President’s Column
John Huchra, president@aas.org

Well well well! “The times they are a’changin’” (B. Dylan, 1964, followed by almost every paper in the country, November 2008). We are watching massive changes in the direction the new administration is taking with regard to science. Serious prospective appointments are being named almost every day (yesterday’s was Nobel Prize winning physicist Steve Chu to head the Department of Energy) by President Obama’s transition team. As I write this column, there is an expectation that a real budget for Federal fiscal year 2009 will be passed—not a Continuing Resolution. This is very good news for both the NSF and DOE’s Office of Science, but bad news for NASA science and physical science education in the Department of Education. In a turn I did not expect, Obama’s transition team have taken a direct and immediate interest in the science agencies plans and operations. We can expect timely changes in leadership, and, in a few cases, reaffirmation of the existing team. I personally hope this is a strong signal of the return of science in appropriately informing legislative and regulatory decisions, something that has not happened for the better part of eight years.

There is a downside for astronomy. We are still not considered an integral part of the competitiveness initiative, despite the strong place astronomy holds in broad science education throughout K-16. The economic downturn coupled with the increase in both the public and governmental interest in climate and sustainability is sure to lead to strong targeted support for Earth science and alternative energy. This is appropriate, or as I like to paraphrase, “Render unto Congress that which is Congresses’,” but it will likely hurt those fields less directly related to the immediate societal problem.

There is other good news though. ESA has gotten a very strong vote of confidence from the European ministers who thoroughly supported a 10 billion Euro new spending package and a multi-year 3.5%/per annum increase in the space science budget. This kind of support and long term planning is one of the reasons other countries can get ahead of the US, where the spending for almost every agency and project is approved only year by year.

There is also good news on the science front. I have been incredibly impressed by the latest exoplanet imaging results. Wow! Fomalhaut! I had not expected to see images of objects orbiting other stars until SIM or TPF flew. The power of adaptive optics and the power of apodization in space won the day. Phoenix was shut down by the Martian winter after finding water on Mars. Fermi is beginning to fulfill its promise with gamma-ray images of the sky. NASA and DOE can indeed work together. *Discover* magazine has posted its top 100 science stories of 2008. Astronomy captured 12 of the spots with our top slot, #6, going to Phoenix and ice on Mars, followed by Messenger’s images of Mercury in the #22 spot, and the link between the Milky Way’s central black hole and star formation at #23. Near the tail end of this distribution, at #97, is the IAU’s designation of Trans Neptunian Dwarf Planets as “Plutoids.” A name I expect that will go down in infamy.

In the same issue is a story about one of my astronomical heroes, Fritz Zwicky. Think about your own careers in astronomy. If you have been lucky, you will have interacted with someone who is a dynamo. Someone spewing forth new and interesting ideas, or fighting the good fight against static science, or building institutions that help us all and advance the field, often against heavy odds. Fritz was one of those, especially in the new ideas and the battling the “high priests” modes.

I was lucky, as a very wet behind the ears grad student, to share office space with his blink comparator in the sub-sub-basement of Robinson Lab at Caltech. While he railed against the senior, often very stodgy, community, he always had a kind and inspiring, and usually insightful word for the young whippersnappers. He taught me to look to the sky for the truth. I miss him.

Finally, I just note that the January AAS meeting kicks off our next Decadal Survey. This one will start with science priorities and use them to produce a program for projects and facilities. It is extremely important that we all be involved. The AAS can help provide venues for input and interaction with the Survey Committee and its panels, but it can not provide input or ideas for new science or new projects. That’s up to you, the community. As they say in my home town (Jersey City), speak early and speak often. Go to it!
This year we will all celebrate the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s first studies with a telescope. It is fitting that we also start the next of our field’s Decadal Surveys. The astronomers have come together every decade since the 1950s to rank our scientific funding needs and deliver a unified request to our government. Although we used to be nearly unique in carrying out this exercise, other disciplines and even sub-disciplines within our field now carry out more or less the same process. These efforts can only be effective when they represent true consensus. The reports can only represent consensus when everyone participates. Increased participation is a goal of this Decadal Survey and chair Roger Blandford is truly committed to increasing the participation in the process.

The AAS will be supporting the Decadal Survey in several ways. First, our public policy fellow, Marcos Huerta will be attending all public sessions this coming year and keeping the community posted through Informational Emails and his interesting Policy blog (available on the AAS public policy web pages). We will be hosting special activities at the Pasadena meeting coming up this June. The new convention space in Pasadena will be suited to expanded town hall and other session types as the Decadal Survey committee requests. We will be capturing the sessions in Pasadena and making them available online in a cost effective audio/presentation slide format (along with the prize and invited talks, as we are doing for the Long Beach meeting). Finally, the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy and the entire AAS Council will be discussing and following the progress of the survey and providing input on behalf of the Society at appropriate times. I am also helping President Huchra with some demographic data and analysis for a portion of the survey report.

The ongoing financial crisis is causing concern for us all. Organizations across the country, including non-profit societies like the AAS are taking actions to reduce expenses in anticipation of reduced revenues. The AAS Council meets at each June meeting to approve the budget for the coming fiscal year (e.g. the 2009 AAS budget was approved at the June 2008 AAS council meeting), but the budget is not a fixed document. As the year progresses we present Council and especially our Treasurer, Peter Stockman, with regular reports on the status of the Society’s finances. We tighten our belts as we go along and take every possible measure to only spend when we must. Our largest financial risk continues to be our meetings, where substantial expenses must be offset through registration fees from attendees, who vary in number for opaque reasons from year to year.

I am taking a conservative approach, especially for 2010, and the proposed budget I will present to Council in June will reflect this. However, recession aside, the Society must continue to serve its members’ needs. We will continue to publish our journals and to grow them technologically while preserving their content for the longer term. We will continue to organize the annual meetings of the Society to foster communication and collaboration in our field. We will continue to be active in public policy and education, while providing career advice and employment resources to astronomers at all career levels. Finally, we will follow the vision and leadership of the Council, who, as your elected leaders, are ultimately responsible for what the Society is, what it does and its long term financial stability.

The AAS has been here for more than 100 years. We will be here as long as the community we serve, astronomy and closely aligned fields, has a need for the services we provide. Those needs do not fluctuate with the stock market and our level of service will not fluctuate either. The AAS is your Society and I welcome your thoughts and input at any time on any topic. Enjoy the International Year of Astronomy and help celebrate it by reaching out to non-astronomers as you travel this year or in your daily research life. Let’s all work together to bring a bit of the wonder of astronomy to our fellow citizens, which in the current financial climate, may be just what we all need to cheer us up a bit.
Hubble Status
Rodger Doxsey, STScI

With Space Shuttle Atlantis on the launch pad and ready to go, her cargo bay packed with new equipment destined for the Hubble Space Telescope, it was sharply disappointing to all to see Servicing Mission 4 (SM4) delayed. On 27 September there was a failure in the Science Instrument Command & Data Handling (SIC&DH) unit on Hubble. Among other things, this unit is responsible for gathering and routing scientific data from the Hubble instruments to the systems that transmit the data to the ground. The on-board back-up SIC&DH was turned on in mid-October and is working properly. However, Hubble now has no further backup capability in this crucial area. One failure in the backup unit, or in associated data system modules, could result in no ability to retrieve science data from the telescope. This situation was apparent the weekend that the failure occurred, and by that Monday NASA Administrator Mike Griffin had made the decision that SM4 should be delayed until a replacement unit with full redundancy could be readied and included in the mission. NASA recently announced a target launch date of 12 May 2009 for SM4.

This unfortunate turn of events has everyone in the HST program scrambling. At the STScI we have been focusing on keeping Hubble busy with a full schedule of observations during the additional seven months before SM4. By October, we had nearly exhausted our pool of WFPC2 and NICMOS observations from Cycle 16, anticipating the start of Cycle 17 and the use of the new Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3) and Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS), and repaired ACS and STIS instruments. The situation was further complicated by an unrelated problem with the NICMOS Cooling System (NCS), which may have failed. This system was installed during SM3B in 2002 and ran continuously, cooling the detectors in the NICMOS to their operational temperature. Barring a future “Eureka!” moment, a final attempt to get the NCS running well enough to re-cool NICMOS will be made on Tuesday, December 16.

