techniques and instrumentation that have led or will lead to breakthroughs in understanding. These include time-distance helioseismology (e.g., Parker Lecture by John Leibacher), adaptively-refined numerical grids, the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, and instruments on the upcoming STEREO, Solar-B, and Solar Dynamics Observatory missions. Sun-Earth connections was an important theme of this joint meeting, and was punctuated by outstanding lectures on coronal mass ejections by Hale Prize winner Spiro Antiochos and Harvey Prize winner Sarah Gibson. On the social front, we enjoyed a delightful riverboat dinner cruise with our friends in the Space Physics and Aeronomy Section of the AGU. Overall, the meeting was a huge success! Thanks to John Leibacher for providing the accompanying photos and captions.



*(Left photo) The happy Hale Prize winning Antiochos family: proud son Brian holding the certificate, beaming Spiro holding the medallion, and *really* happy wife Mary with the check! (Right photo) Spiro Antiochos (with colleague and former SPD Chair Judy Karpen) really cleaned up in the accolades category, being inducted as a Fellow of the AGU in addition to being awarded the Hale Prize.*



The social highlight was an evening on a Mississippi stern wheeler, with our AGU solar and heliospheric colleagues. Dawna and Jack Wolfson, with colleague Rich Nightengale welcome us aboard.

Helioseismologist, E/PO Broker, and Chanteuse Extraordinaire Cheri Morrow jazzing it up with the New Orleans Spice Band on the cruise.



(Left photo) Zoe Frank once again [THANKS ZOE and LockMart!!!] organized and hosted the SPD booth featuring a virtual reality trip through a coronal arcade which she is demonstrating to a visitor clutching Curt Suplee's Popular Writing Award winning issue of National Geographic. Daughter Alana patiently stands by in case anyone gets disoriented under the influence of the special goggles. (Right photo) Barbara Thompson cutting up the rug with the New Orleans Spice Band on the cruise.



DIVISION FOR PLANETARY SCIENCES (DPS)

2005 DPS Prize Winners Announced

The Division for Planetary Sciences announces the winners of the Kuiper, Masursky, Sagan, and Urey prizes. The winners were selected by the DPS Committee at its midterm meeting in May, after consideration of the materials prepared by DPS members and screened by the DPS Prize Subcommittee, chaired by William Cochran. The prizes will be officially awarded at the 2005 DPS meeting in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in September.

William B. Hubbard - 2005 Gerard P. Kuiper Prize Winner

The 2005 Gerard P. Kuiper Prize for outstanding contributions to the field of planetary science is awarded to William B. Hubbard, Professor of Planetary Science at the University of Arizona. Hubbard's work has centered on the study of the internal structure and evolution of giant planets and brown dwarfs, as well as on the use of stellar occultations to study the atmospheres of the outer planets. Hubbard's key early contributions on the internal thermal state and structure of Jupiter and Saturn established the framework for our current understanding of the Jovian planets, particularly that these planets possess fully convective envelopes. Hubbard was the first to extend the work done by Henyey and Hayashi into the mass range of giant planets. He developed the basic techniques that are widely used to compute the evolution of giant planets. Dr. Hubbard's book on Planetary Interiors is a thorough compendium of the remarkable breadth of his knowledge in this field. Hubbard has also contributed a substantial body of work on the use of stellar occultations to study the atmospheres of planets, beginning with the occultation of β Scorpii by Jupiter and Io, which led to a direct measurement of the scale height of the atmosphere. His pioneering work in the study of stellar occultations by solar system bodies led to his confirmation of the atmosphere of Pluto and co-discovery of ring arcs around Neptune. He also made significant contributions to the theory of central flashes and the intensity fluctuations in occultation light curves.



J. Kelly Beatty - 2005 Harold Masursky Award Winner

The 2005 Harold Masursky Award for outstanding service to planetary science and exploration is presented to J. Kelly Beatty, Executive Editor of *Sky & Telescope* magazine and Editor of *Night Sky* magazine. For more than 30 years, Beatty has been a leading communicator and interpreter of planetary science through his writing, editing, broadcasting, and public speaking. He has been equally adept at explaining the results of professional research and enabling his audience to vicariously experience the excitement of doing that research. It is a testament to his deep understanding of planetary science, and his accuracy and integrity in reporting it, that numerous



Sarah Gibson being award the Karen Harvey Prize by SPD Chair Ed DeLuca.



One of the many fine features of the AGU meetings is the FREE BEER at the afternoon poster session: a happy RHESSI crew - Gordon Emslie, Brian Dennis, Ken Phillips, and Hugh Hudson.



K.D. Leka and SPD treasurer Joan Schmelz hold court with left to right Dana Longcope, Brian Welsch, George Fisher (trust me on this one), K.D., Lorraine Lundquist, Jennifer Roames, an undergrad Physics major at the University of Memphis, and Joan.



A radiant group of SPD studentship awardees: Anne Sandman (Rice Univ.), Jennifer Roames (U. Memphis), Gordon Emslie (SPD Studentship Potentate for life), Lokesh Bharti (Mohanlal Sukhadia U., India), Janwei Jiang (Stanford) and Rui Lui (Rice).

researchers have invited him to participate in their observing campaigns and trusted him to report on them from “the inside.” “The New Solar System,” a book that Beatty conceived and edited and that has been translated into several languages over the past two decades, is one of the most comprehensive and accessible overviews of planetary science for the public. Beatty has also played a key role in the training and mentoring of other journalists through his internship program at *Sky & Telescope* and his exemplary leadership of the press at meetings. Often he will ask a key question that focuses the attention of the rest of the press, and indeed of many researchers, on the true significance of a new scientific result. Beatty serves as a vital link between planetary scientists and the public that supports them.

Rosaly M. C. Lopes - 2005 Carl Sagan Medal Winner

The 2005 Carl Sagan Medal for Excellence in Public Communication by a Planetary Scientist is awarded to Dr. Rosaly Lopes, a Principal Scientist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and Investigation Scientist for the Titan Radar Mapper on the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. Throughout her career studying planetary volcanism, Lopes has been an enthusiastic and untiring communicator of planetary science to the public. Early in her career she served as Curator of Modern Astronomy and Deputy Head of Astronomy at the Old Royal Observatory Greenwich, where she assumed the lead in interactions with the public and media. Since joining the JPL Galileo Near Infrared



Mapping Spectrometer team in 1991, she took a leading role in communicating Galileo’s results to the public and teachers. Lopes is particularly active with Hispanic groups, and has been an inspiration for many young people in her native Brazil. She has

worked tirelessly to bring science to Hispanic communities, and has been very active in the encouragement of women and minorities in science. She has written a popular book about volcanoes on Earth, and has edited an undergraduate book on planetary volcanism, in which all of the contributors are female scientists. She has always been extremely active in giving public and school talks throughout California, as well as in Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, and Italy. Lopes has conducted all of her public outreach activities while maintaining an extremely impressive scientific research program.

