

NEWSLETTER

The American Astronomical Society • 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20009-1231 • 202-328-2010 • aas@aas.org



Incoming President Anneila Sargent talks with Adriaan Blaauw, former Director General of the ESO, at a reception in the Manchester Town Hall during the summer's General Assembly of the IAU in England. Manchester's Town Hall is famous for the paintings by the Pre-Raphaelite painter, Ford Maddox Brown, this one depicting, appropriately, the first observation of the transit of Venus in 1639 by the English astronomer, Jeremiah Horrocks (1618?–1641). Horrocks is also credited with estimating more accurately than anyone else up to that time, the distance of the sun to the earth.

Photo by Tom Geballe

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Anneila Sargent, afs@astro.caltec.edu

Thanks to our British IAU Hosts. With the academic year now well under way, it seems a long time since the summer conference season. But this was one of those special years when the International Astronomical Union holds a General Assembly and I want to take this opportunity to thank our British hosts in Manchester for their warm hospitality — which sometimes contrasted sharply with the accompanying weather! Aside from the excitement of the scientific results presented, the General Assembly is notable for the overwhelming air of camaraderie among the attending astronomers, who come from all over the world. Long-lost friends and colleagues pop up everywhere. Is this because so many of us travel widely, especially to telescopes? It made me wonder if there would be significant “astro-social” changes in the future, as remote observing becomes the norm.

Continue Our Science Education of Congress.

Closer to home, and closer in time too, the VA-HUD Appropriations bill for FY 2001 has been approved. Here the NSF and NASA appropriations that so affect research in astronomy are defined. This year astronomy fares quite well — see the WASHINGTON

2000-2001 ELECTIONS

BALLOT, CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Half of this issue is devoted to the AAS Election. The ballot enclosed in this *Newsletter* lists the candidates who are standing for election. Their candidate statements begin on page 2.

- Vote for no more candidates than the number indicated for each position;
- Sign the envelope to validate your ballot and return it to the Office of the Secretary by **Wednesday, 31 January 2001**;
- *Please safeguard your ballot; we cannot send a replacement should it be lost.*

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NEWS column (last page) for budget details and late-breaking news. Of course, favorable budgets result from the fact that the public supports federal expenditure on astronomical research. People have not only come to expect to share in exciting astronomical discoveries, they want to make sure they continue. We would be foolish to assume that, without further effort on our part, this situation will last forever. We must act to ensure that our science continues to receive the funding it needs to maintain its vitality and excite and educate the public.

The new Decadal Survey is an important component of this proactive approach. It demonstrates our willingness to step up to our fiscal responsibilities by evaluating and prioritizing our scientific dreams. Lawmakers appreciate this attitude, but after November there will be newcomers in Congress who may know little of astronomy's achievements and goals. It is our responsibility to make sure they learn quickly — by February, the new President will begin the appropriations cycle once again by submitting his proposed budget to Congress. George Bush has pledged to double the NIH budget while remaining relatively silent on support for other sciences. Al Gore has stated he would continue the current Administration's plan to increase Federal investment in R&D. We all know that

Continued on page 19

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

FOR PRESIDENT (vote for one):

Candidates:

James E. Hesser

Catherine A. Pilachowski

Duties of the President:

- Presides over Council Meetings;
- Serves on the Council as President-Elect, President, and Past President;
- Presides over the Annual Business Meeting;
- Chairs Executive Committee;
- Represents the AAS at official functions and before other organizations;
- Serves when required as official spokesperson for the AAS;
- Appoints members to various AAS Committees.

Current President: Anneila I. Sargent

Past President: Robert D. Gehrz

James E. Hesser

Affiliation: Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, National Research Council Canada.

Position: Director, Optical Astronomy and Dominion Astrophysical Observatory.

PhD: Princeton, 1967.

Areas of scientific interest: Ground- and space-based studies of stellar populations and chemical evolution in the Milky Way and other galaxies, with emphasis on the cosmologically-interesting oldest stars and star clusters.