[NICMOS update added in press by kbm: NICMOS / NCS Safing Anomaly and Status December 23, 2008]

On Friday 19 December 2008, the NICMOS Cooling System (NCS) safed once again, after having been cooling for about 4 days since its restart. The safing event this time was not due to the circulator/compressor loop which had been behaving nominally, but was instead caused by a lower speed limit violation of the Turbo Alternator which helps to maintain the proper flow rate of the Neon refrigerant through one of the three cooling loops. The cause of the lower than expected speed is presently unknown but is under investigation. Over the next week, systems engineers at GSFC will be collecting and analyzing telemetry from this event and past startups. The NCS Anomaly Review Board will then examine the information and make a recommendation on a forward plan of action some time in the first week of the new year. It is presently unclear when NICMOS will be available for science observations, but it is unlikely to be any earlier than mid-late February.

The STScI has solicited Cycle 16 Supplemental Proposals to select observing programs to fill the bulk of the extra time prior to SM4. A total of 283 proposals were received by the deadline on 8 December. The 60 proposals using NICMOS will be held in reserve until we know whether the NCS will restart. The 223 proposals that do not use NICMOS request over 14,000 orbits of observing time. We expect to select programs that provide ~1200 orbits, so the over-subscription is quite high. A Telescope Allocation Committee (TAC) with 27 members and chaired by Rob Kennicutt has been constituted and the proposals have been sent to them for review. Given the time constraints and the season, the TAC will not meet physically, but will operate electronically and possibly via teleconference. Our goal is to notify selected PIs by 13 January 2009, go through the Phase II process in 2-3 weeks, and start these observations by mid-February at the latest. In the mean time, we have a pool of Astrometry, WFPC2, and ACS/SBC Cycle 16 GO, Snap, and DD programs that will be scheduled. Cycle 16 NICMOS programs will be included, if the NCS works adequately. We have identified two community service DD programs for use in January, especially if the NICMOS cannot be used or it takes a little longer to get the supplemental programs in place. Data from these community service programs will be immediately available to the community via the archive. One will provide WFPC2 F606W and F814W imaging of the central portion of the Lockman Hole (program 11967) and the other will obtain WFPC2 UV images of a subset of galaxies from the Spitzer Space Telescope SINGS Legacy program (program 11966).

Since the SIC&DH failure in September, the engineers, scientists, and managers at the HST Program at Goddard have been working hard to prepare the spare SIC&DH unit for flight on SM4. The hardware has been restored to flight configuration, inspected, and is being completely retested. Records of the assembly, test, and use of the unit since its delivery over 17 years ago have been reviewed to ensure that the equipment is flight worthy. Electromagnetic interference, vibration, and thermal vacuum testing of the spare unit will begin soon. Support equipment is being modified to include the SIC&DH in the cargo carried up to Hubble in Atlantis’ cargo bay. The priorities, timelines and procedures for SM4 activities are being modified to include installation and check out of the spare SIC&DH during the first Extravehicular Activity (EVA) day of the mission. Although introduction of the SIC&DH replacement task makes an already full EVA timeline even more packed, in the “best case scenario” it can be included without the need to remove other high priority tasks from the plan. Of course this outcome cannot be guaranteed, but the Hubble Program and the Space Shuttle Program are working toward that objective. The astronauts have started training on the procedures for installing the SIC&DH, which fortunately was one of the telescope systems designed with servicing in mind.

We are all hopeful that a successful SM4 will have taken place by the time of the AAS meeting in June, and that early results from the most capable Hubble ever will be highlights of the meeting in January, 2010.
One of the most common—and most important!—
questions that we receive about the International Year of
Astronomy (IYA) is how people can learn more about and
participate in IYA programs. We have created information
sheets, with nine different flyers tailored to specific audiences,
to answer this “How to Get Involved in IYA” question for:

- the general public
- amateur astronomers
- teachers
- home schoolers
- families
- professors and research scientists
- grad students
- planetaria, and large observatories and science centers
- small observatories and science centers

These information sheets may be viewed online, as well as
downloaded for emailing and printing, at:
http://astronomy2009.us/getinvolved/

Please help us distribute these flyers, either by email or
hardcopy, to spread the word about the wide range of
opportunities for everyone to get involved in IYA!

Announcements

Arecibo Call for Proposals—
1 February 2009 is the next deadline for submitting proposals
for Arecibo. Proposals submitted at this deadline are for using
the 305 m telescope in the eight months beginning 1 June
2009 (i.e. valid for two trimesters).

We draw attention to the 1.1-10 GHz continuous frequency
coverage on offer. This capacity was recently used to detect
numerous molecular and hydrogen recombination lines from
Arp 220 and other ULIRGS, using our WAPP spectrometers
that offer a single pixel 640 MHz bandwidth facility (Salter et
al AJ 136, 389). We anticipate a 1 GHz bandwidth capacity
being available by June. In addition, we commissioned a
cryogenic 327 MHz receiver in 2008.

Proposal submission details, and a web-based cover sheet,
can be found at http://www.naic.edu/~astro/proposals.
A guide for new-users to the telescope is at http://www.
naic.edu/~astro/guide. Other user-related information is at

Radio sources with declinations between about -1 and +37.5
deg are visible from Arecibo, and can be tracked over the
range of zenith angles between ~1.1 and 19.7 deg.

NSO Observing Proposal Deadline
The current deadline for submitting observing proposals
to the National Solar Observatory is 15 February 2009 for
the second quarter of 2009. 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/
nsosforms/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.
Honored Elsewhere

Veilleux Wins 2008 Humboldt Research Award
Sylvain Veilleux (University of Maryland, College Park) received a Humboldt Research Award for Senior U.S. Scientists from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation on 12 November 2008. This award is given to “outstanding scientists and scholars from all disciplines from abroad whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future.”

Veilleux, an optical/infrared astronomer whose research focuses on active and starburst galaxies, joined the Maryland faculty in 1995. He is known for his work on the spectral classification of emission-line galaxies, the origin and evolution of nuclear activity driven by upermassive black holes, and the nature of galaxy-scale winds and their impact on the extragalactic environment.

Veilleux will be using this award to undertake research on infrared-selected galaxies in collaboration with Prof. Reinhard Genzel and colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching, Germany.

Einstein Prize Awarded to Hartle
The 2009 Einstein Prize was awarded to Jim Hartle (University of California, Santa Barbara). The citation reads “For a broad range of fundamental contributions to relativistic stars, quantum fields in curved spacetime, and especially quantum cosmology.”

James B. Hartle was educated at Gilman School, Princeton University (AB, 1960), and the California Institute of Technology where he completed a Ph.D. in 1964 with Murray Gell-Mann. He has held positions at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, and the University of Chicago. He is currently Research Professor and Professor of Physics Emeritus at the University of California, Santa Barbara and an external faculty member of the Santa Fe Institute. His scientific work is concerned with the application of Einstein’s relativistic theory of gravity—general relativity—to realistic astrophysical situations, especially cosmology. He has contributed usefully to the understanding of gravitational waves, relativistic stars, and black holes. He is currently interested in the quantum origin of the universe and the earliest moments of the big bang where the subjects of quantum mechanics, quantum gravity, and cosmology overlap. He has been an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, a NATO Senior Science Fellow, and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, and a founder and past director of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Schechner Wins Hazen Prize
The Joseph H. Hazen Prize Committee of the History of Science Society has awarded the 2008 prize to Sara Schechner, David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments in the Department of History of Science at Harvard University. Schechner’s educational activities have been extraordinarily broad, encompassing many of the categories suggested for the Hazen Prize. She is involved in museum work, the organization of educational programs, writing, innovation in instruction and pedagogical materials, and public outreach. The members of the Prize Committee were impressed with how Schechner “creates hands on experiences with technology from the past, thus giving material and tactile access to the history of science in this way,” how she has shown “great creativity and broad outreach in sharing the Collection for Historical Scientific Instruments,” and the amount of energy she has devoted “to a great range of successful educational activities in relatively short time frame.”