David Nesvorny - 2005 Harold C. Urey Prize Winner

The 2005 Harold C. Urey Prize for outstanding achievement in planetary research by a young scientist is awarded to David Nesvorny, of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder CO. Nesvorny is recognized for his exemplary record of achievement

in the study of the dynamical evolution of small bodies in the solar system. His early work introduced the idea of three-body resonances, which are now understood to be a major cause of chaos in the orbits of planets and play a major role in the delivery of asteroids to near-Earth orbits. Nesvorny’s study of clustering in the asteroid belt led to the discovery of the tiny Karin asteroid family, which he dated at an age of 5.8 million years. He has also identified several other recent breakup events, with the largest being the formation of the Veritas family 8.3 million years ago. These results are now helping scientists to study asteroid geology, impact physics and effects of space weathering. Nesvorny has also been a pioneer in the modeling of the dynamical evolution of asteroids by the thermal radiation drag force and torques. He helped demonstrate that these effects spread out asteroid families in semi-major axis and modify asteroid spin rates and obliquities.

DPS 2005 Meeting: Cambridge, United Kingdom (4-9 September)

Registration for the 2005 DPS meeting in Cambridge, United Kingdom (4-9 September) is now open. Details are available at the meeting website. The URL is <http://www.dps2005.org>.

The meeting will be held in parallel with that of the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) of the AAS. The sessions will take place in the Faculty of Music and the Faculty of Law; participants will be housed in student accommodations in St. John’s College and Robinson College.

One can register online via the website; there is also a paper form which can be mailed or faxed in. The early registration fee for regular DPS members will be \$290; the deadline for early registration is 22 July. Those who register after 22 July but before 19 August may register online; those who need to register after 19 August should register onsite.

Accommodation at the two on-campus sites, St. John’s College and Robinson College, can also be booked at this time. There is much valuable information on the meeting website about choosing one’s housing. Please note that the University housing can ONLY be booked online prior to 19 August. Those planning on staying at Robinson or St. John’s must book their accommodation by 19 August. One can find a link to the local Tourist Information Center on the meeting website.

below the President's request and \$5.5 billion for the NSF, which is \$58.1 million above the FY 2005 level.

After the 4 July recess, we can expect the Senate to pass their version of the funding bill and to move quickly to conference the two bills. Rumors abound in Washington, but nearly everyone is convinced that the appropriations process will move quickly this year. Although neither NSF nor NASA received overly large increases, most other discretionary programs were proposed to receive reductions under the President's budget, so receiving a flat budget can be seen as a best possible outcome in a difficult budget year.

NASA Authorization

Both the Senate and the House are moving forward with authorization bills for NASA. The hearings begin just after this column goes to print in late June. You can access the materials for these hearings online through the House and Senate web pages. Just go to www.house.gov or www.senate.gov and click through to the House Science Committee or the Commerce, Science and Transportation committee web pages. The Senate version of the bill is S. 1281 and the House version does not yet have a number (you can use the Library of Congress "Thomas" web page to search bills, committee reports, laws and the Congressional Record at thomas.loc.gov).

AAS members can make their feelings about NASA and NSF's future known to members of Congress at any time. It is unlikely that the authorization bill will be completed before the August recess, so take some time in the dog days of August to write your representative and tell them how you feel about NASA, the NSF and government support of astronomy. It is most useful to communicate with members of Congress on a regular basis, not just when you need something. Try and keep communications short, to the point and on a single topic. Long letters covering many topics are difficult for staffers to respond to directly or completely. In fact, most of the time several staffers would have to respond as responsibilities for different topics or agencies are distributed between several staff members.

NSF Senior Review

The NSF Astronomy Division will be carrying out a Senior Review of all of their activities throughout the summer. As described in the last newsletter by Division Director G. Wayne Van Citters, the plan is to review all programs and activities except the grants programs in order to free up roughly \$30 million to begin implementation of additional decadal survey priority items. You can keep up to date on the progress of this activity through a web page hosted by AURA (www.aura-astronomy.org and click through to NSF Senior Review). An informative exchange of letters between the major facilities and Dr. Van Citters has taken place and copies of the letters are available on the AURA site in PDF format. The good news here is that once the panel doing the review has been formed, some form of community input to the panel will be developed at which point AAS members are strongly encouraged to make

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Congressman Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) receives the George E. Brown, Jr. public service award from IEEE-USA President Jerry Alphonse. These awards are made by the Science, Engineering and Technology Workgroup each year at the time of the Congressional Visits Day. The AAS is an active member of the coalition.



Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) receives his George E. Brown, Jr. public service award from Federation Dan Thoma of Los Alamos National Lab, Past President of The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society.



David Black, Kevin Marvel, Jim Ulvestad and D.J. Pisano at the Congressional Visits Day George E. Brown, Jr. award ceremony and reception.

SCENES FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS MEETING

Science called it “small,” but with a registered attendance of 679, the 206th AAS meeting was far larger than many that older members can remember. The oldtimers hearken back to Society meetings without parallel sessions or poster papers, when everyone got to see and hear everyone else, and to meet them as well. In those days, the meetings were small enough to be wholly accommodated in the dome of the great Yerkes refractor, or in a modest meeting room on Nantucket. But where but at our Minneapolis meeting can astronomers organize themselves into Red Shifts and Blue Shifts to enjoy a friendly game of coed ice hockey on a fine Sunday evening? The Red Shifts won, 2-1, according to official scorer, Mayor Sue Gehrz of Falcon Heights, MN. Thanks to the University of Minnesota, for hosting the meeting – Larry Rudnick was Local Chair. Unless otherwise credited, all pictures are AAS photos by Richard Dreiser, © 2005 American Astronomical Society.



Photo 1: A face-off near the Blue Shift’s goal during the Second AAS Invitational Hockey Game, organized by Bob Gehrz and Chick Woodward (U. Minnesota). Referee Tom Jones (also U. MN) is at the right. Photo by Glen Petitpas (SAO). **Photo 2:** Liliya Williams (U. Minnesota) gave the opening invited talk on “Imaging Dark Matter with Gravitational Lensing.” **Photo 3:** Scott Chapman (left, Caltech) reported that the disk of the Andromeda galaxy is much larger than previously known; Nathan Smith (U. Colorado) unveiled a spectacular image of the Carina nebula, made with the Spitzer Space Telescope.



Photo 4: Mark Adams (National Radio Astronomy Obs.) announced the first NRAO/AUI Radio Astronomy Image Contest. **Photo 5:** Key personnel of Astro E2 who attended a press reception concerning the X-ray astronomy mission were (l-to-r) Roger Blandford (Stanford Linear Accelerator Ctr.), Jean Cottam (GSFC), Wilt Sanders (NASA HQ), reception organizer Koji Mukai (GSFC), and Sara Mitchell (GSFC). **Photo 6:** Barry Welsh (U. California, Berkeley) told of fast-acting foreground events detected by the Galaxy Evolution Explorer, from asteroids and Earth-orbiting debris to huge stellar flares in the Milky Way.