AAS positions: Councilor, 1984-1987; Vice President, 1991-1994; Shapley Lecturer, 1986-present; Committee on Meetings, 1985-1986; Oversight committee on news releases, 1986; Committee on Direct and Indirect Goals, 1987; Committee for the Review of Society Goals, 1987-1988; Tinsley Prize Committee, 1989; Committee on Small Research Grants, 1991-1994; Co-chair, Committee on Journal Management, 1994; Co-chair, ApJ Editor Search Committee, 1995-1996; Russell Lectureship Committee, 2000-2003.

Other experience relevant to AAS service: Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), Vice-President, President, 1984-1988;

Publications the ASP, Board of Editors, 1981-1992 and 1994-1996, Chair 1984-87; Joint Subcommittee on Space Astronomy, Canadian Astronomical Society, Chair 1983-1989; Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), Board of Directors, 1997-2000; Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Board of Directors, Vice-Chair and Chair, 1998-2001; K-12 Lecturer, British Columbia Scientists and Innovators in the Schools, 1989-present; Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion, 1997.

AURA: Cerro Tololo InterAmerican Observatory (CTIO) Time Allocation Committee, 1989-1991; AURA/National Optical Astronomy Observatories (NOAO) Visiting Committee, 1991, Chair 1992-1994; CTIO Director Search Committees, 1985 & 1992-1993; "Baltimore Charter" Integration Team, Women at Work in Astronomy, 1992-1993; Gemini Telescopes Director Search Committee, 1993-1994; NOAO Director Review Committee, 1996; Future Directions of NOAO Committee, 1998-1999.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/ National Science Foundation (NSF): NASA Scientific Working Group on Small Attached Payloads for Astrophysics from Space Station, 1987-1990; NASA Small Explorer Mission Review Panel, 1988-1989; NSF Review Committees on Co-operative Agreement and Renewing NOAO, 1996; NASA Evaluation Panels on Hubble Space Telescope Refurbishment Missions, 1994, 1997-1998; Panel Chair, NASA-NSF Review for SIMS and Nearby Stars joint AO.

Statement: It seems difficult to imagine a more exciting time than today to be an astronomer, yet the McKee-Taylor Report, "Astronomy and Astrophysics in the New Millennium," compellingly describes the potential for even more breath-taking, fundamental results over the next decade and beyond. The active role that the AAS plays in advocating decadal survey goals is vital for US and world astronomy. Maintaining the quality and relevance of such AAS professional activities as the superb journals, meetings, career services, and public dissemination of accurate information about our discoveries is equally vital. I support the increased efforts of the past decade to reach out to educators in the AAS and in society more broadly, including co-operation with the ASP and other organizations. The beneficial impact of the above AAS roles extends far beyond the AAS membership and the US borders. If selected, I am committing to spend the time necessary to strengthen, in collaboration with the Council and membership, those activities, and to promote achievement of the McKee-Taylor Report goals. As during my previous service on Council (when, *e.g.*, I suggested the Dissertation Abstracts to improve the visibility of recent PhDs at AAS meetings), I will do my utmost to provide thoughtful input and leadership to AAS affairs.

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Items of general interest to be considered for publication in the *Newsletter* should be sent to lscholz@aas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcomed. Deadlines in 2001 are: 19 January (for March); 13 April (for June); 22 June (for August); 24 August (for October) and 12 October (for December). For further information see <http://www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.html>.

Letters to the Editor on current issues of importance to astronomers are welcomed. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be received by Jeff Linsky, Associate Editor, Letters, no later than one week prior to the *Newsletter* deadline (above). You may contact Jeff Linsky by email jlinsky@jila.colorado.edu, Tel: 303-492-7838, or FAX: 303-492-5235. The Associate Editor may edit letters, but will consult with authors before doing so. Letters will be published at the discretion of the Editors.

Items submitted for the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to ela@aas.org.

AAS Publications Coordinator:	Judy Johnson
Editor:	Robert W. Milkey
Associate Editor:	Lynn Scholz
Associate Editor, Letters:	Jeffrey Linsky, U. Colorado

Catherine A. Pilachowski

Affiliation: National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

Position: Astronomer.