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

Ian Bartky
Frank Edmondson
Steve Ostro
Ed Salpeter

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@aas.org or log into your member record at aas.org.

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

We could not have done it without you! Thank you for your commitment to the Society. As we begin 2009 what better time to acknowledge those who have been members of the AAS for 25 years or more. If your name was excluded please contact Crystal Tinch (crystal@aas.org). Members are current as of 1 December 2008. Let us know if you think you’re listed incorrectly.

25-34 years

Adler, David
Ake, Thomas
Albert, C. Elise
Albrecht, Rudolf
Alcock, Charles
Alissandrakis, Constantine
Allen, Mark
Allison, Michael
Ambruster, Carol
Anderson, Edwin
Anderson, Kurt
Anthony-Twarog, Barbara
Antiochos, Spiro
Applebaum, David
Aruzese, John
Argon, Alice
Armstrong, John
Arnold, Clifford
Athanasoulou, E.
Augen, Harry
Azzopardi, Marc
Baar, Willen
Backman, Dana
Bahcall, Neta
Bai, Tael
Bailey, Wayne
Baker, Neal
Baldwin, Jack
Baliunas, Sallie
Bal, John
Balonek, Thomas
Ban, David
Bangert, John
Bania, Thomas
Barbuy, Beatriz
Barker, Timothy
Barnard, John
Barsony, Mary
Bartel, Norbert
Barvainis, Richard
Basri, Gibor
Basu, Dipak
Batsuki, David
Bauer, Wendy
Bautz, Mark
Beall, James
Bechis, Kenneth
Beck, Sara
Becker, Robert
Becker, Stephen
Becker, Walter
Beckwith, Steven
Beers, Timothy
Beichman, Charles
Bennett, Philip
Bhavsar, Suketu
Biermann, Peter
Bignami, Giovanni
Bignell, Carl
Binney, James
Birkinshaw, Mark
Bjorkman, Karen
Blanford, George
Bliese, Max
Blitz, Leo
Bland, Jane
Bogart, Richard
Boice, Daniel
Bonnet, Roger-Maurice
Bord, Donald
Boroson, Todd
Borucki, William
Bosma, Albert
Boss, Alan
Boughn, Stephen
Boyle, Daniel
Bonnell, Roger
Borucki, William
Bower, Gary
Bradley, Richard
Bradstreet, David
Branch, David
Brasunas, John
Braun, Douglas
Bregman, Joel
Briotta, Daniel
Brodie, Jean
Brown, Bryan
Brown, David
Brown, Jeffery
Brown, Robert
Brucato, Robert
Brunish, Wendee
Brualzal - A., Gustavo
Bryan, James
Bryant, Light
Bufi, James
Buffington, Andrew
Buie, Marc
Burke, Edward
Burns, Jack
Burns, Michael
Burrows, Adam
Burton, Wilga
Bushouse, Howard
Byrd, Gene
Cabot, William
Cadmus, Robert
Caliault, Jean-Pierre
Caldwell, Nelson
Calvet, Neria
Campbell, Murray
Campins, Humberto
Carlberg, Raymond
Carlson, Eric
Carpenter, Kenneth
Carpenter, Roland
Carroll, Bradley
Carswell, Robert
Cash, Webster
Cashdollar, Kenneth
Castelaz, Michael
Catacosinos, Paul
Caton, Daniel
Cecil, Gerald
Cerensuchi, Felix
Chang, Kwing
Charles, Philip
Chen, James
Chester, Thomas
Cheung, Cynthia
Chiu, Hong-Yee
Christian, Carol
Chisty, James
Ciardullo, Robin
Clarke, John
Claussen, Mark
Cliver, Edward
Cochran, William
Coffee, Helen
Cohen, Martin
Cohn, Haldan
Combi, Michael
Comins, Neil
Cominsky, Lynn
Connolly, Leo
Conn, Michael
Cook, John
Cook, Ken
Cook, James
Cooper, R. Glenn
Corbally, Christopher
Corbin, Thomas
Cordes, James
Cornett, Robert
Coronti, Ferdinand
Cowan, John
Crutcher, Richard
Curti, Roc
Czyzak, S. J.
Da Costa, Gary
Dabrowski, Jan
Dame, Thomas
Danford, Stephen
Daun, Stephen
Davidson, J. P.
Davies, Roger
Davis, Donald
Davis, Sunner
Dawson, Dennis
De Pater, Imke
De Robertis, Michael
Deguchi, Shuji
Dejauffe, Rene
Deming, Drake
Dennison, Brian
Dere, Kenneth
Dermott, Stanley
Deupree, Robert
Dewdney, Peter
Dickey, John
Dickman, Robert
Dinerstein, Harriet
Djorgovski, Stanislav
Dobias, Jan
Doepeke, Lawrence
Dones, Henry
Dossey, Rodger
Dragon, John
Draine, Bruce
Drake, Stephen
Dressel, Linda
Dressler, Alan
Drummond, Jack
Duncan, Douglas
Dundee, David
Dunham, Edward
Dupree, Samuel
Durisen, Richard
Duvall, Thomas
Dwek, Eli
Eastwood, Kathy
Degioia
Edberg, Stephen
Eder, Jo Ann
Edwards, Suzan
Eilek, Jean
Einasto, Jaan
Eisenhardt, Peter
Elitzur, Moshe
Elliot, James
Elliot, Denis
Ellis, H. Benton
Elmegreen, Debra
Elvis, Martin
Emslie, A. Gordon
England, Martin
Ericksen, Edwin
 Erickson, Richard
Esposito, Larry
Fabbiano, Giuseppina
Fabricant, Daniel
Fairman, Rita
Fanelli, Michael
Fant, Ali
Federman, Steven
Feigelson, Eric
Felten, James
Ferland, Gary
Fesen, Robert
Fich, Michel
Fienberg, Richard
Filipenko, Alexei
Fischer, Jacqueline
Fisher, Paul
Flasar, F. Michael
Fleck, Robert
Fleming, Thomas
Folz, Craig
Fontaine, Gilles
Ford, Holland
Forman, William
Forrest, William
Fronkoi, Andrew
Frayneli, Dorothy
Freedman, Wendy
French, Howard
French, Linda
French, Richard
Fresneau, Alain
Friel, Eileen
Friend, David
Friesen, Larry
Frisch, Priscilla
Fry, James
Frye, Glenn
Fukui, Yasuo
Fullerton, Alexander
Gallagher, John
Garcia, Michael
Garwood, Robert
Gary, Dale
Gatwood, George
Gatley, Ian
Gautier, Thomas
Geary, John
Geballe, Thomas
Gehrels, Neil
Geller, Margaret
Genzel, Reinhard
Gergely, Tomas
Ghigo, Frank
Giampapa, Mark
Giersch, Peter
Gies, Douglas
Gilliland, Ronald
Gioia, Isabella
Giovanardi, Carlo
Gisler, Galen
Glackin, David
Glassgold, Alfred
Gluck, Vivian
Godfrey, C. P.
Goebel, John
Goguen, Jay
Goldberg, Bruce
Goldreich, Peter
Gordon, David
Gott, J. Richard
Graber, James
Gradie, Jonathan
Graf, Werner
Graham, William
Green, Daniel
Green, Elizabeth
Greenhouse, Matthew
Greyber, Howard
Griece, John
Griffiths, Richard
Gurman, Joseph
Gustafson, Bo
Habbal, Shadia
Haber, Deborah
Hackwell, John
Hagen, John
Haisch, Bernard
Hakila, Jon
Halbedal, Elaine
Halliwell, Michael
Hammer, Reiner
Hanes, David
Hanisch, Robert
Hankins, Timothy
Hansen, J. Richard
Hansen, Stanley
Hardee, Philip
Harding, Alice
Harmon, John
Harms, Richard
Harpaz, Amos
Harris, Alan
Harris, Hugh
Hartig, George
Hartkopf, William
Hathaway, David
Hathaway, William
Hawley, John
Hayes, Jeffrey
Haynes, Martha
Heacox, William
Heck, Andre
Heckert, Paul
Heckman, Timothy
Heiligman, Gary
Held, Ronald
Helfand, David
Helou, George
Henden, Arne
Henkel, Christian
Henry, Gregory
Henry, Richard
Herbert, Floyd
Herbst, Eric
Herter, Terry
Hertz, Paul
Hester, Jeff
Hildebrand, Roger
Hill, Frank
Hill, John
Hiner, James
35-44 years

