

AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

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President's Column

John Huchra, president@aaas.org

I would much rather have been able to talk about good news, but circumstances have intervened to eliminate that option. The bad news is pretty rampant and ranges from yet another "Continuing Resolution" (CR) to the, hopefully temporary, demise of the Hubble Space Telescope. The CR is coupled to both the election and the financial crisis and very likely means another year of essentially flat funding (read really decreasing given the significant rate of inflation for scientific research). The positive news is that by the time most of you will be reading this, the reset button will have been pushed on the American system and a new administration will be preparing to take over the executive branch in January. Leaders on both sides of the political divide continue to stress the extreme importance of research and development for the US economy but most of us still fear the extreme lack of scientific and engineering expertise in government (see, for example, Norm Augustine's recent editorial in *Science* (Vol. 231, 1605 19 September 2008)). It is widely acknowledged that America has lost the lead in particle physics (think LHC) and may be losing the lead in astronomy (think VLT) to Europe. But innovation and competitiveness can be powerful motivators in Washington, so don't give up hope—that reset button is very likely to have positive effects, at least on science policy.

On a positive note, however, we have just celebrated the 50th anniversary of NASA (1 October 1958). The advances made in both space science and aeronautics over those fifty years have been amazing, sometimes almost scarily so. I remember working with sounding rockets at MIT in the late 1960's when the dream of real astronomical satellites was still a few years away. Then, in the early 1970's, came the orbiting astronomical observatories (OAO's) and the small astronomical satellites (SAS's), which together opened up the fields of UV and X-ray astronomy. These were small, often single instrument, experiments, a far cry from the Great Observatories of today, but flown with reasonable frequency. Perhaps we can get back to a high level of flight opportunities in the future.

Lastly, the Decadal Survey, currently named "Astro2010," is really underway. The two parent committees in the National Research Council, the Board on Physics & Astronomy and the Space Studies Board have launched the survey. We have a chair, Roger Blandford, with extensive experience in the houses of NASA, NSF and DOE. Blandford is extremely well respected by theorists and observers alike. He has broad knowledge of the many fields of astronomy and astrophysics as well as the current state of the agencies' resources available to operate facilities and make new things happen. This survey will be centered more on science than on disciplines as it had been in the past. It will, perforce, have to explore contingencies, discuss operations costs and the balance between new and old. Groups planning to put forward proposals for new telescopes, instruments and facilities are already planning presentations.

I expect that the main decadal survey committee and panels will start accepting input next spring but with most major input coming over the summer. One of the hard jobs will be caring for those fields at the interfaces—physics, planetary science, solar physics—where traditionally the Astronomy & Astrophysics survey has not opined in detail. These fields have their own decadal surveys now, and it is important not to find ourselves in conflict with our scientific counterparts. The current timeline is to have a report ready for the start of the FY11 budget cycle in the spring of 2010, a good date to finish a decadal survey.

I hope to see you all in Long Beach. Given the vast array of astronomy in Southern California and the opening of the Decadal Survey it should be a fun and interesting meeting!



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

The \$133.00 annual membership dues for the American Astronomical Society include \$3.00 that is applied toward a subscription to the *AAS Newsletter*. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AAS, 2000 Florida Ave, 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@aas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcome. For information about deadlines and submitting articles, see www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.php. Items submitted to the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to crystal@aas.org.

Judith M. Johnson, Editor
Crystal M. Tinch, Associate Editor
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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: aastex.aas.org
User Support: aastex-help@aas.org
Journal Homepages/Manuscript Submission: journals.aas.org

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

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From the Executive Office

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer, marvel@aas.org

Organizing meetings are one of the major activities of the AAS and are central to our primary mission to further astronomy and closely related fields of science. Many years ago, our meetings were held on college campuses, using classrooms or auditoriums for our sessions. Volunteers took care of most labor-related tasks, while audiovisual requirements were minimal (not too long ago, talks were presented on chalk boards!).

Today's AAS meetings are entirely different affairs. The Society contracts several years in advance for meeting space at convention centers and major hotels in large cities. We provide modern audiovisual equipment to ensure our members can make their presentations to large audiences with clear visuals and audible oratory. To accommodate the many companies, groups, organizations and missions that want to communicate with our members, we arrange a large exhibit hall, including set-up and take down of miles of pipe and drape, while providing poster space for the nearly 2/3 of meeting attendees who present their work in this format. Feeding astronomers is a non-trivial matter as well. We provide a morning coffee and tea break for more than 2500 people at our largest winter meetings, including both baked goods and healthful snacks. We purchase insurance to protect the Society against financial loss for a number of meeting-related risks, ensure adequate security for the exhibit hall and our attendees and hold a Job Center at winter meetings. On-site registration is now easy and straightforward thanks to our IT manager, Scott Idem, developing an in-house solution at low cost. Finally, we provide Internet access for both exhibitors and meeting attendees, including ensuring adequate bandwidth for the now-common podcasters and journalists who attend our meetings and make use of our press-room and briefing facilities.

In short, the meetings are now a big undertaking and big undertakings cost money.

We are working actively in the Executive Office to minimize registration fees for members and exhibitors attending our meetings while maintaining the high-quality meeting experience they have come to expect. It is a delicate dance to do both.

My goal as Executive Officer is to reduce the financial risk our meetings pose to our society by careful and detailed budgeting, hard-nosed negotiation with vendors, hotels and convention centers and refining the registration rate structure and attendee distribution model (much harder than modeling initial mass functions, I assure you). I am in the midst of developing a meeting management plan, which will first be presented to the Executive Committee for review and input prior to presentation to the full Council in January 2009. I view this as one of the most important tasks I have on my plate right now. In the long term, I expect meeting registration rates will continue to go up to accommodate our rising expenses or, the level of service we provide will have to be decreased. I would be interested in comments from you, my fellow members, on what you value at our meetings and what you do not. I know our final rates won't meet everyone's comfort zone, but looking at comparable professional meetings, registration rates are often significantly higher than our own, even for larger meetings, where economies of scale come to bear.

Nobody likes to see increasing rates for anything. However, for the Society to continue to organize the valuable and important meetings that it does now—with the same level of service—will require increases above inflation in the coming years. I will, as always, continue to find savings where possible, without damaging the effectiveness of our meetings. Do send me your thoughts on this topic if you have a chance, I value all input and consider all opinions as I develop budgets and proposals for Council review, modification and approval.

Publications News

Changes to author fees for 2009

Two important changes to author charges will be introduced for papers published in 2009 in *The Astronomical Journal* and *The Astrophysical Journal*. The surcharge for printed color pages will be increased, and author charges for the *ApJ Letters* will be assessed as a single article charge, rather than as page charges.

Starting in 2009, the surcharge for color pages that are printed in the bound edition of the Society's journals (except for *ApJL*) will increase to \$300. Since 2006, the charge has been \$100; unfortunately, this amount is insufficient to recover the costs of printing these color pages. An analysis of costs from the past several years revealed that these costs were close to \$300, and the Publications Board decided that these extra printing costs should no longer be subsidized through other sources.

The increased color fee should not present a hardship for most authors. In 2009, all color figures submitted will be included in the online PDF as well as being in the HTML version of the article. We are also in the process of revising our procedures for reprints so that all color figures will appear in reprints as well. In other words, for nearly all uses of the article, and in all the digital delivery channels, all color figures will be available for the nominal author fees. We think it will rarely be necessary for authors to require that color appear in the bound journal, so these fees should rarely be levied.

The other change to our journals' publication fees is that author charges for the *ApJ Letters* will be uniform – \$600 – for all papers published. The article charge covers all of the editorially accepted content that authors submit, including color figures. For additional background, please refer to the article by Letters Editor Chris Sneden on page 5 of the September 2008 issue of the *AAS Newsletter*.

Astronomy Education Review joins AAS journals

Starting in January 2009, *Astronomy Education Review* (*AER*) – a lively electronic compendium of research, news, resources, and opinion – takes its place as the newest member of the AAS journal family. Since 2002, *AER* editors Sidney Wolff and Andy Fraknoi have scrutinized hundreds of articles for the publication, which was launched with the support of NOAO and NASA.

The journal currently appears online at <http://aer.noao.edu/>, and later this year it will start to reside at its new AAS home at <http://aer.aas.org/>. At about that same time, new submissions for *AER* should be sent to the new managing editor, Judy Johnson, at the Executive Office. The Society will be assisted in the production of *AER* by the American Institute of Physics (AIP), who also produces the *BAAS* for the Society.