Photo 7: Laboratory astrophysics was a major theme at the meeting. Among those speaking were (l-to-r) Alex Dalgarno (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA), Daniel Savin (Columbia Astrophys. Lab.), Lucy Ziurys (U. Arizona), Kate Kirby (CfA), James Lawler (U. Wisconsin), Steven Federman (U. Toledo), and Donald Morton (NRC of Canada). **Photo 8:** The George Ellery Hale Prize was presented to Spiro Antiochos (right), who lectured on coronal mass ejections, by Solar Physics Division Vice Chair James Klimchuk. Both are with the U.S. Naval Research Lab. **Photo 9:** Andrew Fraknoi (Foothill College and Astron. Soc. Pacific) lectured on “Astronomy Education: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly...” (Clint Eastwood was unavailable.)



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Photo 10: A panel discussion on professional ethics in astronomy featured (l-to-r) Robert Kennicutt (Editor, *The Astrophysical Journal*), Kate Kirby (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics), Hashima Hasan (NASA HQ), and organizer Kevin Marvel (AAS). **Photo 11:** Tod Strohmayer (Goddard Space Flight Ctr.) and Ingrid Stairs (U. British Columbia), spoke at a press conference on relativistic binary systems. **Photo 12:** It may have been a small meeting, but latecomers had to watch from the hall at a popular session on Asymmetries in Type Ia Supernovae.



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Photo 13: Eileen Friel and Wayne Van Citters were on hand to meet and greet at the NSF Town Meeting. Van Citters told about the upcoming Senior Review. **Photo 14:** Speakers Suzanne Hawley (left, U. Washington) and David Hudgins (U. South Africa & Rockhurst U.), and organizer Susanna Deustua (AAS) were in full swing at the session on Cool Astronomy for Everyone. **Photo 15:** Experts on X-ray flashes, gamma-ray bursts, and afterglows were all smiles over recent observations from HETE, Swift, and a variety of groundbased telescopes. From the left, they are HETE P.I. George Ricker (M.I.T.), Swift scientist Takanori Sakamoto (GSFC), ROTSE researcher Sarah Yost (U. Michigan), Keck observer Joshua Bloom (UC Berkeley), and theorist Don Lamb (U. Chicago).



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Photo 16: AAS President Robert Kirshner (left) was in rare form at the meeting as was invited speaker Charles Woodward (U. Minnesota), who spoke on Spitzer investigations of dust in space. **Photo 17:** Angela Speck (U. Missouri, Columbia) spoke on dust mineralogy in AGB-star outflows; Robert Gehrz (center, U. Minnesota), described ejecta of classical novae, and Michael Jura (U. California, Los Angeles) asked "Are There Debris Disks and Kuiper Belt Systems Around First Ascent Red Giants?" **Photo 18:** Astronomers of the future. The undergraduate reception was attended by (among others), l-to-r, Michael Rogers (Penn State); Anne Sweet (Macalester College); and Rachel Strickler (UC Berkeley).



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Photo 19: Planetary nebula specialists at the meeting included Joel Kastner (Rochester Inst. Tech.) and Lauren Likkel (U. Wisconsin, Eau Claire). **Photo 20:** Pres. Kirshner presented the Warner Prize to William Holzapfel (U. California, Berkeley), who lectured on "High Resolution Observations of the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation."

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

Update on the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants

This year the Division saw a substantial increase in the number of proposals submitted to the core individual investigator research grants programs (the AAG). A total of approximately 425 proposals were submitted for FY2005 funding, an increase of almost 15% from the numbers of proposals received in the past several years. Although we were able to increase the funding to the AAG programs in spite of a decrease in the overall AST budget for FY2005, the increased proposal pressure has resulted in a significant drop in the success rate for our grants program this year. Although the year is not quite over, we are estimating a success rate of only approximately 25%.

This decrease is especially disappointing because the Division had managed to increase the success rate to 35% in the years 2001-2003, much improved over the low numbers in the mid and late 1990's.

The Division recognizes the critical importance of the unrestricted grants programs and will make every effort to maintain a healthy success rate. However, increasing numbers of proposals, and the anticipated level or decreasing overall budgets for the next few years, will create a challenging situation.

An Update on the Program for Research and Education with Small Telescopes (PREST)

As was the case in the program's first year, the FY2005 PREST competition was intense. Thirty-four proposals were reviewed and three awards were made. Abstracts for the successful projects are available at the NSF web site. With two years of experience, we have several observations about the program:

1. We believe that, through the PREST program and in conjunction with efforts such as SMARTS at CTIO, we are beginning to develop the components of a national 'system' of small and moderate aperture telescopes and instruments. In this period of constrained budgets, we believe that a system approach may be a profitable one to take in trying to maintain access to such facilities for research, education and training access. We encourage communication and collaborations between institutions with such facilities in an attempt to optimize their efficiencies.

2. A major component of PREST is that it requires access to the facility by the broader professional community for research and education. In both years of the program, the reviewers have given significant weight to this component in their ranking of proposals. Several reviewers and PREST awardees have commented that there

may be a tendency to underestimate the resources required to support visiting astronomers. In fact, several of the successful PREST programs are at facilities with existing visitor programs. Others have shown great creativity in providing access, either through queue or robotic operations or, in one case, by providing open access to a large, uniform spectroscopic database that will be collected with the PREST-funded instrument. We encourage those considering a PREST proposal to think hard about the consequences of establishing a visitor program and to consider alternate modes of access.

Finally, we thank NOAO staff for their early efforts in coordinating the public access to telescopes made available by the PREST and TSIP programs. Keep on eye on the NOAO web page for news on public access to privately-held telescopes.

New REU announcement

NSF has published a new program announcement for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (NSF 05-592). The basic features of the program remain the same, but the deadline for this year has moved to 7 September 2005.

International Opportunities for Students

NSF's Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) provides international research and education experiences for U.S. students and junior researchers through two new programs described in the program announcement Developing Global Scientists and Engineers (NSF 04-036). The program for International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) accepts proposals to develop opportunities to introduce small groups of U.S. undergraduate and/or graduate students to foreign science and engineering in the context of a research experience which will also provide personal contacts on which to build future international collaboration.

Through the Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Projects (DDEP) program, OISE supports dissertation research conducted by graduate students at a foreign site. Students are expected to work in close cooperation with a host country institution and investigator.

Deadline for IRES activities for the subsequent summer is 15 September annually; deadline for year-round activities is 15 February annually. Proposals for Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Projects can be submitted at any time.

Postdoctoral Opportunities

AAS members are reminded that NSF sponsors several postdoctoral fellowship programs that may be of interest - the Division's Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (AAPF) with a deadline of 12 October 2005 (see NSF 03-578); the International Research Fellowships offered by the Office of International Science and Engineering with a deadline of 11 October 2005 (NSF 02-149); and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Polar Regions Research has a deadline of 1 March 2006 (NSF 04-566).

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

Mike Bennett, mbennett@astrosociety.org
Executive Director

Positions Open at the ASP

The ASP is growing! We currently have three positions open, two of which are new full-time positions located in San Francisco. Please pass this information on to any colleagues or acquaintances whom you think might be interested. For complete information about these opportunities, please go to www.astrosociety.org, click on "About Us" and then on "Career Opportunities."