Aannestad, Per
Ables, Harold
Adams, Ronald
Adelman, Saul
A’hearn, Michael
Ahluwalia, Harjit
Ahmad, Imad
Aizenman, Morris
Aksnes, Kaare
Albert, Donald
Allen, Marc
Aller, Hugh
Aller, Margo
Altenhoff, Wilhelm
Altschuler, Martin
Anderson, Jørgen
Anderson, Kinsey
Angel, J. Roger
Argo, Harold
Arny, Thomas
Arons, Jonathan
Argyu, Claude
Audouze, Jean
Avrett, Eugene
Baars, Jacob
Backer, Donald
Baird, Scott
Baill, Bruce
Ball, John
Bardeen, James
Barker, Edwin
Barnes, Aaron
Barnes, Thomas
Basart, John
Baym, Gordon
Becklin, Eric
Beckman, John
Beene, Herbert
Bell, Morley
Belserene, Emilia

Bell, Timothy
Bensch, Neil
Benning, Arnold
Berge, Glenn
Berg, Richard
Bernier, David
Bertin, Pierre
Bertone, Gianluca
Bertsch, Patricia
Beyersdorf, John
Bibliography
Blondel, Francesca
Blom, David
Boisseau, Bill
Bosman, Peter
Boule, Pierre
Boulanger, Jean
Bowyer, Gervase
Bower, Michael
Bower, Robert
Bovary, Yves
Bradley, Mark
Brady, Mary
Bradford, John
Bradley, David
Braester, Jorn
Brednich, Adolph
Brecht, Jørgen
Brecht, Kenneth
Brehm, William
Brecher, Kenneth
Brekke, Stig
Brewer, Margaret
Briand, Chris
Brice, John
Brice, Michael
Brice, Richard
Brice, Robert
Brice, Thomas
Brice, William
Brice, Michael
Brisson, Marc
Brissette, Pierre
Brito, Juan
Brito, Raquel
Brooks, Neil
Brown, Robert
Brown, Robert
Brownlee, Donald
Brown, Steven
Bruch, Bruce
Buchanan, Matthew
Buchler, John
Buchmann, Alistair
Buchner, John
Budnik, Brian
Buie, Margaret
Bueler, Douglas
Bums, Joseph
Burr, Steve
Buss, John
Butler, Joseph
Cahn, Julius
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Callegari, John
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Campbell, Donald
Carbone, Luise
Carlow, Rachel
Carmona, Eric
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Chaffee, Fredric
Channon, Eric
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Chevalier, Roger
Chubb, Talbot
Chupp, Edward
Clark, Frank
Clark, George
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Clayton, Donald
Clement, Maurice
Coehran, Vance
Coffeen, David
Cohen, Michael
Colvin, Jeff
Conkin, Edward
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Continetti, Peter
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Cowen, Robert
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Craft, Harold
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Crampton, David
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Cranere, Philippe
Cruikshank, Dale
Culver, Roger
Dalgaro, A.
Davis, John
De Young, David
Delfsme, Armand
Devorkin, David
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Dinger, Ann
Dodds, Jack
Dolan, Joseph
Donivan, Frank
Doschek, George
Downes, Dennis
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Dukes, Robert
Dulk, George
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Dunham, Joan
Dunn, Anne
Dupeere, Andrea
Durtin, Harold
Earl, James
Elmegreen, Bruce
Elvis, Aina

Epps, Harland
Enke, Fred
Etzel, Paul
Evans, Charles
Evans, John
Evans, Nancy
Evans, Neal
Faber, Sandra
Fech, Francis
Feldman, Paul
Feldman, Allan
Fenkart, Rolf
Fink, Uwe
Finzi, Arrigo
Fishman, Gerald
Fisher, John
Fornal, Miriam
Foukal, Peter
Franklin, Fred
Freeman, Richard
Friedlander, Benjamin
Frogel, Jay
Fujimoto, Mitsuaki
Fukuda, Ichiro
Galatola, A.
Gaposchkin, Peter
Garmney, Catharine
Garmire, Gordon
Garrett, Henry
Garrison, Robert
Geldzahler, Barry
Geyer, Edward
Gezari, Daniel
Giacconi, Riccardo
Gilman, Peter
Giovannelli, Riccardo

Glaspay, John
Goldstein, Lawrence
Goldsmith, David
Golub, Leon
Gordon, Mark
Gorenstein, Paul
Goss, W. Miller
Gortseman, Evelyn
Gottlieb, Carl
Gow, Charles
Graham, John
Grandi, Steven
Green, Richard
Greenberg, Richard
Gregory, Philip
Gregory, Steve
Grindal, Jonathan
Groom, Donald
Groth, Edward
Guedelus, Donald
Guetter, Harry
Guinan, Edward
Gulkis, Samuel
Hagyard, Mona
Hammond, Gordon
Hanner, Martha
Hanson, Robert
Harmandanis, Kathryn
Hardebeck, Harry
Harnden, Frank
Harder, Salome
Harris, Allen
Harris, Gretchen
Hartman, Robert
Hartmann, William
Harvey, Paul

Hauser, Michael
Havlen, Robert
Hawley, Steven
Hayes, Donald
Henry, J. Patrick
Hertzsprung, William
Hess, Fred
Hesser, James
Hilgeman, Theodore
Hill, Henry
Hills, Jack
Hine, Alice
Hobbs, L. M.
Hoffman, Alan
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Hoffmann, William
Holm, Jan
Holm, Stephen
Honeycutt, R.
Huchra, John
Hudson, Hugh
Huebner, Walter
Hull, Anthony
Hunter, Christopher
Hunter, James
Hutchings, John
Ianna, Philip
Iben, Icko
Ingersoll, Andrew
Innanen, Kimmo
Israel, Martin
Itoh, Naoko
Jacoby, Margaret
Janes, Kenneth
Janicke, P. M.
Jansen, Michael
Jenkins, Edward
Johnston, Torrence
45-54 years

Acton, Loren
Altrock, Richard
Anders, Edward
Anderson, Howard
Angione, Ronald
Bahng, John
Barnhart, Philip
Barrow, Colin
Bartko, Frank
Baschek, Bodo
Bash, Frank
Batten, Alan
Beckers, Jacques
Bless, R. C.
Bodenheimer, Peter
Bookmyer, Beverly
Boyle, Peter
Bracher, Katherine
Breckinridge, James
Bremenkamp, Victor
Broten, N. W.
Burbidge, Geoffrey
Burke, J. Anthony
Carr, Thomas
Castor, John
Cayrel, Roger
Chamberlain, Joseph
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Clark, Barry
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Colgate, Stirling
Collins, George
Cowley, Anne
Cowley, Charles
Crawford, David
Cudaback, David
Dahn, Conard
Dent, W. A.
Dickel, Helene
Dickel, John
Dietz, Richard
Doherty, Lowell
Edwards, Terry