New AAS Membership Class—Education Affiliate

Goal: To ease and increase interaction between professional astronomers and individuals engaged in teaching astronomy-related public outreach. The price is \$69 USD.

Benefits to AAS

- Improve communication between AAS members and astronomy educators
- Support AAS/AEB goals of improving science literacy and increasing understanding and awareness of science by K-12 students and the general public
- Increase the profile of science education issues among AAS members
- Support *Astronomy Education Review*

Benefits to Education Affiliate Member

- Reduced membership dues
- Ease of attendance at AAS meetings via reduced meeting registration costs
- Access to professional astronomers
- Opportunity to present papers at AAS meetings on their work on education issues—both science in general and astronomy in particular

- Access to results of current scientific research
- Receive *AAS Newsletter* and *Spark: The Education Newsletter*

Membership open to:

- Persons professionally engaged in astronomy-related education and public outreach and whose principal employment is at community colleges, elementary and secondary schools, science centers, museums, planetariums, or agencies (e.g. National Park Service, Girl Scouts of America).

Education Affiliate Members may not

- Vote for officers or council members
- Hold elected office
- Serve on standing committees of the Council
- Subscribe to *AJ*, *ApJ*, *ApJ Letters*, *ApJ Supplement* at the member rates
- Endorse member applications
- Join AAS Divisions

Candidate Statements

President (vote for one)

Michael A'Hearn

Nominated Office: President

Affiliation: University of Maryland

Position: Distinguished University Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): University of Wisconsin 1966

Areas of Scientific Interest: comets, asteroids, origin of planetary systems

AAS Positions and Dates: Pub. Board – member 2001-2004, chairman 2005-2008; DPS – vice-chair/chair 1992-1994; council rep to USNC-IAU 1993-1996

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: IAU member/chair of numerous working groups; President Commission 15 1994-1997; President Division III 1997-2000; AURA: Observatories Council – member/chair 1994-2002; Board of Directors 2000-2002 NRC: 1990 A&A decadal survey – member of two panels; 2003 planetary decadal survey – panel vice-chair & steering group member; member/chair other task groups

Statement: As the society is now on track to financial stability in the near future, there is a philosophical question for the membership. What activities should be self-supporting and what paid from membership dues? Nominally self-supporting activities (the journals, the meetings, the job register) affect the most members most visibly. Dues support society management, political activity (particularly the several decadal surveys – astronomy, planetary, and space physics – that will be taking place over the next several years, but also activities like congressional visits), most of our outreach and education efforts (including workshops for department chairs and new faculty), newsletter, etc. Should we continue in this mode? I would expect to discuss this issue at some length among the council and officers, but we need membership input to understand what members most want.

The society also must address the relationship with its special interest divisions. These range from HAD, which integrates its meetings into January AAS meetings, to DPS, which runs its own meetings, often bigger than summer AAS meetings. What relationship do divisions want and how can we optimize our synergies? I would plan to have meetings with the various divisional officers and supervisory committees to explore this issue in some depth.

Debra Elmegreen

Nominated Office: President

Affiliation: Vassar College

Position: Maria Mitchell Professor of Astronomy and Department Chair

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Harvard University, 1979

Areas of Scientific Interest: structure and star formation in local and high redshift galaxies

AAS Positions and Dates:

- Councilor, 1999-2002
- Astronomy Education Board, 1999-2002 as Council Liaison
- AAS representative to USNC-IAU, 1999-2002
- Warner and Pierce Prize Committee, 2005-07, chair 2006-07
- Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, chair 1991-97 – started electronic newsletter
- Membership Committee, 2000-01
- Nominating Committee, 1994-97; chair 1996-97

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

- Hubble Space Telescope Users Committee, 1998-2005 (Chair 2002-05)
- NRAO Users Committee, 1993-97
- NSF committees:
 - NSF Committee of Visitors for Division of Astronomical Sciences, 2002 (co-chair)
 - NSF Program Review Panel for NOAO, 2002-04
 - NSF Panel reviews: POWRE, 1997, 1999; postdoctoral fellows, 2001 (chair); Faculty Awards for Women, 1990; Presidential Young Investigators, 1989
 - NSF Waterman Prize Committee, 2006-present
 - NSF Site Visiting Team for proposed Optics center, 1990 (chair)
- Spitzer postdoctoral fellowship committee, 2007, 2008 (chair)
- NRC panel for postdoctoral fellowships, 1996-98
- NOAO Systems Committee on Optical/Infrared Astronomy, 2003-2004
- External Review Committee for the CTIO Small and Moderate Aperture Research Telescope System, 2003-04
- Telescope Allocation Committee panels for Spitzer, 2004; NRAO, 2003-04, HST 1992, 1998, 2002; IPAC ADP, 1993
- Director of New York Intel Science Talent Search for high school students, 1991-2003
- Science Committees:
 - SOC, IAU Colloquium 157: “Barred Galaxies,” Alabama 1995
 - Working group, IAU XXV, “Women in Astronomy,” Sydney, 2003
 - Program Committee, “Conference on Women in Astronomy,” Caltech 2003
 - SOC, “Penetrating Bars through Masks of Cosmic Dust: The Hubble Tuning Fork strikes a New Note, South Africa, June 2004
 - SOC, Spitzer Conference: “The Evolving Interstellar Medium in the Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies,” Pasadena, 2007

- SOC, Galaxy Wars: Stellar Populations and Star Formation in Interacting Galaxies Conference,” Tennessee, 2009

Statement: I have been active in the AAS for the past 30 years, becoming familiar with its operation by serving on a variety of committees. I am proud of its impressive century-long history as an association dedicated to the interests of professional astronomers in North America. I am committed to its goals of fostering scientific exchange, and to the promotion of astronomy to the public. I will work to ensure fairness so that opportunities for discoveries and collaborations embrace astronomers from diverse backgrounds and institutions.

As a college professor, I have supervised undergraduate researchers for the past 23 years. At the same time, I have participated in international research collaborations. I believe that my experience using ground-based and space-based ultraviolet, optical, infrared, radio, and x-ray observatories, and my service on national committees, have provided me with a well-rounded perspective on the state of astronomical research and initiatives. With a new administration about to enter Washington, it will be vital to make our collective voice heard as new decisions are made about funding astronomy via NSF, NASA, and other agencies. I will support and promote the goals of our wide-ranging astronomical endeavors as outlined by the decadal reports.

Vice-President (vote for one)

Robert Rosner

Nominated Office: Vice-President

Affiliation: The University of Chicago

Position: Professor (Depts. of Astronomy & Astrophysics and Physics); Director, Argonne National Laboratory

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Physics (Harvard University, 1976)

Areas of scientific interest: Astrophysical fluid dynamics and plasma astrophysics; solar & stellar physics; galactic x-ray astronomy

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS Office: Member, Associated Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) Visiting Committee (1986-8); member, Space Science Board/CSSP (1986-90); chair, NAS/NRC Committee on Solar Physics (1987-89); member, NAS Committee on Plasma Science (1989-1991); chair, NAS/Astronomy Survey Committee Solar Physics Panel (1989-1991); member, APS/Astrophysics Division Executive Committee (1990-1992); member-at-large, AURA Board (1994-97); member, NAS Committee on Solar and Space Physics (2000-2).

Statement: The AAS plays critical roles both within our discipline (as a forum for research and education communication) and outside our discipline (as a principal means for communicating to and negotiating with the public, including the political realm). Recently, I've gotten heavily involved in national science policy, primarily as chief scientist and director of Argonne National Laboratory, and most recently as chair of the 17-lab DOE National Laboratory Directors' Council. I've seen the political processes up close, dealing with the media, various federal agencies, the Hill, and the Executive; and it's most certainly been quite an education. The microcosm that most of us see in the parts of the federal bureaucracy that touch our research and teaching activities directly are hugely affected by the much larger goings-on that actually determine national science funding; and it is therefore crucial for us to participate effectively on that larger 'playing field' – and the AAS is our principal vehicle for these interactions. As I step down from my current administrative responsibilities (as of 30 June 2009, returning to full-time research and teaching at Chicago), I am enthusiastic about applying my 'lessons learned' to help our discipline continue to thrive in these challenging economic times.

Member Deaths

The Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members, former members and affiliate members:

Elihu Boldt

Beth Brown

Letters to the Editor

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.

Opting In and Out of AAS Publications

If you would no longer like to receive paper copies of the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Membership Directory*, or the *AAS Calendar*, please send an email to address@as.org or log into your member record at as.org.