- Editor, *Publications of the ASP*
- Chief Development Officer (new position)
- Astronomy Educator (new position)

Federal Employees Can Contribute to the ASP via Payroll Deduction

Federal employees can now elect to make a charitable contribution to the ASP by payroll deduction via the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The ASP's CFC number is 2447. This is an easy way for federal employees to support the many educational and outreach activities of the ASP that do not receive any outside funding. We welcome and appreciate your support. Gifts made under this program are normally tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

Registration Still Open for ASP's September EPO Conference

Participants may still register for the ASP conference, "Building Community: the Emerging EPO Profession." To be held September 14-16 in Tucson, the conference is expected to attract over 200 education and public outreach (EPO) professionals and scientists who work in EPO—those who develop and disseminate educational and outreach materials, programs, and activities relating to astronomy, space science, and astrobiology. The conference will be highlighted by invited speakers addressing important issues involving the public understanding of science, formal education, informal education, and public outreach. The ASP members meeting and awards banquet will be held Friday afternoon and evening, 16 September. For complete information and registration go to the Society web site at www.astrosociety.org and click on "Events."

CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (CASCA)

Jim Hesser, President

Under the theme *Canadian Astronomy in Space*, the largest CASCA meeting to date (over 300) was held in Montreal 15-17 May, superbly hosted and organized by Pierre Bergeron and his Université de Montréal colleagues.

Among the meeting highlights were sessions at the Canadian Space Agency headquartered in nearby Longueuil. CSA President

Marc Garneau updated CASCA members on the many significant changes at CSA, which now has appointed its first staff astronomers and has been placed on a continuing budget basis by the Canadian government. Encouragement to pursue space science has been growing stronger within CSA under Dr. Garneau's leadership. He emphasized that Canada's commitment to the JWST remains strong, as it does to several other missions either operating or in later stages of development. Introductory remarks to a "Town Hall" discussion by a panel of experienced individuals were amplified by very brief presentations on many mission ideas being actively studied (or dreamed) by Canadian astronomers, almost all of which involve international partners and/or participants. An aim was to "demystify" the process of becoming involved in space astronomy projects and thus to encourage wider participation, especially of younger astronomers. As few Canadian astronomers had previously had an opportunity to visit CSA, this stimulating event was well received and widely appreciated. It began to address two recommendations in the recently completed Mid-Term Review of Canada's Long Range Plan (LRP) for Astronomy and Astrophysics (available at <http://www.casca.ca/>).

Through their standing committee, CASCA's graduate student members organize a one-day workshop immediately before each annual meeting on a topic - and with speakers - entirely of their choosing. This year their theme was "The interaction of the scientist with his surroundings." Speakers from universities, national observatories and software laboratories, and industry informed the students of: i) opportunities other than traditional university posts; ii) the importance of scientists speaking with the public and giving accurate information about their fields of expertise; as well as iii) the strenuous effort going into fund raising for their future by members of the Coalition for Canadian Astronomy (whose Co-Chairs represent CASCA, Industry and the newly formed Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy).

Coalition members provided formal and informal presentations throughout the CASCA meeting on their recent efforts to secure funding from the Federal Government for the Mid-Term Review Committee's recommendations. While much good will was built with elected representatives through winter and spring, it has yet to translate into funding of the magnitude sought (although it did, gratifyingly, secure additional resources for Canada's share of the design and development phase of the Thirty Metre Telescope Project). The Coalition has established a Working Group with the federal agencies and foundations to examine the limitations of Canada's present funding system as it applies to coherent plans such as the LRP. Independently, the National Science Advisor, Dr. Arthur Carty, who provided the public policy address at the Jan., 2003 AAS meeting, is spearheading a drive to establish a coherent policy for funding major science initiatives.

In the five years since the LRP was launched, CASCA members, through the Coalition, have become much more involved in, and increasingly adept at, political outreach. While necessary if we are to meet the LRP objectives, it is also becoming more widely appreciated that such efforts will henceforth be a facet of Canadian astronomy if we are to maintain the momentum built as a result of the LRP and its Mid-Term Review processes.

COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF MINORITIES IN ASTRONOMY (CSMA)

Keivan G. Stassun, Chair
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Strong AAS showing at meeting of the National Society of Black/Hispanic Physicists

The joint annual meeting of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP) and the National Society of Hispanic Physicists (NSHP) was held in Orlando this February. The meeting, attended by more than 500 Black and Hispanic physics students and faculty from around the country, included parallel oral sessions in all areas of physics, a poster session, panel discussions on various professional development topics (graduate school applications, career options, etc), plenary speakers (including Fred Jerome, author of “Einstein on Race and Racism,” and Hazel O’Leary, Fisk University president), and lots of opportunity for networking and recruiting.

The AAS played an active role in the meeting. Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt) and Eric Wilcots (U. Wisconsin) organized the astronomy/astrophysics oral sessions. Talks and posters by AAS members included:

- “Testing Models of Dark Matter: Rotation Curves of Low-Mass Galaxies” by Eric Wilcots (U. Wisconsin)
- “A Search for Ram-Pressure Stripping in the Hydra I Cluster” by Beth Brown (NASA Goddard)
- “X-ray Studies of Black Holes: Keys to the Extreme Conditions of the Universe” by Laura Lopez (UC Santa Cruz)
- “All About X-rays: One Group’s Work” by Marcel Agueros (U. Washington)
- “Galaxy Formation: New Insights on an Old Problem from State-of-the-art Numerical Simulations” by Romeel Dave (U. Arizona)
- “Overview of the Supernova Acceleration Probe (SNAP)” by Hakeem Oluseyi (U. Alabama)
- “The Search for Extrasolar Earth-like Planets in the Coming Decade” by Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt)
- “Ices in the Interstellar Medium” by Claudia Knez (U. Texas)
- “Rotational and Radial Velocities by Young Protostars” by Kevin Covey (U. Washington)



Pictured, from left to right: Evan Kirby, Dick Durisen, Claudia Knez, Keivan Stassun, Kevin Covey, Beth Brown, Marcel Agueros, Eric Wilcots.

Marcel Agueros (U. Washington) participated in a panel discussion on strategies for surviving graduate school and, along with Kevin Covey (U. Washington) and Claudia Knez (U. Texas), staffed the AAS exhibit booth, answering student questions and distributing literature on astronomy graduate programs and undergraduate research opportunities. Dick Durisen (Indiana U.) also hosted an exhibit booth for Indiana’s astronomy program. He and Windsor Morgan (Dickinson College) also served as judges in the selection of recipients for the AAS/NSBP undergraduate scholarships (see below). Evan Kirby (UC Santa Cruz) also attended and participated.

One of the meeting highlights was a plenary talk by Fred Jerome, author of the book “Einstein on Race and Racism.” The book documents Einstein’s close connection with the African-American community, including his association and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. DuBois, as well as his little-known involvement in political activities such as chair of an anti-lynching campaign. The book combines a painstaking research of archival letters, speeches, and articles with historical discussion to place Einstein’s activities and public statements into historical context. Further information about this project can be found on the NSBP homepage at: www.nsbp.org

“There is... a somber point in the social outlook of Americans. Their sense of equality and human dignity is mainly limited to men of white skins. Even among these there are prejudices of which I as a Jew am clearly conscious; but they are unimportant in comparison with the attitude of the Whites toward their fellow citizens of darker complexion, particularly toward Negroes [sic].