Johnson, W. Neil
Johnston, Kenneth
Jones, Harrison
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Jordan, Stuart
Joseph, Robert
Joss, Paul
Joyce, Richard
Kafatos, Menas
Karp, Alan
Kawabata, Kiyoshi
Kayser, Susan
Keay, Colin
Kellogg, Edwin
Kennedy, H. D.
Kennedy, James
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Khare, Bishun
Kiewiet De Jonge, Joost
Kirkpatrick, R. C.
Kirshner, Robert
Kliore, Arvydas
Knacke, Roger
Kniffen, Donald
Koch, David
Kormendy, John
Kovach, William
Kowal, Charles
Krienke, O. Karl
Kronberg, Philipp
Krupp, E. C.
Kuo, Charles
Kurkowsky, Jerome
Kutter, Marc
Kutter, G. Siegfried
Lacy, Claud
Lamb, Don
Lamb, Frederick
Larson, Richard
Latham, David
Lebofsky, Larry
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Leckrone, David
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Levine, J. Light, Edward
Lillie, Charles
Linsky, Jeffrey
Littleton, John
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Lo Presto, James
Lockman, Felix
Lockwood, G. Lucke, Peter
Luebke, William
Luhmann, Janet
Lutz, Julie
Lynch, David
Lynds, Beverly
Madore, Barry
Maffei, Paolo
Maboney, William
Manchester, Richard
Maran, Stephen
Margon, Bruce
Margrave, Thomas
Marks, Dennis
Marlborough, J. Marschall, Laurence
Martin, Robert
Mathews, William
Mayfield, Earle
Mcalister, Harold
Mcconnon, Dan
McCarrthy, Donald
McCook, George
Mccray, Richard
Mcgraw, John
Mckee, Christopher
Mcneil, Raymond
Mehler, Gary
Meszaros, Peter
Metzger, A. E.
Michaud, Georges
Michel, F. Curtis
 Mickelson, Michael
 Mickey, D. L.
 Miller, Hugh
 Millis, Robert
 Milone, Eugene
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 Mitalas, Romas
 Moffat, Anthony
 Moffett, Thomas
 Molnar, M. R.
 Moore, Ronald
 Moorhead, James
 Moso, H. Warren
 Moran, James
 Morris, Mark
 Murray, Stephen
 Namba, O. Nelson, Robert
 Neesterzuck, George
 Newsom, Gerald
 Nichols, Joy
 Nickas, George
 Nicolas, Kenneth
 Noerdtlinger, Peter
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 O’connell, Robert
 Oegerle, William
 Oertel, Goetz
 Oliver, John
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 Osmer, Patrick
 Ostriker, Jeremiah
 Ouellette, Gerald
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 Pang, Kevin
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 Penhallow, William
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 Peterson, Charles
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 Petrov, Robert
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 Pfeiffer, Jorg
 Phillips, Mark
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 Polidan, Ronald
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 Poss, Howard
 Potter, Andrew
 Prata, Stephen
 Press, William
 Preston, George
 Price, P. Bifulco
 Primmii, Francis
 Proctor, Deanne
 Prak, Roger
 Racine, Rene
 Raimond, Ernst
 Rakos, Nicki
 Ramsey, Lawrence
 Rankin, Joanna
 Rappaport, Saul
 Rather, John
 Reed, George
 Reynolds, Ray
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 Rich, John
 Richards, David
 Richer, Harvey
 Richstone, Douglas
 Rickett, Barney
 Ridgway, Stephen
 Rieger, Guenter
 Rieke, Marcia
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 Rogers, Alan
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 Rood, Robert
 Rosenhalh, Jeffrey
 Rosenkilde, Carl
 Ross, Hazel
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 Routledge, David
 Rubin, Robert
 Rubino, Vera
 Rust, Bert
 Rust, David
 Rybicki, George
 Rybicki, Paul
 Rydgren, A.
 Sakurai, K.
 Sanders, Walter
 Sanders, Wilton
 Sandford, Maxwell
 Sandlin, Glenn
 Saslaw, William
 Savage, Blair
 Scarle, Colin
 Scargle, Jeffrey
 Scherb, Frank
 Schild, Rudolph
 Schlesinger, Barry
 Schmidt, Edward
 Schmitt, John
 Schreier, Ethan
 Schweizer, Francois
 Scott, Roger
 Scoville, Nicholas
 Sexquist, Ernest
 Seeds, Michael
 Seidelmann, P.
 Serlemitsos, Peter
 Seward, Frederick
 Sgro, Anthony
 Shafter, David
 Shapiro, Stuart
 Share, Gerald
 Shawl, Stephen
 Sheeley, Neil
 Shelus, Peter
 Sher, David
 Shu, Frank
 Shuart, Ross
 Shulman, Seth
 Silk, Joseph
 Simona, Mahiro
 Simon, Michal
 Simonson, S. Christian
 Simpson, Erik
 Simpson, Janet
 Slabinski, Victor
 Slade, Martin
 Smith, Diane
 Smith, Edward
 Smith, Haywood
 Smith, Howard
 Smith, Lindsey
 Smith, Myron
 Smithson, Robert
 Snowden, Michael
 Snyder, Lewis
 Soberman, Robert
 Soifer, B. Thomas
 Spangenberg, William
 Spinrad, H.
 Stein, Robert
 Stetson, Peter
 Stone, Edward
 Strittmatter, Peter
 Strong, Ian
 Stull, Mark
 Sturch, Conrad
 Sullivan, Woodruff
 Takebe, Hisao
 Terrell, N. James
 Thaddeus, Patrick
 Thomas, John
 Thomas, Roger
 Thompson, Rodger
 Thorne, Kip
 Thrison, Harley
 Title, Alan
 Tolbert, Charles
 Toomre, Juri
 Torres-Preimibert, Silvia
 Trasco, John
 Travis, Larry
 Trumble, Virginia
 Tucker, Wallace
 Tully, R. Brent
 Twigg, Laurence
 Uscher, Peter
 Van Elandern, Tom
 Vandent Bour, Paul
 Vila, Samuel
 Vilki, Erkki
 Waddington, C.
 Wagener, C.
 Wagoner, Robert
 Walborn, Nolan
 Walker, Gordon
 Walker, Robert
 Wannier, Peter
 Wardle, John
 Warren, Wayne
 Webb, David
 Webber, John
 Webster, William
 Weggard, Robert
 Weidenskib, Martin
 Wightman, Anthony
 Wells, Donald
 Weltner, Barbara
 Werner, Michael
 Wertz, James
 West, Mary Lou
 Wheaton, William
 Wheeler, J. Craig
 Whiter, William
 White, Nathaniel
 White, R. Stephen
 White, William
 Wickes, William
 Widing, Kenneth
 Will, Clifford
 Williamson, Richard
 Williams, Carol
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 Willner, Steven
 Wills, Derek
 Wing, Robert
 Wingert, David
 Witt, Adolf
 Wolf, George
 Wolfe, Arthur
 Wolff, Sidney
 Wooden, William
 Woodgate, Bruce
 Wooff, Neville
 Woosley, Stan
 Wu, Chi-Chao
 Wysocki, Mark
 Yahi, Amos
 Yeomans, Donald
 York, Donald
 Young, Andrew
 Yuan, Chi
 Zappala, R. R.
 Zuckerman, Ben

Weekes, Trevor
Weiler, Kurt
Weis, Edward
Weiskopf, Martin
Weinbeck, Anthony
Wells, Donald
Welther, Barbara
Werner, Michael
Wertz, James
West, Mary Lou
Wheaton, William
Wheeler, J. Craig
Whiter, William
White, Nathaniel
White, R. Stephen
White, William
Wickes, William
Widing, Kenneth
Will, Clifford
Williamson, Richard
Williams, Carol
Williams, James
Williams, Robert
Willner, Steven
Wills, Derek
Wing, Robert
Wingert, David
Witt, Adolf
Wolf, George
Wolfe, Arthur
Wolff, Sidney
Wooden, William
Woodgate, Bruce
Wooff, Neville
Woosley, Stan
Wu, Chi-Chao
Wysocki, Mark
Yahi, Amos
Yeomans, Donald
York, Donald
Young, Andrew
Yuan, Chi
Zappala, R. R.
Zuckerman, Ben