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

Lee Anne Willson

Nominated Office: Vice-President

Affiliation: Iowa State University

Position: University Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): University of Michigan, 1973

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar Atmospheres, Mass loss, Stellar evolution, variable stars

AAS Positions and Dates:

1972-73 Working Group on the Status of Women in Astronomy

1984-86 Education Advisory Board, American Astronomical Society

1986-89 Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (Chairperson 1987 – 89)

1989-92 Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy

1993-96 Councilor

2001-03 Russell Lecture Committee

2007-10 Publications Board

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office:

NASA IUE Users' Committee and 3-Agency Long Range planning for IUE: 1983-1990. AURA (www.aura-astronomy.org): Board of Directors and committee service 1989-2003 including Observatories Advisory Committee 1992-1998. AAVSO (www.aavso.org): Council 1981-1984 and 1994-2004 including a term as VP and as President (2000-2002). AAAS (www.aaas.org): Member of the Section D (Astronomy) Steering committee 1987-1990 and Chair, Section D, 1999-2000. IAU: Member of the steering committee for Commission 36, 1990-93. Founding President, Creative Artists' Studios of Ames (www.creativeartists.org), 2000-2003; named Outstanding Board Member, Ames Community Arts Council, 2006. Also SOC member for 7 international (IAU, NATO) meetings and editor for 2 volumes of proceedings.

Statement: The AAS Vice Presidents have responsibility for the programs of the meetings. I've enjoyed organizing astronomy symposia at the AAAS, continuing to do so well after my official positions expired. I have also co-organized two international scientific meetings. Astronomy is a great field to be in, with tremendous advances in recent decades, and I would enjoy helping to bring the most fundamental, exciting, useful and/or interesting science to the meetings of the AAS. On another level, I have experience with organizational structure and function in a range of astronomical and non-astronomical non-profit organizations and would be glad to have another chance to put some of that experience to use on behalf of the American Astronomical Society.

Education Officer (vote for one)

Timothy Slater

Nominated Office: AAS Education Officer

Affiliation: University of Wyoming, Science and Mathematics Teaching Center

Position: Excellence in Higher Education Endowed Professor of Science Education

Ph.D.: University of South Carolina, 1993

Areas of scientific interest: research on teaching and learning of astronomy at K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and general public levels

AAS Positions and Dates: AAS Education Officer 2006-2009.

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: Astronomy Education Committee Chair (served two 2-year terms) for American Association of Physics Teachers, 1997-2001; elected board member of Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 2004-2009, Vice-President 2007; elected President of the NSTA-affiliated Association of Astronomy Educators, 2001-2006; provided college-level teaching excellence workshops at AAS meetings, 2001-2008; provided K-12 teacher workshops at AAS meetings, 1998-2001; Program Chair for ASP 2005 meeting on Astronomy Education and Public Outreach, 2005; 2006 Chairman of the International Year of Astronomy Program Committee.

Statement: The AAS plays a vital role in supporting and extending the education efforts of its members. As AAS Education Officer, I am privileged to support these important efforts through a variety of avenues and policy work. Our society is deeply committed to teaching and mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and early career scientists pursuing professional careers in astronomy and I will work with the AEB to develop workshops at AAS meetings that support a comprehensive mentoring program. Our members are uniquely qualified to provide support to K-12 teachers, introductory astronomy college and university faculty, museum and planetarium educators, and industry partners involved in education. As education officer, I can multiply these efforts by strengthening education sessions at AAS meetings that provide opportunities for our members to share successful approaches and lessons learned. Similarly, we can develop grant-writing seminars to assist members secure grant funding for the education projects. Effective education projects help fill the needed pipeline of future scientists and improve the public's understanding and perception of science. I will help foster partnerships with other professional societies to leverage their infrastructures to increase the quality and quantity of astronomy teaching and learning nationally.

Councilor (vote for three)

Jonathan Elias

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: National Optical Astronomy Observatory

Position: Astronomer

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): California Institute of Technology - 1978

Areas of Scientific Interest: infrared astronomy, instrumentation

AAS Positions and Dates: None, member since 1973

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: SOAR Telescope Board – 2005–present (vice-president 2007–present); Head, Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope Program Office (2007–present)

Statement: The AAS Council manages the affairs of the Society in these “interesting times.” The last decade in particular has seen radical change, as we move into an era where electronic communication is increasingly dominant. During the same period, the walls between “public” and “private” astronomical facilities have begun to fall, and international collaborations have become far more common. These cooperative efforts have been driven in large part by the opportunities they open up – the ability to do more ambitious science programs. The AAS remains as essential a representative of our community in the twenty-first century as it was in the twentieth. As an AAS councilor, I would help to continue the Society’s successful record of adapting to change. I would bring in particular my experience at NOAO, which includes direct dealings with partnerships like SOAR and Gemini, as well as potential partnerships that may arise out of the Decadal Survey recommendations. I would also work to ensure that the Society continues to communicate future plans to the membership and solicits input, especially from younger members, who may have a perspective that is less-well-represented on typical AAS boards and committees.

Richard French

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: Wellesley College Astronomy Department

Position: Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Cornell University, 1977

Areas of scientific interest: Planetary Science, Dynamical Astronomy, History of Astronomy

AAS positions and dates: DPS Chair 2005-2006, DSS Executive Comm. 1987-1989, 2004-2007, DPS Vice-Chair 2004-2005, DDA Executive Comm. 2003-2005, Cassini Science Team member 1991-present, Chair, Wellesley College Astronomy Dept.

Statement: As a past chair of the DPS, and a former member of the executive committees of both the DPS and the DDA, I think that there is room for improved communications between the AAS as a parent organization and its Divisions, both large and small. If elected to the AAS Council, I would help to ensure that actions taken on such important issues as public policy, research funding, decadal surveys, professional development, and educational outreach were as broadly inclusive as possible of the full membership of the AAS. As the Chair of the Wellesley College Astronomy Department, I am especially interested in representing the many AAS members from liberal arts colleges, as well as the legion of astronomers who require continued access to modest-size telescopes for their research. I am also concerned about retention of astronomers in their chosen fields, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, in the face of professional,

personal, and societal pressures, and I’d work hard to include their voices and experiences in the deliberations and actions of the AAS Council. Finally, I would strive to find improved mechanisms for exciting results from meetings of individual Divisions to be presented at the AAS meeting itself, as another part of enhancing the connections between our sometimes disparate disciplines.

James Lowenthal

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: Smith College

Position: Associate Professor & Chair, Astronomy Dept.

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): University of Arizona 1991

Areas of Scientific Interest: Areas of Scientific Interest: High-redshift galaxies, starburst galaxies, mm and submm galaxies, galaxy formation and evolution, QSO absorption line systems

AAS Positions and Dates: N/A

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: National Optical Astronomy Observatory Users Committee 2003–present, Chair 2006–present; Spitzer Space Telescope Review Panel 2004, 2006; NSF Review Panel 2004; SIRTIF Fellow Review Panel 2002; National Optical Astronomy Observatory Time Allocation Committee 1999 - 2001; Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee for UMass/INAOE conference on Deep Millimeter Surveys, 2000; Hubble Fellowship Review Panel 1998; HST Cycle 7 Review Panel, 1996; assisted organization of STScI workshop, “Women in Astronomy,” and drafting of “The Baltimore Charter,” 1992.

Statement: As a councilor in 2009, the Year of Astronomy, I would be honored to serve the AAS’s 6500 members in pursuit of the Society’s major efforts: advocacy for federal support of our expensive but crucial ground- and space-based missions; coordination and oversight of our high-caliber peer-review journals; organization of two major and several minor conferences every year; and communication with the public and with sister organizations. My experience at a liberal arts women’s college (Smith) associated through the Five College Astronomy Department with a large research university (UMass) gives me valuable perspective on the needs of astronomers in a diverse range of educational and professional situations, and my involvement in political issues will be useful in addressing AAS needs in Washington. On AAS Council, I would pay special attention to the following issues: working to ensure the vitality of the Society’s research enterprise; communicating to the public and the government astronomy’s importance and excitement; improving the status and representation at all levels of currently under-represented groups, including women; coordinating the AAS’s participation in the decadal review now underway; and enhancing long-term sustainability (i.e., reduction of environmental and fiscal impact) of AAS operations, including the semi-annual meetings. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on Council.

Thomas Statler

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: Ohio University

Position: Professor and Director, Astrophysical Institute

Ph.D.: Princeton University 1986

Areas of scientific interest: Galaxy evolution, stellar and gas dynamics; solar system small body dynamics

AAS Positions and Dates: Division on Dynamical Astronomy: Committee (2001-03), Vice Chair (2004-05), Chair (2005-06), Brower Award Selection Comm. (2005-06), Nominating Comm. (2006-07).