The more I feel an American, the more this situation pains me. I can escape the feeling of complicity in it only by speaking out.” — Albert Einstein

Joint AAS/NSBP Undergraduate Scholarships

For the second year running, the AAS has sponsored four \$1000 undergraduate scholarships joint with the NSBP. This year, Dick Durisen (Indiana U.) and Windsor Morgan (Dickinson College) represented AAS on the panel of judges. The recipients of this year’s awards were all graduating high-school seniors, and will be highlighted in the next issue of the *Spectrum* newsletter; here we list their names and home towns:

- Hasan Korre (Decatur, Ga.)
- Sarajane Williams (Prairie View, Tex.)
- Carmen Johnson (Tallahassee, Fl.)
- Emily Fuentes (Arrada, Co.)



These scholarships will once again be awarded in 2006. Two AAS members are sought to participate in the judging process. Please contact Keivan Stassun (keivan.stassun@vanderbilt.edu) if you are interested in participating.

Mercury article highlights diversity efforts in astronomy

An article entitled “Building Bridges to Diversity” by Keivan Stassun appears in the May/June 2005 issue of *Mercury* magazine. The article describes efforts to enhance the diversity of the astronomy profession through new partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions. The article is also available from the CSMA website: www.aas.org/csma.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek

CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory, knezek@noao.edu

The June 2005 issue of STATUS

Many of you may have noticed the white spaces in the paper copy of the June 2005 issue of *STATUS*. This was due to a delay in obtaining permission for some figures and articles. The permissions have now been obtained, and an updated version of *STATUS* is available from the CSWA website, see: <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html>. Note, however, that the web version does **not** include the *New York Times* article “Gray Matter and the Sexes: A Gray Area Scientifically” by Natalie Angier and Kenneth Change, as the fees for including the article in a web posting were prohibitively expensive. Thus, that article is only available in the paper version. If you currently do not receive a paper copy of *STATUS* but would like to do so, please email Dennis Renner, renner@aas.org.

Update on the Pasadena Recommendations

The CSWA continues to pursue ways to encourage the implementation of the Pasadena Recommendations. We are currently drafting a letter that will be sent to the departmental chairs and division heads of colleges, universities, and institutions encouraging them to publicly endorse the Recommendations. The CSWA will then maintain a list of institutions that have endorsed them on our web site. We are also working with the AAS to produce a brochure and/or poster form of the Recommendations that would be easy to distribute. We continue to explore options for funding activities consistent with the Recommendations, particularly the longitudinal study of young women in astronomy. We will continue to update the astronomical community on our activities in this area.

Activities at the June AAS in Minneapolis

The CSWA had a busy AAS meeting in Minneapolis this June, with a focus on the last day of the meeting. First, the CSWA co-

sponsored with the Employment Committee (EC) a special session on “Institutional Solutions to the Two-Body Problem”. In step with the national employment trend, for the majority of astronomers with partners, those partners work outside the home. This is particularly true for female astronomers, whose partners are usually professionals (and often other astronomers). Academic and professional institutions that employ the majority of astronomers are now beginning to recognize the importance of addressing what has come to be known as the “two-body” problem in order to attract and retain the best scientists. This first session highlighted a few institutions that are making pioneering efforts to create proactive approaches to the issue of dual-career couples.

Dr. Karen Bjorkman (U. Toledo) moderated the session, which began with Dr. Eileen Friel (NSF) giving an overview of the NSF ADVANCE program. The focus of the ADVANCE program is to ‘increase the participation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers.’ Dr. Tammy Smecker-Hane (U. California-Irvine) and Dr. Ellen Zweibel (U. Wisconsin-Madison) then each spoke about the ADVANCE programs at their institutions, focusing on how the ADVANCE program had been used to encourage recruitment and retention of dual-career couples. Dr. Roberta Humphreys (U. Minnesota-Minneapolis), who is now an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, spoke of the efforts and future plans to promote women in science and engineering at her institution, which does not currently have an ADVANCE grant, again focusing on dual-career couples. The CSWA has posted most of the speakers’ presentations, as well as notes on the questions for the speakers and their answers off of the CSWA website, see <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/JUN05/>. Presentations are available in pdf, and often in powerpoint as well.

Following the morning session discussed above, the CSWA held its own session in the early afternoon. This session was also organized with the help of the EC, and EC chair Dr. Andrea Schweitzer (Little Thompson Obs.) was the moderator. It focused on the other side of the issue - how dual-career couples have successfully approached the issue at institutions that do NOT have proactive policies. We held a panel discussion with panel members that represented various approaches dual-career couples have taken. The panel members included Dr. Beverly Smith and Dr. Mark Giroux (both at East Tennessee State U.), Grace Deming (U. Maryland) and CSWA chair Patricia Knezek speaking for Dr. Tracy Clarke and Dr. Henrique Schmitt (both at Naval Research Labs). After the panel members spoke, there was time for questions and comments by the audience. As with the morning session, the CSWA has posted a summary of the panel members’ presentations, as well as notes on the questions for the speakers, their answers, and audience discussion, off of the CSWA website, see <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/JUN05/>. We also plan to include information for dual-career couples on the revamped CSWA web site once that is complete.



EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Andrea Schweitzer
Chair, schweitz@frii.com

Employment Subcommittee Seeks Input on Postdoc Deadlines

Dear Colleagues,

The deadlines for postdoctoral fellowship applications and acceptances have been a topic of concern for both postdoc scholars and for institutions. For example, application deadlines have been creeping to earlier dates over the past few years, and for some fellowships this year are almost a full year ahead of when the position will begin.

Early application deadlines are a cause for concern for several reasons because of the possible negative impact on the career paths of early-career scientists:

- PhD theses are likely to be nowhere close to completion, and the student may not be able to apply on the basis of the actual thesis work.
- A corollary of this may be that there is de facto encouragement to spend more time than necessary in graduate school.

Acceptance deadlines are also of concern:

- Postdoctoral fellowship decisions are being made well before decisions about faculty and other permanent positions, creating difficult situations for both postdocs and institutions.

The AAS Winter Meeting has become a major venue for job talks and interviews. Almost all positions in astronomy are advertised via the AAS Job Register. The AAS has recommended adherence to an acceptance deadline for postdoctoral positions (February 15), in the sense that any offers should remain available until at least this date. See <http://www.aas.org/governance/council/resolutions.html#postdoc>.

Some have suggested that moving this deadline to later in the spring would allow application deadlines to be moved later as well. Indeed for some fellowships (e.g., Hubble, Spitzer and NSF) it would not be possible to change the application deadline without also changing the final acceptance deadline.