PhD: University of Hawaii, 1975.

Areas of scientific interest: Stellar evolution, nucleosynthesis, stellar compositions, Globular Clusters.

AAS Positions & Dates: Committee on the Status of Women, 1980-1982, Chair, 1981-1982; Nominating Committee 1983-1985, Chair 1984; Shapley Lecturer 1982-2000; Publications Board 1989-1991, Chair 1990-1993; Council 1997-2000.

Other experiences relevant to Service in AAS office:

Astronomical Society of the Pacific: Board of Directors 1980-1986, Board of Editors 1993-1996, Nominating Committee 1999-2001; International Astronomical Union (IAU): Organizing Committee, Commission 37 1982-1988, Vice President, Commission 37 1988-1991, Organizing Committee, Commission 29 1988-1991; US National Committee to the IAU 1999-2001; American Association for the Advancement of Science: Chair, Astronomy Section 1991-1992; Election to Fellow 1993, Nominating Committee 1999-2001; NSF Advisory Committee on Astronomical Sciences 1989-1991; NSF Astronomy Division Visiting Committee 1996; Secretary, Board of Directors of the WIN Corporation 1990-1999.

Statement: Candidates often write about the crucial role the Society plays in American astronomy, what the important issues are, and how they can provide the leadership needed for the AAS to meet the future. I want to address a different question: why should you vote in this election? The Nominating Committee has filled the slate with good candidates, all of whom bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the Society's table, and all of whom will lead the AAS effectively. The Society will continue to serve the needs of astronomers independent of the outcome of this election; nonetheless, your vote matters. For the AAS, the process of the election is as important as the outcome.

Your vote is important because voting is the simplest step you can take to connect with the larger community of astronomy. By voting, you affirm that you care about our journals and meetings, and about the education, public policy, and employment programs of the Society, whether you agree or not with the details of these programs. By voting, you accept part of the responsibility for our Society and for our future. Most importantly, by voting you become engaged in the community of astronomers, helping to strengthen the mutual ties among all the different sub-disciplines, institutions, affiliations, interests, and individuals that together make up our community.

The strength of the AAS is its members. When the Society's members contribute time, ideas, and energy to our community, the Society can serve us well. Participation by members gives us more valuable, more meaningful, and more diverse programs for the benefit of all astronomy. Participation by members provides the broadest forum for input to the NSF, NASA, and the National Research Council, and to the many other institutions with which astronomers interact. In the coming years, a strong community will be increasingly important both within the national arena and within our own backyards, as we work together to forge the new vision laid out in the Decadal Survey into a reality. If I am chosen to serve as President, my highest priority will be to work through the AAS to strengthen our sense of community.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (vote for one)

Candidates:

Joseph A. Burns

Suzan Edwards

Duties of a Vice-President:

- Serves on Council;
- Responsible for selecting invited speakers for AAS meetings;
- Responsible for overall scientific content of AAS meetings;
- Two senior Vice-Presidents serve on the Executive Committee.

Current Vice-Presidents:

Robert C. Kennicutt, Jr.*

J. Craig Wheeler

Robert E. Williams

*term expires June 2001

Joseph A. Burns

Affiliation: Cornell University.

Position: Irving P. Church Professor of Engineering and Astronomy.

PhD: Cornell University, 1966.

Areas of scientific interest: Origin and evolution of solar system, celestial mechanics, planetary rings, dynamics of small bodies in the solar system (dust, asteroids, meteoroids, satellites), spacecraft exploration, space policy.

AAS positions and dates: Division on Dynamical Astronomy: Committee 1987-1990, Chair 2000-2001; Division for Planetary Sciences: Committee 1979-1982, Chair 1983-1984.