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: NOAO Extragalactic TAC (2007-09); Chandra Cycle 8 TAC (2006), HST Cycle 10 TAC (2000); NSF Proposal Review Panels: 4 times (1998-07) including Chair for CAREER program; NASA ATP Proposal Review Panels: 4 times (1994-2008) including once as Chair, Director of Studies for Physics and Astrophysics Honors programs at Ohio University (1998—present)

Statement: The AAS has been, and should continue to be, the world's most vigorous advocate for astronomy in the realms of research, policy, and education. To maintain this role in unstable economic times means that the Society and individual researchers should vocally support strong science policy and encourage government to set science priorities with input—such as the Decadal Surveys—from the research communities. In one respect, timing is on our side: the AAS is likely to have its most visible role in decades during the 2009 International Year of Astronomy. By facilitating educational programs and events that reach large parts of the general public, the Society can strive to increase taxpayer support and attract young people to the field.

If I serve as Councilor, I will suggest to the Council the possibility of drafting a statement on ethics for the Society. Unlike many other professional scientific societies, the AAS does not have such a statement. There is a separate statement on ethical standards for the journals, and the Society has adopted the Baltimore Charter on gender issues. I believe the Council should consider whether a wider, single statement on professional conduct may benefit the Society and its members.

Michele Thornley

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: Bucknell University, Department of Physics & Astronomy

Position: Associate Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): University of Maryland, 1997

Areas of Scientific Interest: extragalactic star formation and interactions with the interstellar medium, structure and evolution in nearby galaxies

AAS Positions and Dates: no elected positions yet, member since 1990

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: NRAO Users Committee 2003-2006 (Chair: 2006), ReSTAR Committee 2007-2008

Statement: As we look into the next decade in astronomy, we see a diversity of driving science questions, and the means by which we will address them span a wide range of wavelengths, apertures, instruments and cadences. As a small-college researcher who has been active in the radio, optical, and infrared communities, I have focused my policy work thus far on promoting paths that enhance the health of the broader research community while preserving support for specialized expertise and innovation that will carry astronomy into the future. I feel I have made my most significant committee contributions where I have been able to encourage projects and institutions to promote their best efforts, and to share resources and ideas with other groups to enhance additional projects. In the same spirit, it is important for us as a research community to maintain connections to educators and the public as we pursue challenging projects. As an AAS Councilor, I would support the active, healthy discussions for which our research field is known, and promote policies that enhance the vitality of the field as well as maintain connections to, and support for, the broader community.

Jennifer Wiseman

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Position: Chief, Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Harvard University 1995

Areas of Scientific Interest: Star and Planet Formation, Exoplanets, Planetary Science, Dark Energy, Science Policy

AAS Positions and Dates: Member since ~ 1990

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: Office of Science and Technology Policy “Science of Science Policy” Interagency Task Group delegate, 2006 - present.

Program Scientist (Hubble Space Telescope, SIM, and Herschel missions) and Astrophysics Discipline Scientist, NASA Headquarters, 2003-2006. Panel on Public Affairs Member, American Physical Society, 2004. Congressional Science Fellow of the American Physical Society, 2001-2002: Staff, U.S. House Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Aeronautics and Astronautics (NASA Space and Earth Science Oversight) and Subcommittee on Research (NSF Astronomy and Physics Oversight). Jansky Fellow, 1995-1998; Hubble Fellow, 1998-2001.

Statement: My desire is for the American Astronomical Society to be a thriving focal point for visionary community dialogue. We are entering an important and exciting period for community-led direction of national astronomy, including, for example, the Decadal Survey. I will encourage our Society to promote new exchange between subfields that have traditionally operated separately but now are poised to greatly benefit one another. Exoplanetary research, for

example, now needs vigorous dialogue between planetary scientists, astrobiologists, and experts on star formation and protoplanetary disks, as future strategies are planned for discovering new worlds.

I also believe the AAS should equip more interested members to grow in awareness of the larger policy environment in which we operate, including understanding the changing constraints, priorities, and interests of the federal government, the academic community, and the public.

Finally, our astronomy community does not yet reflect the growing cultural and racial diversity of the American population. I will encourage AAS initiatives to communicate the excitement of our astronomical discoveries in fresh ways that will “connect” with this diverse population. Such successful outreach will fuel a growing national interest in astronomy and will also draw new talented people to join us in the astronomical quest.

USNC/IAU (vote for one)

William Blair

Nominated Office: USNC-IAU Committee member – Category I

Affiliation: John Hopkins University

Position: Research Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): 1981, University of Michigan

Areas of scientific interest: supernova remnants, shockwaves, ISM

AAS positions and dates: AAS Astronomy News Committee, 1992-1996

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS Office: Member of IAU since 1987

Statement: If elected, I will do my best to represent the broad AAS membership in items of mutual interest between the AAS and IAU.

Brian Chaboyer

Nominated Office: USNC-IAU

Affiliation: Dartmouth College

Position: Professor

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Yale University, 1993

Areas of Scientific Interest: Stellar Populations & Stellar Evolution

AAS Positions and Dates: Scientific Editor, ApJ 2004 - present

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: Board of Directors, Dartmouth – Montshire Institute for Science Education 2003 - present

Statement: The USNC/IAU acts as a liaison to, and represents US astronomers to the IAU. Astronomy is an increasingly international endeavour and the IAU plays an important role in fostering worldwide cooperation in astronomy. This is

primarily done through the organization of scientific meetings. As a member of and on the USNC/IAU, I would work to ensure that US astronomers are represented in leadership positions within the IAU and would support the USNC/IAU efforts to promote young astronomers and women in astronomy.

Nominating Committee (vote for two)

Thomas Bania

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: Institution for Astrophysical Research, Boston University

Position: Professor of Astronomy, Dept. of Astronomy, BU

Ph.D. (Institution and Year): University of Virginia 1977

Areas of Scientific Interest: Spectroscopy of the ISM; Galactic Structure; ISM

AAS Positions and Dates: None

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in AAS Office: AAS Harlow Shapley Lecturer, 1988, Trustee, Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation (NEROL) 1989, Member of AUI Visiting Committee for NRAO, 1997-2000 (chair 2000)

Statement: American Astronomy is facing a myriad of novel challenges; the AAS needs Society Officers with vision, imagination, and the wisdom to do what is best for our field as a whole. Astronomers today must grapple with the often conflicting demands of research, education, and public outreach. So too must the AAS but on a grander scale. How should we balance the new ALMA-scale research endeavors with single investigator research? How can we best train the next generation of scientists who will build and then use the observatories of the future? Certainly the AAS must work to enhance the scientific and technical literacy of society at large. Astronomy enjoys a natural interest from the public that is unique among the physical sciences, and it is our responsibility as professionals to fuel this interest with meaningful outreach. Societal challenges of the coming decades will require application of innovative science. It is critical that the public not view science as necromancy but rather a process of rational inquiry.

Gina Brissenden

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: Center for Astronomy Education, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona

Position: Program Director (Center for Astronomy Education), Science Education Research Specialist (UofA)

Areas of scientific interest: Astronomy Education Research and Faculty Professional Development

AAS positions and dates: AAS Education Specialist (1998-2001), Independent Education Consultant to the Society (2001-2002)

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: It's been ten years since I first started working for the AAS as our Education Specialist. Since that time, my pride in our Society has continued to grow. We have come so far in the past decade with respect to astronomy teaching and learning, as well as our national role in creating a scientifically literate citizenry and teachers knowledgeable about astronomy and excited to teach it. It is because of my pride in our Society that I believe it is important for each of us to give back to it by making a meaningful contribution based on our individual interests and expertise. My area of interest and expertise is astronomy education and faculty professional development—an area of expertise I believe should be represented on the Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for nominating members of Council, including the Education Officer, as well as the Astronomy Education Board (AEB). Together, the Education Officer and the AEB are responsible for creating our Society's education mission statement and goals, as well as helping to decide what education projects and publications our Society will sponsor. It is through these efforts that we help shape our future teachers and our next generation of astronomers.