The Employment Committee of the AAS has formed a subcommittee to study these issues. The subcommittee is composed of: Nancy Evans (CfA SAO, Head Chandra Fellowship Program), Michael Fall (STScI, Head Hubble Fellowship Program), Jill Knapp (Princeton University, Fellowship coordinator for Astrophysics at Princeton), Dana Lehr (NSF, Program Manager for the NSF AAPF Program), Fred Rasio (Northwestern, AAS EC member, subcommittee chair), Andrea Schweitzer (Little Thompson Obs., former AAS EC chair), Lisa Storrie-Lombardi (SSC, AAS EC member, Spitzer Fellowship coordinator).

As a first step to examine these questions and what actions might be helpful, we are soliciting comments from AAS members, and particularly from those who have recently been part of the process of offering or accepting a postdoctoral position. Please send your comments to: Fred Rasio (rasio@northwestern.edu).

Sincerely,

Fred Rasio and Andrea Schweitzer

USNC-IAU

Geraldine J. Peters, University of Southern California,
Category I Representative

This is first of a series of communications to the AAS membership from the U. S. National Committee of the International Astronomical Union (USNC-IAU). Our intent is to relate our objectives and give a brief summary of the items discussed during the committee's annual meeting in January. Information on the USNC-IAU and its membership can be found at http://www7.nationalacademies.org/usnc-iau/About_USNC_IAU.html.

The USNC-IAU is now inviting qualified AAS members to apply for individual membership in the IAU. An application form is included in this Newsletter. We are encouraging applications from young astronomers as well as experienced scientists who have never applied for IAU membership or were deferred in the past. Information on the IAU and the forthcoming IAU General Assembly (GA) in Prague, Czech Republic in August of 2006 can be obtained by starting at <http://www.aas.org/membership/iau>. We would also like to encourage more US participation at IAU GAs. With 12 Divisions, 37 active Commissions, and more than 90 Working and Program Groups there is literally something for every astronomer. Check out <http://www.iau.org/Organization/divcom/>. You will be impressed with the diversity of astronomical efforts and disciplines that are part of the IAU.

Possible events that the USNC might sponsor at the GA in Prague are currently being discussed. Following the resounding success of the Women in Astronomy luncheon at the last IAU GA in Sydney, Australia the committee agreed that it would be desirable to support a similar event in Prague. It was further suggested that the US sponsor a reception for young astronomers at the Prague GA. More information will be supplied as the plans mature.

The question of whether the US should charge dues for IAU membership to help pay for its share in the organization recurrently comes up at USNC-IAU meetings. Since 85% of the IAU budget is derived from the governments of the member nations, there is pressure for countries to contribute funds in proportion to their total membership. But there are lingering problems on how to administer and pay for the collection of dues. Various options are being considered.

The committee felt overwhelmingly that the USNC-IAU should establish a better line of communication with US IAU members. This item in the AAS Newsletter represents our initial attempt at this effort. An e-newsletter is also being discussed. There is also a need for enhanced communication between the US membership and the IAU Executive Committee. Toward this end the General Secretary of the IAU, Oddbjorn Engvold has accepted an invitation from the AAS to meet with its members at the forthcoming AAS meeting in Washington, DC. As the format will likely be that of a town meeting, this will present an excellent opportunity for current and future US IAU members to learn about the operation of the IAU and bring up issues of importance to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAS Book/Journal/Equipment Donation Forum

Many members are not aware of the Book/Journal/Equipment Donation Forum, an online resource for those who wish to donate or request books, journals and equipment. Through this service (www.aas.org/donation), anyone may post items that they wish to donate or request materials that their organization may need. Shipping arrangements for the materials must be worked out between the donor and recipient and the AAS will not provide valuation estimates for any item. Before you sell that old physics textbook on E-bay or throw that old journal set in the garbage, why not let the Donation Forum give your materials a second shot at usefulness.

CSO Call for Proposals Due 31 October 2005

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 February 2006 through 31 July 2006 are due by mail 31 October 2005. Applications will be reviewed by an outside peer group.

Seeking Nominations for COSPAR Awards and Medals

The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) is seeking candidates to be nominated for COSPAR Awards and Medals, which recognize the outstanding achievements of space scientists throughout the world. COSPAR will present the awards at its 36th COSPAR Scientific Assembly to be held in Beijing, China, 16-23 July 2006.

It is important to honor the contributions of your colleagues. Please take a moment to consider nominees for the following awards and medals:

COSPAR Space Science Award
 COSPAR International Cooperation Medal

COSPAR William Nordberg Medal
 COSPAR Distinguished Service Medal
 COSPAR/Massey Award
 COSPAR/Vikram Sarabhai Award
 COSPAR/Zeldovich Medal

Nomination forms can be obtained from Pamela Whitney (202-334-3477, e-mail: pwhitney@nas.edu) at the National Research Council, Space Studies Board (SSB), which is the U.S. adhering body to COSPAR. All nominations will be processed by the SSB and must be endorsed by the U.S. National Representative to COSPAR, Dr. Edward C. Stone. Completed nomination packages must be submitted to the SSB no later than **28 September 2005**.

Call for NRAO Observing Proposals, Plus a Special Opportunity for VLA Blank-field 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	2005 Oct 3	2006 Feb - 2006 May	
	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	
VLA	2005 Oct 3	2006 Feb - 2006 May	*
	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	+
VLBA	2005 Oct 3	2006 Feb - 2006 May	
	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	

Notes: (*) A configuration with a maximum baseline of 36 km.
 (+) B configuration with a maximum baseline of 11 km.

The deadline of 2005 Oct 3 also applies to VLA proposals requesting a total of 40-199 hours of observing time for blank-field extragalactic surveys during the next configuration cycle (2006 Feb - 2007 May). See <http://www.vla.nrao.edu/blankfield/> for more information.

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, a program to support GBT research by students at U.S. universities 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. Awards of up to \$35,000 are possible.

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2005 Oct 1 for the session in 2006 Feb/Mar. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2005 Oct 1 for the session in 2006 Apr. The NRAO also handles proposals for the High Sensitivity Array for VLBI at the same deadlines as for the VLBA; this Array includes the VLBA, VLA, GBT, and Arecibo in the U.S., plus Effelsberg in Germany. >

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

NRAO/AUI Radio Astronomy Image Contest

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Associated Universities, Inc. invite submissions of radio astronomical images to their First Annual Radio Astronomy Image Contest.

This contest is designed to increase the number of visually compelling, high-quality radio astronomy images available for a wide range of educational and public outreach programs. Images submitted to this contest will be included in the NRAO Image Gallery for use by scientists, students, teachers, the general public, the media, and EPO professionals.

The deadline is 1 September 2005. See http://www.nrao.edu/imagegallery/image_contest/image_contest.shtml for contest rules.

NASA Infrared Telescope Facility Observing Proposals

Due date for the February 1 to July 31, 2006 semester is 1 October 2005. 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; (2) A 1-5 micron cross-dispersed medium-resolution spectrograph (up to 2,500 resolving power); (3) A 1-5 micron high-resolution spectrograph (up to 30,000 resolving power); (4) A 5-25 micron camera, and (5) PI-instruments including a low-resolution 3-14 micron spectrograph and high-resolution spectrographs for 8-25 microns. Information on available instruments can be found at: <http://irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/>.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 August 2005 for the fourth quarter of 2005. Following that, the next deadline will be 15 November 2005 for the first quarter of 2006. 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/cgi-bin/nsoforms/obsreq/obsreq.cgi>. 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.