U.S. National Committee for the IAU

January/February 9
Field, George
Fisher, Philip
Fitch, W. S.
Fliegel, Henry
Franz, Otto
Fredrick, Laurence
Gaizauskas, V.
Galt, John
Gauss, John
Gaustad, John
Gibson, James
Gould, Robert
Gray, William
Haddock, Fred
Halliday, Ian
Hapke, Bruce
Hartwick, F.
Harvey, J. W.
Harwit, Martin
Heeschen, David
Heiles, Carl
Henriksen, S. W.
Henry, Richard
Henze, William
Hogg, David
Holmberg, E.
Howard, William
Hunten, Donald
Irvine, William
Jackson, E. S.
Jeffries, John
Johnson, H. R.
Jones, Charles
Jugaku, Jun
Kaftan-Kassim, May
Kaler, James
Karshner, Gary
Kaufman, Michele
Kinman, T. D.
Kissell, Kenneth
Klemola, A.
Klock, Benny
Kovalsky, Jean
Kozai, Yoshihide
Kraft, Robert
Krause, Helmut
Kuhi, Leonard
Kumar, Shiv
Kundu, Mukul
Kundig, Arlo
Larson-Leander, Gunnar
Liebenberg, Donald
Lindenblad, Irving
Livingston, W. C.
Low, Frank
Macconnell, Darrell
Malville, J. McKim
Marsden, Brian
Martin, William
Mathis, John
Maxwell, Alan
Meikle, Carl
Meintosh, Patrick
Menon, T. K.
Mertz, Lawrence
Mihalas, Dimitri
Miller, Richard
Moore, Elliott
Morton, Donald
Multholland, John-Derral
Mumford, George
Neff, John
Neupert, Werner
Nishida, Minoru
Nishimura, Shiro
Olsen, Kenneth
Olson, Edward
Parker, James
Parker, Robert
Parsons, Sidney
Parthasarathy, R.
Partridge, R. Bruce
Pascu, Dan
Peery, Benjamin
Peimbert, Manuel
Peters, James
Peterson, Laurence
Pierce, David
Poveda, Arcadio
Price, Stephon
Protheroe, William
Raff, Malcolm
Rea, Donald
Rickard, James
Roberts, Morton
Rodman, James
Roemer, Elizabeth
Rose, William
Saito, Sumisaburo
Sandmann, William
Sargent, Wallace
Scheer, Donald
Schmidt, Maarten
Seielstad, George
Shane, William
Shao, Cheng-Yuan
Shawcross, William
Sherman, Nevim
Shorthill, Richard
Simkin, Susan
Simon, George
Sofia, Sabatino
Solomon, L. H.
Solomonides, Panos
Sparks, Warren
Starrfield, Sumner
Stecher, Theodore
Stone, Sidney
Sturrock, Peter
Swenson, George
Tandberg-Hanssen, E.
Terzian, Yervant
Teske, Richard
Thomas, Norman
Thompson, A.
Richard
Toomre, Alar
Trafton, Laurence
Truran, James
Tull, Robert
Turner, Kenneth
Ulmschneider, Peter
Van Altena, Wm.
Van Den Bergh, Sidney
Vandervoort, Peter
Vandervoort, Gordon
Wehinger, Peter
Welch, William
Wentzel, Donat
West, Frederick
Westerhout, Gart
Westerlund, Bengt
Westerman, Cynthia
Weymann, Ray
Williams, John
Wilson, Robert
Wolff, Charles
Wolstencroft, Ramon
Wooley, Jon
Zirker, Jack

55-59 years

Arp, Halton
Athay, R. Grant
Baum, William
Bell, Barbara
Blanco, Victor
Boggess, A.
Boggess, Nancy
Brownlee, Robert
Burbridge, E.
Cameron, Winifred
Cox, Arthur
Davis, Robert
Dennison, Edwin
Fujita, Yoshio
Garstang, R. H.
Ghaffari, A.
Gingerich, Owen
Gleim, James
Johnson, Fred
Johnson, Hugh
Liller, William
Linnell, Albert
Locke, J. L.
Malison, Harriet
Mccarthy, Martin
Mortz, Lloyd
Parker, Eugene
Pecker, Jean-Claude
Sawyer, Constance
Schatzman, Evry
Schiffmacher, Edward
Schmidt, Gary
Seligman, David
Skumanich, Andrew
Smith, Bradford
Tiff, William
Wade, Campbell
Wehlau, Amelia
Weston, Edwin
Yoss, Kenneth

60-64 years

Bidelman, William
Duncombe, R.
Herbig, George
Horak, Henry
Jaffe, M. W.
Lippincott, Sarah
Mathews, Robert
Mcnamara, D.
Meinel, Aden
Roman, Nancy
Savedoff, Malcolm
Wilson, Albert

65+ years

Steel Lillibridge, Helen
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

We remind all PI’s that beginning 5 January 2009, NSF requires that all proposals that request funding to support postdoctoral researchers include a separate section describing 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:

“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. ... 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.”


OISE Program Summary

NSF’s Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) supports innovative awards and supplements that promote research through new international collaboration and that develop the next generation of globally engaged scientists and engineers. OISE funds international research and education activities in all NSF-supported disciplines involving any region of the world.

OISE has a number of solicitations for programs fostering international collaboration, including those for undergraduate and graduate students (International Research Experiences for Students, Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Projects, East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes), postdoctoral scholars (International Research Fellowships Program), and international planning visits and workshops. The Partnerships for International Research and Education program (PIRE – NSF 09-505) fosters the development of innovative models for long-term, international research and education partnerships by funding institution-to-institution, cutting edge research conducted by US universities in collaboration with foreign counterparts.

Investigators may also include international components in proposals submitted to any relevant NSF program, or request supplemental funding for projects already supported by NSF. Investigators are encouraged to consult early in the application process with both the disciplinary program manager and OISE program manager for that country. OISE works with all NSF areas to co-fund new awards and supplements that meet these criteria:

- True intellectual collaboration with foreign research partner (Foreign partner’s 2- pg biosketch & communication outlining project role must be included. If foreign institution will provide resources, also include an endorsement letter from the foreign institution.)
- New international collaborations, as opposed to well-established ones;
- Clear benefit to U.S. science/engineering community from expertise, facilities, or resources of the foreign collaborator; and
- Active research engagement of U.S. students and junior researchers at the foreign site.

Please see the OISE web site, at http://www.nsf.gov/oise, for a description of all programs and contact information by region and program.

Upcoming Deadlines for funding:
Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) (NSF 09-516). GOALI promotes university-industry partnerships by making project funds or fellowships/traineeships available to support industry-university linkages. Special interest is focused on affording the opportunity for:
- Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students to conduct research and gain experience in an industrial setting;
- Industrial scientists and engineers to bring industry’s perspective and integrative skills to academe; and
- Interdisciplinary university-industry teams to conduct research projects.

GOALI will target high-risk/high-gain research with a focus on fundamental research, new approaches to solving generic problems, development of innovative collaborative industry-university educational programs, and direct transfer of new knowledge between academe and industry. GOALI proposals are accepted at any time. See the program announcement at http://nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09516/nsf09516.htm for more information.

AST seeking reviewers

Learn about the review process at NSF and gain insights into what it takes to write a successful proposal by participating in the proposal review process. Reviewers perform an essential service for NSF and the community. They also see a wide range of proposals, both successful and unsuccessful, read about current science, exchange ideas with colleagues on the panel and at NSF, and learn about the process of panel review. The experience is one of the best ways to prepare for writing your own proposal.

If you would be interested in serving on a review panel at NSF, please let us know, by contacting a program officer (Nigel Sharp (nsharp@nsf.gov), Linda Sparke (lsparke@nsf.gov), Brian Patten (bpatten@nsf.gov), Don Terndrup (dterndru@nsf.gov) or Eileen Friel (efriel@nsf.gov)).
Committee on Employment

Choosing a Graduate School: Some Things to Think About

Author: AAS Employment Committee

In a career as an astronomer, few decisions matter more than the choice of graduate school. Graduate school is the place where you turn into a full-fledged and fully qualified member of the profession. A great experience can set you on your way with a whole lot of momentum and enthusiasm. For many years after you get your degree, your graduate advisor will be your strongest supporter. And, more than likely, you will spend at least half a decade in the locale you choose.