James Klimchuk

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee
Affiliation: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Position: Research Astrophysicist
PhD: University of Colorado, 1985
Areas of scientific interest: Solar physics (theory and observation)
AAS positions and dates: Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy 2007-present; Solar Physics Division Chair and Vice-Chair 2004-2008; SPD Committee 1995-1997; SPD Nominating Committee 1992-1993, Chair 2000-2001
Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS Office: IAU Commission 10 President 2006-present, Vice President 2003-2006; NSF Astronomy Division Committee of Visitors 2007-2008; NOAO/NSO AURA Management Review Committee 2006; National Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee 2002-2003; NASA Sun-Earth Connections Advisory Subcommittee 2001-2004; NASA Solar and Heliospheric Physics MOWG 1992-1996, 2000-2001; NASA Sun-Earth Connections Roadmap Committee 1999-2000; Solar Physics Editorial Board 2000-present; various steering committees
Statement: I believe we all understand the vital role that the AAS plays in facilitating and promoting our science, including advocacy for healthy funding. I have served on many committees through the years, and I have come to know how effective and ineffective they can be. The makeup of the committee, especially its leadership, is critical. Not everyone is cut out for this kind of work. If elected, I will strive to find candidates who are knowledgeable and motivated, who have a good feel for the pulse of the community, and who

can represent the membership in a strong, yet sensible and effective manner. Thanks for your consideration.

Edward Schmidt

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee
Affiliation: University of Nebraska
Position: Professor of Astronomy
Ph.D. (Institution and Year): Australian National University, 1970
Areas of scientific interest: variable stars, stellar evolution, stellar pulsation
AAS positions and dates: None
Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS Office: Program Director for Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics at NSF, 1992-1994; Associate Dean, University of Nebraska, 1996-2008
Statement: As the professional organization of astronomers in the US, the AAS encompasses a wide variety of constituencies. These include astronomers at many different kinds of institutions, groups who still remain underrepresented in the field, women and ethnic minorities in particular, individuals at various stages in their careers, and researchers needing a wide variety of types of support. In representing astronomy to the public and advocating for astronomy with funding agencies, with donors and within academia it is important that the broad interest of all of these groups be fairly represented in a way that will promote the future health of the field.
The Nominating Committee plays a vital role in shaping the future leadership of the AAS and consequently plays a major role in the future of the Society and in the future of the field of astronomy. If elected, I will seek to identify individuals who first and foremost will bring a broad view of the state of the field and make decisions based on what is best for astronomy as a whole and for the membership of the society as a whole.

The AAS conducts its elections using an electronic ballot. When the balloting opens each AAS eligible member for whom we have an e-mail on file will receive an e-mail request to vote. Voting will be accomplished through the “members-only” area of the AAS website which requires your ID and password.

Members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses will receive a paper ballot by first class mail.

Any other member wishing to use a paper ballot may request one by fax to (202) 234-2560 or by e-mail to ballot@aaas.org. Please include your member number with your request.

Committee on Employment

Barb Whitney, bwhitney@spacescience.org

Working at a Soft-Money Institute

Soft-money scientists are people who support themselves through research grants. This career path scares a lot of people because it is not secure employment. However, the amount of funding that a soft-money scientist brings in for their salary is often not much more than what faculty at research universities bring in for students, postdocs, and/or summer salary support. And there are many benefits to the soft-money lifestyle, as described below.

You can be a soft-money scientist at a variety of places: research universities, small colleges, observatories, government laboratories, and soft-money institutes. Each of these places will have a different culture, so my experiences won't apply to all of them. I am an off-site researcher at a small non-profit research and education organization (a soft-money institute). I work from my home in Wisconsin and my institute is in Colorado. So my boss is a comfortable 2000 miles away. The institute was created, and still has as its mission, to administer grants for scientists and educators. As long as I bring in enough grant money to support myself, I am an employee with full benefits, which include health insurance, life insurance, and retirement—the same benefits I received when I was at a university. The administrators are friendly and easy to work with, and they do as much of the administrative work as possible—leaving me with more time to concentrate on research. The overhead rate is reasonable, and allows me to use more of my funding for salary than at most traditional institutions. My salary and pay raises are determined by my performance and “market” values. Like most astronomers, I work with collaborators at a local university, and with several other scientists from around the world.

I've already outlined some of the positive features of this career path. Here are a few more: 1) You can live where you want. One of my colleagues lives on an island; another has moved to follow his wife's jobs, since she has a more lucrative career. 2) Working from home can be convenient for various family situations, like caring for small children or the elderly. 3) Writing proposals helps you define and refine your research ideas and goals. 4) You can be flexible and creative about how you pursue your teaching/outreach goals, if you have any. For example, you can teach at a local community college or volunteer at museums. 5) Current computer and networking technologies make it easy to set up a fully functional office at your institute and/or home. 6) On a more personal note, the lack of job security gives me a different perspective than a lot of my colleagues on more traditional paths. It's good to have a Plan B for when the money runs out, and it's a worthwhile exercise thinking about it. I budget my future expenses assuming that I will only have half-time support, so I live a more modest lifestyle than I might otherwise. I have placed

myself in a financial position that would allow me to take a lower-paying but more rewarding job if the opportunity arises. All of this makes me appreciative and grateful on a regular basis that I still get to do astronomy. 7) Working at home has also motivated me to become more involved in my local community, and my social life is consequently more varied and interesting than it was when I worked at a university.

Some drawbacks of being a soft-money scientist are: 1) For most people, the biggest drawback is the lack of job security. A scientist at a university might be able to move to other projects or find other jobs within the university if they run out of their own funding. 2) Small soft-money institutes don't have the facilities that large universities do, such as shares in large telescopes. I rely on national facilities. 3) Some people really don't like writing proposals—in which case you probably don't want to be a professor at a research institution either. 4) Working off-site from a home office can be a difficult transition for some people. But only a minority of soft-money scientists work from home. 5) For me personally, I don't interact enough with the outstanding astronomy department in my hometown, and this is something I need to work on.

How do you become a soft money scientist? The same training as for a faculty job at a research institution works well for the soft-money scientist. The postdoctoral stage is a good training environment: you want to build your network of colleagues at one or two places besides your PhD institution, attend meetings, publish papers, and learn how to write proposals. You want to develop a research program that is considered useful by your peers (and future review panels). You may not want to do exactly what everyone else is doing (jumping on the bandwagons) if you want to stand out a bit. You can learn how to write good proposals by watching and doing. Collaborate with someone more senior and write proposals with them, both as PI and co-I. Volunteer to sit on review panels. Take advice to heart—when someone tells you they don't get the point or your proposal, either you need to improve your message delivery or maybe your idea isn't so great after all. It really is a useful way to think through your ideas.

Once you've become a soft-money scientist, how do you thrive at it? Again this is similar to how faculty and other researchers thrive. I find that going to meetings or traveling to work with my collaborators usually provides a huge boost in enthusiasm for my projects and ideas. You need to publish a few papers a year, not necessarily as first author. Here it is difficult for me to offer too much advice since I make so many mistakes myself. For example, one thing to watch out for, which I do all the time, is taking on too many collaborations

and not finding time to do your own research. Another thing that would be great to have, which I don't, is good time-management skills. However, I do follow my final piece of advice well, and I recommend it highly: Have fun with your research, and never stop learning!

The AAS Committee on Employment is pleased to highlight useful resources for astronomers, and welcomes your comments and responses to this and previous columns. Please join us at the

winter meeting in Long Beach on Wednesday, January 7 for our special session "Portable Jobs: Soft Money and Research Institutes". Check out our website (www.aas.org/career/) for additional resources and contact information for the committee members.

News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences

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

New Proposal requirements for Postdoctoral Mentoring

Beginning 5 January 2009, NSF will require that all proposals that request funding to support postdoctoral researchers include a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided. This new requirement is a result of the America COMPETES ACT, signed into law in August 2007. The Grant Proposal Guide has been revised to reflect this requirement with new language:

"Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page project description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Examples of mentoring activities include, but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of grant proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices. The proposed mentoring activities will be evaluated as part of the merit review process under the Foundation's broader impacts merit review criterion. **Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review.**"

Submissions to the November 2008 ATI and AAG deadlines will not be affected, but all following programs will be subject to the new requirements. We emphasize that proposals to any programs that do not meet the new requirement will be returned without review.

The new Grant Proposal Guide can be found as part of the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf091.

New funding mechanisms

NSF has announced two new funding mechanisms to replace the Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER) program. Beginning January 2009, SGERs will no longer be accepted, and one of the following mechanisms must be utilized.

- Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID)

RAPID is used for proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities, or specialized equipment, including quick response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. Requests under RAPID may be for up to \$200K and one year duration, and are generally subject to internal review only, to enable a quick response to proposals.

- EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)

EAGER may be used to support exploratory work in its early stages on untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas or approaches. This work may be considered especially "high risk-high payoff" in the sense that it, for example, involves radically different approaches, applies new expertise, or engages novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives. Requests under EAGER may be for up to \$300K and up to two years in duration and are generally subject to internal review only.

For more information about both of these new funding mechanisms, please see the new GPG at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf091.

If you are considering submitting a proposal for either RAPID or EAGER research, please contact a program officer in advance to discuss the suitability of your project.

Upcoming Deadlines for FY2009 funding:

15 November 2008: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG) (NSF 05-608) provides individual investigator and collaborative research grants for observational, theoretical,

laboratory and archival data studies in all areas of astronomy and astrophysics. See program announcement NSF 05-608 (http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf05608). The 15 November deadline also applies for proposals that qualify under the Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program. See program announcement NSF 00-144 at (www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf00144).

22 January 2009: Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) (NSF 08-503)

A new MRI program solicitation is under development at NSF and should be published by late October and posted at www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/. Please also see the Frequently Asked Questions about the MRI program at: www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08020/nsf08020.jsp. We urge all those considering applying to the MRI program to contact Jeff Pier (jpier@nsf.gov; 703-292-2977) for more information.

Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI)

Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI) is a five-year initiative designed to yield revolutionary science and engineering research outcomes made possible by innovations and advances in computational thinking. Computational thinking is defined comprehensively to encompass computational concepts, methods, models, algorithms, and tools. Investigators are encouraged to come together in the

development of far-reaching, high-risk research and education agendas that capitalize on innovations in, and/or innovative use of, computational thinking to create new knowledge and societal impact far beyond today's capabilities.

CDI seeks ambitious, transformative, multidisciplinary research proposals within or across the following three thematic areas:

- **From Data to Knowledge:** enhancing human cognition and generating new knowledge from a wealth of digital data;
- **Understanding Complexity in Natural, Built, and Social Systems:** deriving fundamental insights on systems comprising multiple interacting elements; and
- **Building Virtual Organizations:** enhancing discovery and innovation by bringing people and resources together across institutional, geographical and cultural boundaries.

For additional information about CDI, see the program solicitation (NSF 08-604) at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08604/nsf08604.htm>. Two types of CDI awards will be supported in the FY2009 competition. Preliminary proposals are required; full proposals will be accepted by invitation only based on review of preliminary proposals. Deadlines for preliminary proposals are 8 December 2008 for Type I and 9 December 2008 for Type II proposals. For more information, please contact Nigel Sharp (nsharp@nsf.gov or 703-292-4905).

News from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP)

James Manning, Executive Director

Save the Date for ASP's 120th Birthday Party

What do you do when you're 120 years old? You throw a party! That's what the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) is planning next year in the San Francisco Bay Area for its annual meeting, to be held in the area that gave it birth.

The ASP's 2009 annual conference—it's 121st from its founding meeting that brisk February day in 1889—will take place at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Highway in Millbrae, California. The meeting will begin with hands-on workshops for formal and informal astronomy and science educators on Saturday, 12 September and Sunday, 13 September, with the annual members' meeting held on the Sunday evening prior to the opening reception. The meeting proper will begin Monday, 14 September, with the annual awards banquet held on Tuesday evening, 15 September. The conference will conclude the early evening of Wednesday, 16 September.

The theme of the 2009 gathering will be "Science Education and Outreach: Forging a Path to the Future." Information

and details can be found on the ASP's conference web page: www.astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html, including hotel information, registration information, and guidelines for submitting poster and presentation abstracts as these and other details are finalized. Be sure to sign up to receive more information and conference alerts, and check back frequently as additional information is added.

Of course, the year 2009 is more than a milestone year for one of the world's oldest astronomical societies; it is also the International Year of Astronomy and the Year of Science. The ASP meeting will provide an opportunity to bring together science professionals and educators in astronomy and related science disciplines to learn and share and consider how, working together, we can advance a future of science literacy, enlightenment and achievement. We look forward to partnering with many science institutions in the Bay Area for this meeting, and to offer some special highlights.

We hope you'll save the date and join us next September on the shores of San Francisco Bay!

advocacy groups to stay engaged and make sure that science funding is a priority in the next Congress and administration.

Also included in the continuing resolution was an extension of NASA's exemption from the Iran-North Korea-Syria Nonproliferation Act (INKSNA), which allows NASA to continue to purchase Russian Soyuz capsules to deliver personnel and supplies to the International Space Station. This extension was considered critical given the gap between the retirement of the space shuttle and the availability of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I rocket, and the three years needed to construct the Soyuz capsules.

NASA Reauthorization

The Senate amended and passed HR 6063, the NASA Re-Authorization Act on 25 September by unanimous consent, and the amended version passed by voice vote in the House and was sent on to the president. The changes from the House version were not extensive, and the basic structure is the same with a few alterations or additions to some sections of the original House bill. The main changes the Senate made concern the operation of the space shuttle, specifically it says, "The Administrator shall terminate or suspend any activity of the Agency that, if continued between the date of enactment of this Act and 30 April 2009, would preclude the continued safe and effective flight of the Space Shuttle after fiscal year 2010 if the first President inaugurated on 20 January 2009, were to make a determination to delay the Space Shuttle's scheduled retirement."

The bill also contains language supporting an additional shuttle flight to deliver the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the space station. The White House has expressed concerns about language in the bill regarding additional shuttle flights and the "prescriptive" nature of the bill. As I wrote in July, the bill does authorize 12.8% more money than the President's FY 2009 budget - though such an increase holding in appropriations will depend greatly on the next congress and the new president. The bill includes sections on suborbital programs and technology development, requests for reform of ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations which inhibit international scientific collaboration), and the importance of Decadal surveys and community-based decisions regarding spending and mission priorities.

Local Visits

The new project to engage astronomers in Local Congressional Visits, which I wrote about in my last column, was a modest success. Those who participated and met with staff in local congressional offices thought it was a worthwhile experience, and were able to touch on both national (e.g. NASA's budget) and local (such as light pollution) issues. The hope is that by establishing rapport and connections with local staff, astronomers will be better positioned to contact these offices in the future on any number of policy issues. Some improvements will be made in future efforts—primarily working to schedule the appointments sooner.



New Deputy Press Officer

Richard T. Fienberg is a new Deputy Press Officer for the Society, replacing Lynn Cominsky, who stepped down in June (see July/August *Newsletter*, page 11). Fienberg, who received his Ph.D. in Astronomy at Harvard, recently retired as Editor-in-Chief of *Sky&Telescope*. He's currently Visiting Scientist in Astronomy and Astrophysics at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA.

Rick Fienberg with telescope at Phillips Academy.

Member Spotlight

In each issue, we will feature one member, their research or other work, a bit of their history and their picture. We will accept suggestions for this feature, but no self-nominations. If you know of a fellow member who does interesting research, came to our field through interesting circumstances or is just a fantastic person, consider submitting their story to us for possible publication (500 word limit). We will only publish stories approved by members willing to be featured. Email your suggestion to Crystal Tinch, crystal@aaas.org.

Honored Elsewhere



Schmidt and Lyndell-Bell receive first Kavli Prize in Astrophysics

The Kavli Prizes were awarded for the first time in Oslo in September 2008. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon Magnus led the presentation of the international research prizes to seven of the world's most prominent scientists in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. The prize award in each of the scientific areas carries a cash award of 1 million American dollars, donated by Fred Kavli. Each of laureates also received a gold medal and a scroll.

The Kavli Prize was established as a joint venture between the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, The Kavli Foundation and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

At left is Former AAS President Prof. Maarten Schmidt of Caltech. At right is AAS Honorary Member Prof. Donald Lynden-Bell of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University, UK. In the center is philanthropist Fred Kavli, who endowed the Kavli Prize.

Ghez and Riess named MacArthur Fellows

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. It is intended to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations. Each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$500,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.

Andrea Ghez (University of California, Los Angeles)
Astrophysicist using novel, ground-based telescopic techniques to identify thousands of new star systems and illuminate the role of super-massive black holes in the evolution of galaxies.

Adam Riess (Johns Hopkins University)
Astronomer designing experiments and devices to advance our understanding of the geometry of the universe and to trace the story of both its beginning and its end.

Terzian honored by Armenian Academy of Sciences

Yervant Terzian (Cornell University) received a Gold Medal from the Armenian government's Ministry of Science and Education in Yerevan, Armenia on 17 September 2008. The award is the Republic of Armenia's highest honor for scientific achievement.