Proposers are reminded that each quarter is typically oversubscribed, and it is to the proposer's advantage to provide all information requested to the greatest possible extent no later than the official deadline. Observing time at National Observatories is provided as support to the astronomical community by the National Science Foundation.

Pollock Award Proposals Due

Dudley Observatory invites applications for the Pollock Award, a grant of up to \$5,000 for a project on the history of astronomy. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 28 October, 2005. See www.dudleyobservatory.org/pollock_award.htm for eligibility and proposal requirements.

Celebrating a Century of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Toronto

This year marks a celebration of 100 years of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Toronto. An important part of the festivities in the fall will include a public lecture series "Cosmic Frontiers" — <http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/cf.html>. Held in the 1600-seat Convocation Hall, organizers anticipate that these will be memorable events. All are welcome. University of Toronto astronomers are grateful to our many colleagues in the AAS and the Society itself for a century of fruitful collaboration and look forward to the next 100 years.

Vainu Bappu Gold Medal-2004 award of the Astronomical Society of India: Nominations Invited

The Astronomical Society of India (ASI) invites nominations for the Vainu Bappu Gold Medal for the year 2004. Instituted in the memory of late M. K. Vainu Bappu, founder President of the Society and past President of the International Astronomical Union, this medal is awarded once every two years to honor exceptional contributions to Astronomy and Astrophysics by young scientists anywhere in the world. The award is based on an evaluation of the scientific work of the nominee as published or accepted for publication on or before 31 December 2004. The nominee must be 35 years of age or younger on this date. Nominations should include the following information: (i) Name, affiliation and address of the nominee, (ii) Date of birth, (iii) Academic record, (iv) Scientific accomplishments for which the nomination is made, (v) List of publications and reprints relevant to the nomination, (vi) Citations, awards and any other information bearing on the scientific excellence of the nominee, (vii) Name, designation and address of the proposer (the nomination must be dated and signed by the proposer). Nominations must reach the address given below by 31 August 2005.

Dr Ashok Ambastha
Secretary, Astronomical Society of India
Udaipur Solar Observatory
Physical Research Laboratory
P.O. Box No. 198
Udaipur 313 004, India
ambastha@prl.ernet.in

More information can be obtained at the ASI web site:
<http://www.prl.ernet.in/~asi/awards.html>.

HONORED ELSEWHERE

2005 Janet A. Mattei Research Fellowship

The American Association of Variable Star Observers is pleased to announce that Grant Foster has been named the AAVSO's 2005 Janet A. Mattei Research Fellow, the first recipient of this honor. He will be spending a summer sabbatical at AAVSO Headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, working with the AAVSO in the analysis of our variable star data archives.

Grant Foster has long been affiliated with the AAVSO. He worked at AAVSO Headquarters for several years in the 1990's, and is responsible for creating many of the statistical time-series analysis routines commonly used by our community. Grant is returning to AAVSO as the inaugural recipient of the Mattei Fellowship to share his mathematical and statistical expertise. He is currently on sabbatical from the Island Data Corporation of San Diego, California, where he works on topics related to statistical analysis and machine learning.

The Mattei Fellowship was established in 2004 in honor of the late Janet Akyüz Mattei, director of the AAVSO from 1973 to 2003. The fellowship enables astronomers to visit AAVSO for a few months a year and collaborate closely with our organization, making use of the large amount of variable star data from the AAVSO's International Database.

The Shaw Laureates in Astronomy 2005

The 2005 Shaw Prize in Astronomy was jointly awarded to Geoffrey Marcy and Michel Mayor for finding and characterizing the orbits and masses of the first planets around other stars, thereby revolutionizing our understanding of the processes that forms planets and planetary systems.

Marcy is the Professor of Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley and Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy, San Francisco State University.

The Shaw Prize is an international award which honors individuals for achieving distinguished breakthroughs in academic and scientific research or applications, who have made outstanding contributions in culture and the arts, or who in other domains have achieved excellence.

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their opinions known through whatever process is developed by NSF and the panel. The White House's Office of Management and Budget and the appropriate House and Senate committees are aware of this process and following it closely. It is important that the community participate fully so that policy makers see that we are willing to review how we use the tax payer's money and ensure their best use.



John Leibacher, K.S. Balachandaran and Kevin Marvel at the AAS-sponsored booth at the 2006 Coalition for National Science Funding exhibit. The AAS asks NSF-sponsored astronomy organizations and individuals to participate in the event each year. This year the National Solar Observatory participated and was able to highlight their plans for the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope and the ongoing research at Sunspot, NM.



John Leibacher (NSO) explains to Dr. Kathie Olsen the plans for the construction of the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope and other NSO activities. Dr. Olsen is the new Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation.

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS DIVISION MEETINGS

Division for Planetary Sciences

4-9 Sept 2005 — Cambridge, England
Simon Mitton, LOC
(smittin@cambridge.org)
Carl Murray, SPC
(c.d.murray@qmul.ac.uk)
<http://www.dps2005.com/>

207th Meeting - Washington, DC

8-12 January 2006
Contact AAS Executive Office
gilmore@as.org

208th Meeting - Calgary, Alberta

4-8 June 2006
Contact Russ Taylor
russ@ras.ucalgary.ca

Division on Dynamical Astronomy

25-29 June 2006 — Halifax, Nova Scotia
Contact: Joe Hahn (jhahn@ap.smu.ca)
<http://dda.harvard.edu>

209th Meeting - Seattle, WA (Joint with AAPT)

7-11 January 2007
Contact AAS Executive Office
gilmore@as.org

OTHER EVENTS

Science with the Virtual Observatory - NVO Summer School

6-15 September 2005 — Aspen, Colorado
Contact: summer-school@us-vo.org
www.us-vo.org/summer-school/2005

Building Community: The Emerging Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Profession

14-16 September 2005 — Tucson, AZ
Contact: Tim Slater
(tslater@as.arizona.edu)
<http://astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html>

Dust in Planetary Systems

26-30 September 2006 — Lihue, HI
Contact: Eberhard Gruen
(eberhard.gruen@mpi-hd.mpg.de)
<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dust2005/>

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>

*Frank N. Bash Symposium 2005: New Horizons in Astronomy

16-18 October 2005 — Austin, TX
Contact: Seth Redfield
(sredfield@astro.as.utexas.edu)
http://www.as.utexas.edu/new_horizons/

*Nearby Resolved Debris Disks

19-20 October 2005 — Baltimore, MD
Contact: Scientific Information: Inga
Kamp (kamp@stsci.edu), General
Information - Quin Gryce
(gryce@stsci.edu)
<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/nrdd>

Michelson Fellows Symposium

20-21 October 2005 — Caltech,
Pasadena, CA
Contact: Gerard van Belle
(gerard@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://msc.caltech.edu/conferences/2005/fellows05/>