Researching Institutions

Creating a list of all of the graduate programs in astronomy is relatively straightforward, although some schools that offer research opportunities in astronomy can be harder to identify because they include their astronomy program inside a physics department. The American Institute of Physics maintains a comprehensive directory of graduate programs in physics and astronomy which can be accessed from their website (http://www.aip.org/) or from the convenient web page, http://www.gradschoolshopper.com/.

Sorting through this enormous list of grad programs can be daunting, however. Our best advice is to talk with professors and postdocs at your institution, to learn about the schools they recommend for you in your subfield(s) of interest. If you do not know any professional astronomers, ask the members of the physics faculty at your institution for any contacts in astronomy that they may have. Or you can contact astronomy professors at one of the schools you are considering and ask for advice given your particular interests and background. In addition, one potentially effective method to identify appropriate schools is to work backwards — identify researchers who have jobs like the one you want and find out where their degrees came from.

Department websites and personal contacts are key sources of information. You can also consult ranked lists of departments and research programs from places like the National Research Council (NRC) and the US News & World Report. These reports order departments based on various criteria such as scholarly achievement of the faculty and the availability of resources. General rankings are always controversial among astronomers, however, because people legitimately disagree about the relative importance of various factors. Use of citation indices and other statistical measures of the research impact of a department may also be informative (e.g. http://arXiv.org/abs/0811.0311), but citations are usually 5-10 years out of date and the status of up-and-coming departments changes more rapidly. Also, the best researchers do not always make the best advisors. In the end, the most relevant ranking is that which you derive on your own, based on how well each program matches with your interests, your needs, and your abilities.

You will need a solid list of perhaps 5-10 graduate schools to which you will apply. Each school should to be a place you would seriously consider going, with at least one or two potential advisors. It is important to include a range of programs, including 1-2 “safety” schools that you will definitely get into, several schools that you are very interested in attending, and a “stretch” school or two. Personal contacts may help you identify which schools belong in which categories.

Making the Choice

After you find out whether you are admitted to the schools on your list, you will likely be faced with a difficult choice. There are many aspects of each program to consider; a list of good questions to ask graduate programs and current graduate students is located at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/grad_questions.shtml. Your decision making process should include consideration of research opportunities, academic requirements, and personal issues, such as location, funding, and quality of life. Visiting schools you are serious about is also extremely important, so that you can get a real feel for what they are like; most schools will pay for at least part of a trip.

During your visit, you should talk with several faculty members, some of whom you might envision working with. Ultimately, finding an advisor with whom you can work productively is key to success during and after graduate school. It is important to identify more than one person you can work with at your school of choice, however, as personality conflicts and funding problems can occur. You should also talk with the current students to hear their perspectives on the department and its environs. Both the intensive experience within your graduate program and the broader setting outside of your department will play big roles in your life.

In the end, there is no one school that is perfect for everyone. The ultimate goal is to find a place where you, personally, have great opportunities.
Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy
Geoffrey Clayton, CSWA Chair, Louisiana State University, gclayton@fenway.phys.lsu.edu

The 3rd International Women in Physics Conference
AAS members Hannah Jang-Condell (University of Maryland/NASA-GSFC), who contributed this article, Emily Freeland (University of Wisconsin), Nicholas Murphy (University of Wisconsin) and Yilen Gómez Maqueo Chew (Vanderbilt University/Villanova) recently attended the Third International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP2008) in Seoul, South Korea. They were among over 330 scientists from nearly 70 countries from all corners of the world. Delegates came from African, Asian, European, Latin American, North American, and island nations. Jang-Condell, Freeland, and Murphy were members of the US delegation while Gómez Maqueo Chew represented Mexico. The meeting, held 7 to 10 October, was dedicated to celebrating the physics achievements of women throughout the world, networking toward new international collaborations, gaining skills for career success, and aiding the formation of active regional working groups to advance women in physics. Each country presented information about its statistics and its activities to increase women’s participation.

“I enjoyed this meeting and the chance I had to compare my experiences in astronomy with those of women in physics,” said Freeland. “I had extremely interesting conversations with women from Brazil, Canada, and South Africa, as well as my fellow US delegation members. Overall, the meeting helped reinforce, in my mind, the importance of role models, mentoring, and flexible family leave policies for both parents, as necessary conditions for increasing the number of women scientists.” Jang-Condell said, “this meeting was a terrific opportunity to share stories with women in physics from around the world. Seeing so many successful women physicists from around the globe and hearing their stories was very empowering. One of the successes of this meeting was bringing us all together to share ideas and resources to help women in physics around the world.” Dr. Youngah Park, a physicist who chairs the conference organizing committee, was recently elected to the Korean National Assembly from her district. She told the assembled participants, “I believe the positive effect of ICWIP2008 will go beyond the physics community and will have a strong effect on women leaders in all fields of science and technology.”

Worldwide fewer than 15% of physicists are women. More than 80% of the conference attendees were women. It was clear that the scarcity of women in physics, especially in leadership positions, is a problem for many countries. They cannot benefit fully from women’s ideas and approaches to improve their economic competitiveness or solve difficult problems, such as energy, health, and global sustainability. Women, men, institutions, and governments need to work together to encourage, educate, recruit, retain, advance, and promote more girls and women in physics and other science and technology professions. To that end, the conference participants unanimously approved a resolution presented at the 26th General Assembly International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) in Tsukuba Japan on 15 October 2008. The First International Conference on Women in Physics was held in Paris in 2002. The Second conference was hosted by Rio de Janeiro in 2005. Since the first conference most countries have made some progress in attracting girls to physics, increasing the proportion of physics degrees to women, and promoting women physicists. However, the proportion of physicists who are women is well below 20% in nearly all countries—to few to have maximum benefit for society.

The representatives assembled in Seoul unanimously recommend the following actions to the IUPAP 26th General Assembly in Tsukuba, Japan:

1. Promote through the IUPAP Liaison Committees and physical societies the formation of additional regional or national working groups for women in physics. These working groups would assist worldwide in the efforts to increase the participation of women, while being a resource to attract, retain, and advance women in physics.

2. Publicize site visits as an effective tool for improving the “climate” of physics workplaces, and encourage their implementation to help the workplaces become more supportive of both women and men. For a site visit, an institution or physics department invites a team of physicists to assess the work environment for women and to give advice for improvements in gender equity.

3. Actively encourage organizers of IUPAP-sponsored conferences to provide, associated with the conference program (a) professional development workshops for attendees and (b) outreach activities aimed at the public and to engage both girls and boys from an early age in the excitement of physics.

4. Charge the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics (a) to oversee the administration of a global survey of physicists in 2009, (b) to continue to assess the progress of women in physics, (c) to make useful resources available globally through the internet, (d) to organize the 4th International Conference on Women in Physics in 2011, and (e) to report at the 27th IUPAP General Assembly in 2011.

5. Urge IUPAP Liaison Committees and physical societies to take the leadership in their countries to encourage broad participation of their members in the global survey of physicists.

Update on the Longitudinal Study of Astronomy Graduate Students
Contributed by Rachel Ivie and Susan White (Statistical Research Center, American Institute of Physics (AIP))

Data collection was recently completed for the first phase of the AAS/AIP longitudinal survey of astronomy graduate students. The project, which began in early 2007, was the result of recommendations made at the 2003 Women in Astronomy Conference. Eventually, the study will track astronomy graduate students over the course of several years.
Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy continued

The study has several purposes: to collect data on people who obtain graduate degrees in astronomy, to compare attrition rates for men and women, to collect data on people who leave the field of astronomy, and to collect data on astronomers who work outside the traditional employment sectors of academia and the observatories. During the first wave of data collection, we received more than 1100 responses that are useable for the analyses. Approximately 700 men and more than 400 women responded, representing 148 different graduate programs. Our preliminary analyses show that women and men who have been in the program more than three years are: less likely to agree that the environment in the department is welcoming, more likely to believe they lack ability, and are less confident in their careers. Final results will be available in the fall.