Terzian, a radio astronomer whose research focuses on binary galaxies, stellar evolution and the physics of the interstellar medium, joined the Cornell faculty in 1967 and served as

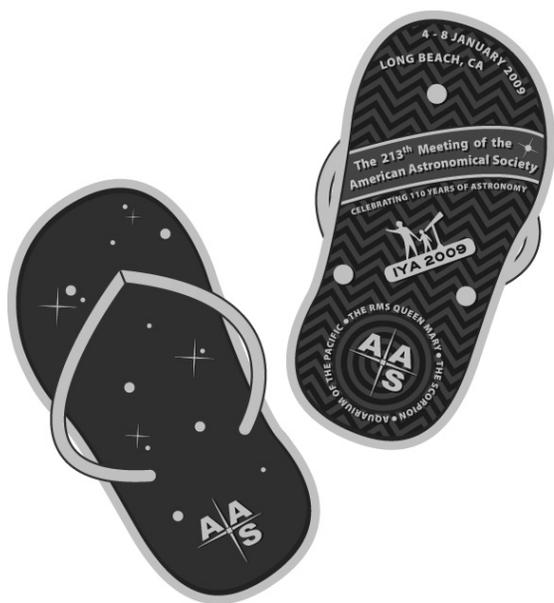
chair of the astronomy department from 1979 to 1999. He is known for his studies of exploding stars and the discovery of regions of hydrogen gas between distant galaxies, a finding that indicated the presence of unseen matter in intergalactic space.

Terzian is also actively involved in teaching and outreach. In 1986 he received Cornell's Clark Award for Distinguished Teaching; he also founded the New York State Pew Cluster of Colleges and Universities, which works to improve undergraduate science education; and he is director of NASA's New York Space Grant Consortium, which offers educational opportunities and research experience for undergraduate and graduate students.

Reminder: Pasadena Special Session Proposals

Special Session Proposals should be submitted by 15 December 2008. See aas.org/meetings/meeting_content.php#how for more information.

Long Beach Meeting



The 213th AAS Meeting in Long Beach this 4-8 January is setting up to be one of the most exciting, scientifically valuable and important meetings in recent years. The Vice Presidents have finalized the scientific sessions, both special and contributed, creating a dynamic and interesting panoply of new results and plans for the future. The range of invited speakers and prize winners is significant. Roger Blandford, chair of the upcoming Decadal Survey in Astronomy and Astrophysics will address the meeting, while a special town hall session will allow member input at the beginning of this important process (sessions at the Pasadena meeting this summer will help inform the committee's priority-setting task). Rashid Sunyaev will deliver the Russell lecture, while a wide range of prize winners and invited speakers fill out the plenary session lineup.

Long Beach also marks the beginning of the International Year of Astronomy. In addition to the world premier of the 400 Years of the Telescope documentary (note: free Galileo Ale is planned to be distributed at a reception just prior to the premier) a roving Galileo impersonator will add historical flavor to the proceedings. The banquet will feature scrumptious food for all attendees plus the entertaining

comedy troupe the Galileo Players. Their scientifically-based humor is second-to none. Think of them as the Capitol Steps for the scientific crowd. The weather promises to be excellent with Southern California being universally regarded as one of the best alternatives to the winter doldrums elsewhere in the nation.

Plan on attending the AAS meeting in Long Beach for the science, networking and insight to the public policy arena while enjoying the excitement and splendor of the kick-off events for IYA 2009. It will be valuable and fun for all. See you there!

CrossRef and the AAS

CrossRef is an independent organization, founded by a group of scholarly publishers, whose purpose is to connect readers with primary research content; these days, “primary research content” is typically a journal article. CrossRef works by registering a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for each primary scholarly work. The AAS has participated in CrossRef since its inception in 2000 through its publishing partners (AIP, IOP, and UCP). Earlier this year, the AAS joined CrossRef as a full partner on its own. We did so partly to take direct advantage of services, and to participate in governance and oversight, but also to make a commitment to the long-term viability of electronic scholarly communication.

One of the essential functions of the Society is to ensure the integrity of our journals indefinitely. As scholarly communication has migrated into the digital domain over the last couple decades, scholarly publishers and libraries and learned societies have recognized that digital content has different requirements for remaining viable than does content

fixed on paper (or clay tablets for that matter, although we're not using them so much anymore).

The scholarly record functions by building on itself through references to and reliance on the works of many scholars, distributed across geography and time. Because it is important to be able to refer to writings from different times, it is also necessary to know *how* to refer those works reliably – how to name them, how to identify them. In the physical world of paper journals, the traditional bibliographic citation serves both to name and to locate an article. In the online world, it is easy to move digital works from one “location” to another, so we separate the naming and locating functions: the solution is to create a reliable set of names that do not change, each of which is associated with a location that can change.

In Internet parlance, this kind of solution is called a “resource name” or “resource identifier” system. CrossRef is a specific

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instance of such a system. It depends on names that do not change—the things called “digital object identifiers” or “DOIs”—that are related to the locations of the digital articles in cyberspace—the things we call “URLs.” The CrossRef organization, and specifically the members themselves, have made a commitment to keep the locations up to date so that articles can always be located online. That is a crucial element of any identification scheme: the promise to care for

and maintain the object, the name of the object, and all the relationships between the name and the thing itself. The AAS is proud to express that promise to the scholarly community through our participation in CrossRef.

If you want to read more about the CrossRef system, go to <http://www.crossref.org/> and explore the items under the “About CrossRef” tab.

Announcements

Study Astronomy/Astrophysics in India - Summer 2009

The program is administered by the National Solar Observatory (NSO), sponsored by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE), and is open to US graduate students in any discipline of astronomy or astrophysics who are US citizens or permanent residents, age 21 years or older, and have a passport. Now in its second year, the main goal of the program is to expose potential researchers to an international setting at an early stage in their careers. The program will take place in Bangalore, India, under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), a premier national center devoted to research in astronomy, astrophysics and related physics.

The program will support four full-time summer research positions for eight weeks starting 10 June 2009. For each participant, the program will provide round-trip air-coach travel to and from Bangalore, India, a stipend of \$500 US per week, accommodation, miscellaneous travel (field) and incidental expenses, and medical expenses and insurance. Additional information and application materials are available on the web at <http://eo.nso.edu/ires/>. All application materials must be received by 16 January 2009.

Luyten Materials Available through AAS Donation Forum or Roberta Humphreys

The University of Minnesota is in the process of cleaning out the room used to store Professor Willem Luyten’s materials. This includes copies of many of his famous publications, catalogs, and books about stars and stellar motions. This material will be put in temporary storage for one year. After that, anything not claimed will be discarded.

Some of the publications available include:

The Bruce Proper Motion Survey (two volumes)

The NLTT (four volumes)

LHS (catalog and atlas)

The SGP

The NGP

The series “Proper Motions from the 48-inch Schmidt” plus other publications in his University of Minnesota series Books (The Stars of Low Luminosity, White Dwarfs, The Hyades, Mu -- IAU Colloquium #7)

If you are interested in obtaining copies of any of these plus other publications for your personal use, for your department or university libraries, please contact Roberta Humphreys (roberta@umn.edu).

The Luyten materials, along with other items such as telescopes, journals sets, books and so on are available through the AAS Materials Donation Forum. The Forum (aas.org/donation) is publicly available and allows individuals to post materials available for donation as well as find contact information for people interested in making materials for donation.

AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Program

The American Association of Variable Star Observers is currently ramping up their photoelectric photometry program. Several bright variable stars are no longer being monitored with the frequency and precision that is needed scientifically. The upcoming IYA2009 activities will follow several of these, including the 27-year eclipsing binary epsilon Aurigae. We are accepting the donation of commercial photoelectric photometers, to be given out on loan to amateur astronomers and small colleges worldwide that wish to take precision

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photometric data without the hassle and expense of CCD observing. If you have an SSP-3, SSP-5, etc. photometer gathering dust, consider donating it to the AAVSO. If you have a working CCD camera, we will also accept those donations!

Please inquire, or send the units, to Arne Henden, Director, AAVSO, 49 Bay State Road, Cambridge, MA 02138; email arne@aavso.org.

Call for NRAO Observing Proposals

Astronomers are invited to submit Regular and Large proposals for observing time on the NRAO Green Bank Telescope (GBT), Very Large Array (VLA), and Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA). A Large proposal is defined as requiring at least 200 hours of observing time on one or more of the NRAO instruments.