Protostars and Planets V

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

*The 2005 HST Calibration Workshop

26-28 October 2005 — Baltimore,
Maryland
Contact: Paul Goudfrooij
(cal05@stsci.edu)
<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/cal05>

Fourth Chandra Calibration Workshop

31 Oct-1 Nov 2005 — Cambridge, MA
Contact: Vinay Kashyap
(ccw@head.cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ccw/>

7th Pacific Rim Conference on Stellar Astrophysics

1-5 November 2005 — Seoul, Korea
Contact: Young Woon Kang
(kangyw@sejong.ac.kr)
<http://arcsec.sejong.ac.kr/~web/pacific-rim/>

Six Years of Science with Chandra Symposium

2-4 November 2005 — Cambridge, MA
Contact: Antonella Fruscione
(afruscione@cfa.harvard.edu)
http://cxc.harvard.edu/symposium_2005

The Spitzer Science Center 2005

**Conference:
Infrared Diagnostics of Galaxy
Evolution**
14-16 November 2005 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: Harry Teplitz
(irevolve@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/irevolve>

IAU Symposium No. 232

Scientific Requirements for Extremely
Large Telescopes (ELTs)
14-18 Nov 2005 — Cape Town, South
Africa
Contact: Michel Dennefeld
(dennefel@iap.fr)
<http://www.sao.ac.za/IAUS232/>

IHY/Basic Space Science Workshop

20-23 November 2005 — United Arab
Emirates University
Contact: Barbara Thompson
ihy_unbss_info@ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov
<http://ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

16th Annual "October" Astrophysics Conference in Maryland: "Gamma-Ray Bursts in the Swift Era"

29 Nov - 2 Dec 2005 — Washington, DC
Contact: Susan Lehr
(october@astro.umd.edu)
<http://www.astro.umd.edu/october/>

11th Latin-American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM-2005)

11-16 December 2005 — Pucon, Chile
Contact: Monica Rubio
(mrubio@das.uchile.cl)

*Relativistic Jets: The Common Physics of AGN, Microquasars and Gamma-Ray Bursts

14-17 December 2005 — Ann Arbor, MI
Contact: Philip Hughes
(phughes@umich.edu)
<http://www.astro.lsa.umich.edu/users/mctpwww/>

Astrochemistry-From Laboratory Studies to Astronomical Observations

15-20 December 2005 — Honolulu, HI
Contact: Ralf I. Kaiser
(kaiser@gold.chem.hawaii.edu)
<http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/Bil301/AstroPacifichem.html>

2006 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Societe Canadienne D'Astronomie (CASCA)

1-4 June 2006 — Calgary, Alberta
Contact: Rene Plume
(plume@ism.ucalgary.ca)
<http://www.ism.ucalgary.ca/meetings/casca06>

Physics and Astrophysics of Supermassive Black Holes

9-14 July 2006 — Santa Fe, NM
Contact: Chris Fryer (fryer@lanl.gov)
<http://qso.lanl.gov/meetings/meet2006/index.html>

***Cool Stars 14**

6-10 November 2006 — Pasadena, CA, USA
Contact: John Stauffer
(stauffer@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/cs14/>

***Living with a Star 1: A new era in understanding our space environment**

26-29 March 2007 — Boulder, Colorado
Contact: Karel Schrijver
(schryver@lmsal.com)
<http://www.lws1.org>

***IAU Symposium No. 233**

Solar Activity and its Magnetic Origin
31 March-3 April 2006 — Cairo, Egypt
Contact: Ahmed Abdel Hady
(aahady@yahoo.com)
<http://www.iaus233.edu.eg/>

***IAU Symposium No. 234**

Planetary Nebulae in our Galaxy and Beyond
3-7 April 2006, — Waikoloa Beach, HI
Contact: Michael J. Barlow
(mjb@star.ucl.ac.uk)

***IAU Symposium No. 235**

Galaxy Evolution through the Hubble Time
14-17 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Jan Palous (palous@ig.cas.cz)

***IAU Symposium No. 236**

Near Earth Objects, our Celestial Neighbors: Opportunity and Risk
14-18 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Giovanni B. Valsecchi
(giovanni@rm.iasf.cnr.it)

***IAU Symposium No. 237**

Triggered Star Formation in a Turbulent ISM
14-18 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Jan Palous (palous@ig.cas.cz)

***IAU Symposium No. 238**

Black Holes: from Stars to Galaxies - across the Range of Masses
21-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Vladimir Karas
(vladimir.karas@cuni.cz)
<http://astro.cas.cz/iaus23>

***IAU Symposium No. 239**

Convection in Astrophysics
21-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Ian W. Roxburgh
(i.w.roxburgh@qmul.ac.uk)

***IAU Symposium No. 240**

Binary Stars as Critical Tools and Tests in Modern Astrophysics
22-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: William I. Hartkopf
(wih@usno.navy.mil)

From Cosmic Static to Cosmic Evolution

15-19 Oct 2006 — Charlottesville, VA
Contact: Ken Kellerman
(kkellerm@nrao.edu)

***IAU Symposium No. 241**

Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies
10-14 December 2006 — La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain
Contact: Alexandre Vazdekis
(vazdekis@ll.iac.es)
<http://www.astro.rug.nl/~peletier/IAUS241.html>

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@aaas.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>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



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

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Newsletter 125 June 2005



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WASHINGTON NEWS

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



Summer in DC started off with one of the longest hot spells in June ever recorded. The intense heat and humidity must have started convection currents under Capitol Hill as lawmakers have moved very quickly to work on key legislation that impacts astronomy.

Appropriations

On June 16 the House passed the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice Appropriations Bill. [note: The appropriations committees have been redesigned. NSF and NASA now fall under the jurisdiction of the Science, State and Justice subcommittee while the Department of Energy resides in the Energy and Water Development and related Agencies subcommittee. NSF and NASA used to fall under the jurisdiction of the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies subcommittee. Update your Rolodexes.]

NASA was funded by the House at a level of \$16.5 billion and included \$40 million more than the President's request to partially restore NASA's science programs. This is 1.7% more than the FY2005 level, but R&D funding goes up by nearly 5% to \$522

million under the House plan, but much of this increase would support Moon-and-Mars programs, especially with the new Exploration Systems account. No specific appropriation is made for the Hubble Space Telescope, but the House has applauded administrator Griffin's decision to revisit the servicing question.

NSF received \$38 million more than the President's request for FY 2006 at a level of \$5.65 billion. Within this total \$4.38 billion was included for research, which is \$157 million more than last year. The Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate would receive \$1.097 billion under the House spending bill, which is 2.6% more than the FY2005 level, essentially flat once inflation is taken into account. The ongoing flat funding of the NSF essentially means that the so-called doubling bill, an NSF authorization bill widely supported by the science community, has been disregarded by the Administration and Congress.

On the Senate side of the Hill, the Commerce, Justice and State appropriations subcommittee report (released as this column was sent to press) provided \$16.4 billion for NASA, which is \$60 million