Women in Astronomy and Space Science: Meeting the Challenges in an Increasingly Diverse Scientific Work Place

Goddard Space Flight Center, together with the University of Maryland, are hosting a meeting on 21-23 October 2009, at the University of Maryland Conference Center on the topic of women in astronomy and space science with a focus on not only gender but generation and minorities. This meeting follows up on the “Women in Astronomy” meeting hosted by Space Telescope Science Institute in 1992 and the Pasadena meeting hosted by Caltech in 2002. The topics include: 1) statistics on the state of the field, establishing trends over the last 15 years including the “longitudinal studies” of age vs. makeup of the field and identifying areas for celebration or for concern; 2) research on the impact of gender/generational/cultural differences in the science workforce, and 3) issues concerning the work environment and best practices for success of scientists in a diverse work force and 4) a special session on issues of minorities in science, and women in Earth Science. There is evidence for considerable success in increasing the percentage of women in the field of science and so we aim here to focus on issues concerning the success of those in the field. This meeting will highlight best practices to help the diverse scientific work force to succeed, and will address both the junior members of the field, as well as those who mentor and manage today’s diverse scientific workforce. Information on this meeting will be available at http://wia2009.gsfc.nasa.gov.

CSWA web site

We are continuing to upgrade the CSWA’s presence on the web. We plan more improvements in the coming. You can find us at, www.aas.org/cswa.

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addressed in appropriations in the spring. The AAS will continue to advocate strongly that conference attendance is a vital component of scientific collaboration, and that the restriction on conference spending as written has numerous negative consequences for the scientific community.

Decadal Survey

Roger Blandford, of Stanford University, is the chair of Astro2010, the next Astronomy & Astrophysics decadal survey. The decadal surveys are produced by the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences. The committee will “survey the field of space- and ground-based astronomy and astrophysics, recommending priorities for the most important scientific and technical activities of the decade 2010-2020.” Rounding out the executive committee are, Martha Haynes (Vice Chair – Science Frontiers), Cornell University, John P. Huchra (Vice Chair – State of the Profession) Harvard University, Marcia Rieke (Vice Chair – Program Prioritization), University of Arizona and Lynne Hillenbrand (Executive Officer), California Institute of Technology.

A presentation by Dr. Blandford is scheduled for the AAS meeting in Long Beach, as is a town hall meeting to discuss the survey. Meetings of the committee in DC and around the country often contain open sessions. You can check the decadal survey web site for more information, as well as see the full membership. (http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bpa/Astro2010.html). Our Pasadena meeting in June will feature many decadal survey components. Plans include public meetings of the decadal committee and panels to be held in the convention center along with the rest of the conference. In addition, audio from Dr. Blandford’s presentation to the astronomy department chairs meeting, sponsored by the AAS, is available on our public policy blog—blog.aas.org.

The Next Budget

One difficulty in assessing the budget atmosphere for the decadal committee is the uncertainty in the budget for 2010, and the yet unresolved problem of FY 2009. We are currently operating under a continuing resolution for FY 2009, continuing the funding levels of FY 2008, which has meant for a continuation of the flat science budgets of the past. It’s yet unclear how the FY 2009 budget will be handled by the new congress and new administration, but a large omnibus budget is certainly a strong possibility.

For the FY 2010 budget, which must be introduced by law in February of 2009, the release will only be a minimal budget outline, containing the top-line spending level for each agency and a few policy details for a few key priorities. The budget of a new president usually is a fulfillment of campaign pledges, so expect to see a budget that echoes what President-elect Obama promised in the campaign. However, the full policy budget will not be released until April of 2009; with full details from every government agency. How any large government spending package to stimulate the economy fits into the normal budget cycle remains to be seen—but it is likely that the new administration will seek to quickly pass an emergency economic rescue plan outside the normal budget / appropriations process.
Calendar

AAS & AAS Division 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  

*Exoplanets and Disks: Their Formation and Diversity  
9-12 March 2009, Kailua-Kona, HI  
Contact: Dr. Tomonori Usuda  
(usuda@naoj.org)  
http://www.naoj.org/SubaruConf09/

Commemoration of Edwin E. Salpeter  
14 March 2009, Cornell University  
http://astro.cornell.edu/events/salpetercommemoration/index.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/

*Beyond JWST: The Next Steps in UV-Optical-NIR Space Astronomy  
26-27 March 2009, Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Marc Postman  
(postman@stsci.edu)

*Recent Directions in Astrophysical Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiation Hydrodynamics  
30 March-3 April 2009, Boulder, CO  
Contact: Keith MacGregor (kmac@hao.ucar.edu)  
http://www.hao.ucar.edu/events/dimitri-fest/

Intermediate-Mass Black Holes: from First Light to Galactic Nuclei  
1-3 April 2009, Irvine, CA  
Contact: Aaron Barth  
imbh2009@gamblor.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)  
excp.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

*IAU Symposium No. 261 Relativity in Fundamental Astronomy  
27 Apr-1 May 2009, Virginia Beach, VA  
Contact: Sergei A. Klioner (sergei.klioner@tu-dresden.de)  
www.aas.org/divisions/meetings/iau/

*Stellar Pulsation, Challenges for Theory and Observation  
31 May-5 June, Santa Fe, NM  
Contact: Joyce Guzik (joy@lanl.gov)  
http://www.lanl.gov/conferences/stellar_pulsation

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)

*Second Exeter Astronomy Conference  
21-26 June 2009  
Contact: John A. Blackwell  
jblackwell@exeter.edu)  
http://www.exeter.edu/ 
Astronomy/4380_4634.aspx

*The Many Faces of Centaurus A  
28 June - 3 July 2009, Sydney, Australia  
Contact: Ilana Feain  
(Ilana.Feain@csiro.au)  
http://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/cena/

*Supernova Remnants and Pulsar Wind Nebulae in the Chandra Era  
8-17 July, Cambridge, MA  
Contact: Paul Green (snr09@cfa.harvard.edu)  
http://cxc.harvard.edu/cdo/snr09/

*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 cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings.
Inauguration mania has gripped Washington. Voters in 2008 expanded the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and elected Barack Obama the 44th President of the United States. The mood on election night on the streets of Washington, which voted 93% for Barack Obama, was quite celebratory. Now, the city and its residents brace for 2-4 million people expected to visit for the inauguration on January 20th. Tickets to various inaugural balls are going for $1000 or more. Metro is warning that the subway can not possibly accommodate the transportation needs of the crowds on Inauguration day. DC residents are posting ads on Craigslist, hoping to rent out their apartments or homes for hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Thankfully, the AAS Executive Office will be closed on January 20th. I certainly do not envy any commuters who are expected to show up at work that day.

The Transition
President-elect Obama has been rounding out his cabinet and other appointments, with the focus of the transition on the economy. Some form of economic stimulus, through large government spending is widely expected; focusing on infrastructure and energy. It is possible that science could be included in the stimulus—most likely for NSF, DOE Office of Science, and NIST. These are the agencies that were included in the America COMPETES Act and the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative.

Nobel-prize winning physicist Stephen Chu has been appointed to run the Department of Energy. While DOE is not a big player in astrophysics funding, the inclusion of a prominent scientist in Obama’s cabinet suggests that the Obama administration will place a high value on science and scientific advice and expertise, especially when it comes to developing new and alternative energy sources. Meanwhile, the Orlando Sentinel reported tension between the NASA transition team and NASA administrator Mike Griffin. Griffin, however, disputed the Sentinel’s characterization of the discussion, and says NASA is “fully cooperating” with the transition.

NASA Travel
I sent an Informational Email on the provision in the NASA Authorization Act concerning restrictions on NASA conference travel, which affects NASA civil servants at headquarters or at NASA centers. NASA has permitted FY 2008 money to be spent on travel through the end of 2008 calendar year. The AAS continues to work to address this issue on Capitol Hill.

From what I have learned, the language of the authorization act is not binding on the appropriations process, and that this issue can be