Instrument	Deadline	Observing Period	Note
GBT	2009 Feb 2	2009 Jun - 2009 Sep	
	2009 Jun 1	2009 Oct - 2010 Jan	
VLA	2009 Feb 2	2009 Jun - 2009 Sep	*
	2009 Jun 1	2009 Oct - 2010 Jan	+
VLBA	2009 Feb 2	2009 Jun - 2009 Sep	
	2009 Jun 1	2009 Oct - 2010 Jan	

Notes: (*) The C configuration with a maximum baseline of 3 km.

(+) The D configuration with a maximum baseline of 1 km.

The NRAO is currently considering a plan to reverse the order of the configuration cycles of the VLA/EVLA from the long-used D-> A-> B-> C-> D to D-> C-> B-> A-> D, beginning with the D configuration at the end of 2009, to facilitate correlator commissioning and early science with the EVLA. No decision has been taken. We will keep the community informed.

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 research by students at U.S. universities covers student stipends, computer hardware purchases, and student travel to meetings to present observing results. Applications to this program are tied to observing proposals. Awards of up to \$35,000 are possible. For details, see wiki.gb.nrao.edu/bin/view/Observing/NRAOStudentSupportProgram

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 1 February 2009

for the session in May/June 2009. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 1 February 2009 for the session in October 2009. The NRAO also handles proposals for the VLBI High Sensitivity Array 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.

A review has begun of how the NRAO carries out proposal submission, science review, and the time assignment process. This may result in some changes but the implementation of any recommendations is expected no earlier than the 1 June 2009 deadline. In the mean time, information on NRAO instruments, proposal submission routes, and user support is available via the NRAO website at www.nrao.edu

New Resource Guide on Women in Astronomy

An updated, expanded resource guide to the role women have played and are playing in the development of astronomy is now available on the website of the non-profit Astronomical Society of the Pacific:

www.astrosociety.org/education/resources/womenast_bib.html

The guide includes both printed and web-based materials, and has general references on the topic plus specific references to the work and lives of 32 women astronomers of the past and present. All the materials are at the non-technical level and thus appropriate for student papers, curriculum development, or personal enrichment.

The guide makes reference to 178 different web resources, as well as books and articles that are either in print or found in many larger libraries.

This resource guide is part of a series that can be found on the Society's web-site, on such topics as the astronomy of many cultures, debunking astronomical pseudo-science, and resources for astronomy education.

International Year of Astronomy 2009 US Node

The 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations has designated 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. Working with the IAU, ASP, AAVSO, Astronomical League, IDA and other astronomy partners, the AAS will help organize and carry out a dynamic program of activities for the International Year of Astronomy.

Show your support for IYA, and purchase one of the many items, from stamps to shirts to mugs, available at www.astronomy2009.us, click on the "Store" link.

Calendar

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

213th AAS Meeting

4-8 January 2009, Long Beach
aas.org/meetings/

HAD Meeting

6-7 January 2009, Long Beach, CA
aas.org/had/meetings/

DDA Meeting

2-5 May 2009, Virginia Beach, VA
<http://dda.harvard.edu/>

SPD Meeting

14-18 June 2009, Boulder, CO
spd.aas.org/navbar_meetings.html

DPS Meeting

4-9 October 2009, Fajardo, Puerto Rico
<http://dps.aas.org/meetings/>

HEAD Meeting

1-4 March 2010, Big Island, HI
Contact: John Vallerga
(info@eurekasci.com)
www.confcon.com
www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/

Other Events

2009 IAU Symposia, Special Sessions and Joint Discussions

<http://www.astronomy2009.com.br/>

Formation and Evolution of Globular Clusters

12-16 Jan 2009, UC Santa Barbara
Contact: Fred Rasio
(rasio@northwestern.edu)
kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=953

Essential Cosmology in the Next Generation

12-16 Jan 2009, Los Cabos, Mexico
Contact: Berkeley Center for Cosmological Physics
(bccpcabo@lbl.gov)
http://bccp.lbl.gov/beach_program

Aspen 2009 Winter Conference - Understanding the Dark Sector:

Dark Matter and Dark Energy
25-31 January 2009, Aspen, CO
Contact: Rachel Bean
(rbean@astro.cornell.edu)
www.astro.cornell.edu/~rbean/Aspen/AspenCosmo.html

Wild Stars in the Old West II: The 14th North American Workshop on Cataclysmic Variables and Related Objects

15-19 March 2009, Tucson, Arizona
Contact: Steve B. Howell
(howell@noao.edu)
www.noao.edu/meetings/wildstars2/

*Intermediate-Mass Black Holes: from First Light to Galactic Nuclei

1-3 April 2009, Irvine, CA
Contact: Aaron Barth
(imbh2009@gambler.ps.uci.edu)
<http://www.physics.uci.edu/IMBH>

*Missions for Exoplanets: 2010 - 2020

21-23 April 2009, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Michael Devirian
(devirian@jpl.nasa.gov)
exep.jpl.nasa.gov

The Search for Life in the Universe

4-7 May 2009, Baltimore, MD
Contact: Marc Postman
(postman@stsci.edu)
www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/spring2009

CASCA 2009: Annual Meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society

26-29 May 2009, Toronto, Canada
Contact: Ray Jayawardhana
(rayjay@astro.utoronto.ca)
astro.utoronto.ca/casca09

The Monster's Fiery Breath: Feedback in Galaxies, Groups, and Clusters

1-5 June 2009, Madison, WI
Contact: Sebastian Heinz
(feedback@astro.wisc.edu)
www.astro.wisc.edu/feedback

Unveiling the Mass: Extracting and Interpreting Galaxy Masses, and a Celebration of Vera Rubin's Career

15-19 June 2009, Kingston, Ontario
Contact: Stephane Courteau
(courteau@astro.queensu.ca)

*Supernova Remnants and Pulsar Wind Nebulae in the Chandra Era

7-17 July, Cambridge, MA
Contact: Paul Green
(snr09@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/cdo/snr09/>

Galaxy Wars: Stellar Populations and Star Formation in Interacting Galaxies

19-22 July 2009, Johnson City, TN
Contact: Beverly Smith
(smithbj@etsu.edu)
etsu.edu/physics/wars/wars.html

Particle Acceleration in Astrophysical Plasmas

27 July-2 Oct 2009, Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Don Ellison
(don_ellison@ncsu.edu)
www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=963

Optical Engineering + Applications 2009 - Part of SPIE Optics + Photonics

2-6 August 2009, San Diego, CA
customerservice@spie.org
http://spie.org/Optical-Engineering.xml?WT.mc_id=RCALENDARW

Ten Years of Science with Chandra

22-25 Sept 2009, Boston, MA
Contact: Harvey Tananbaum
(ht@cfa.harvard.edu)

*New or revised listings

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

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



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Newsletter 143 November/December 2008

Washington News

Marcos Huerta, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow
huerta@aaas.org



Fall has arrived in Washington, and it is a tumultuous time, as Congress is hurrying to complete work before adjourning for the final weeks of the campaign. It would be a busy time regardless, but the recent crisis of the financial system, and the Bush Administration's proposed bailout (or rescue plan, as some prefer to call it) of the financial services industry

has only added extra drama and work to the Congressional calendar. The House initially rejected the compromise bailout plan, though the Senate passed on 1 October a slightly altered version, with additional tax breaks, and changes to FDIC insurance. Some of you may be asking, "Doesn't the Constitution require that bills that spend money have to originate in the House?" Well, yes—so the Senate grafted the economic rescue onto a bill that already passed the House—the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, also added some tax related extensions, and sent it back to the House side. The bill passed the House on the afternoon of 3 October, and the president has now signed the measure into law. With that, the House has recessed until January.

Continuing Resolution and FY 2009 Budget

Amidst all the struggles over the economic rescue plan, Congress had to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government running after the fiscal year expired on 30 September. In theory, the Congress should pass and the president should sign appropriations bills for the various departments and agencies of government. However, unwilling to negotiate with an outgoing president, Congress did not enact any of these bills. Instead, the continuing resolution flat funds agencies through March of 2009. It did, however, include the appropriations for Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs.

Science advocacy groups, including the AAS, had hoped to include increases for NSF, NIST, and DOE Office of Science in the language of the continuing resolution, consistent with the America COMPETES Act. These increases did not occur. In addition, the funding continuation will not continue the science money added in the supplemental funding bill in June. Thus, we can expect flat science funding into 2009, at which point both the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets will have to be considered under a new president and a new congress. Suffice to say, the beginning of next year will be a very busy time here in Washington, and it will be incumbent upon all science

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