Other experience relevant to service in AAS office: NASA's Space and Earth Sciences Advisory Committee, 1984-1987; NRC's Space Studies Board, 1989-1995: Chair, Committee on Planetary and Lunar Exploration, 1992-1995; Editor of *ICARUS* 1979-1997; Board of Reviewing Editors, *Science Magazine*, 2000-2002; Decadal Panel, UVOIR from Space, 1999; Vice-President, IAU Commission B, 1997-1999; Space Science Working Group, 1984-present; Meeting Chair: (local and program), IAU Satellites, 1974; (local), DPS, 1983; (local and program) IAU Planetary Satellites, 1983; DDA (program), 2000.

Statement: Even though the AAS is functioning well, it is not perfect. The AAS does an enviable job at publicizing our science, but we could improve our efforts in education, especially to younger citizens. The astronomical community is often justifiably congratulated on the political effectiveness of our decadal reports, but we need to be equally pro-active inside the Beltway during the other nine years. The tools of astronomical research—space projects and large ground-based facilities—have become more international, but the AAS (officers, meetings, invited papers and awards) has remained national; we should seek out and welcome greater participation from abroad. The Society's publications are flourishing by all standards, but may have grown so big as to be less effective; how can the ongoing electronic revolution in publishing improve their delivery of information? The AAS and most of its Divisions are good at what they do, but benefits might accrue if these professional groups were better integrated and the Divisions better represented at AAS meetings. The AAS Council will need to be informed, alert and active to have the Society's second century improve on its first.

VICE-PRESEIDENT CANDIDATE STATEMENTS*Continued from previous page.***Suzan Edwards***Affiliation:* Five College Astronomy, Smith College.*Position:* Professor of Astronomy.*PhD:* University of Hawaii, 1980.*Areas of scientific interest:* Stellar evolution, formation of stars and planetary systems, accretion disks and winds.*AAS positions and dates:* Member, Education Board, 1997-1999; Co-Chair, Education Policy Board, 1994-1997; Chair, Annenberg Prize Committee, 1993-1994; Chair, Ad Hoc Education Committee, 1992-1994; Chair, Education Advisory Board, 1992-1994; AAS Councilor, 1991-1994.*Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:* Member, National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Decadal Study, Panel on Education and Public Policy, 1998-2000; Member, NAS Task Group on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1995-1997; Member, NAS Decadal Study, Panel on Ground-based Optical/Infrared Astronomy, 1989-1990.*Statement:* This is a time of great change for the field of astronomy. A new generation of telescopes and instrumentation is poised to open new avenues of understanding; institutional and international boundaries are softening; and there is an unprecedented commitment to all levels of science education. The AAS has a leadership role to play in all three arenas — science, public policy, and education — and as a representative of the Council and a member of the Executive Committee, I would work to ensure that all three receive careful consideration and attention. In addition, the prime responsibility of an AAS Vice President is for the overall scientific content of meetings. I would work to ensure both quality and breadth in this arena.**AAS SECRETARY****Candidate:****Arlo U. Landolt***Responsibilities of the Secretary:*

- Voting Member of the Executive Committee and Council;
- Preparing and distributing the agendas and minutes of Council Meetings;
- Official signor for the AAS;
- Sits on AIP Governing Board (when elected);
- Member and Secretary, USNC-IAU;
- Collects, counts and certifies ballots for all Society elections;
- Solicits nominations for AAS awards; and
- Selects session chairs for meetings.

Present Secretary:

Arlo U. Landolt*

term expires June 2001*Arlo U. Landolt***Affiliation:* Louisiana State University.*Position:* Professor.*PhD:* Indiana University, 1963.*Areas of scientific interest:* Photometry, standard stars, variable stars, star clusters.*AAS positions and dates:* Secretary, 1980-89; 1995-2001.*Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:* Secretary, Section D, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1970-1978; Program Director, National Science Foundation, 1975-1976; Secretary, US National Committee for IAU, 1981-1989, 1995-2001; Member, Governing Board, American Institute of Physics, 1985-1991; 1995-2001.*Statement:* Astronomy as a discipline is flourishing as never before, with more wonders to be savored than one readily can absorb. Our Society has the responsibility to spread the insights gathered from these data to those who support us, whether they be the public, legislators, or foundations. We astronomers derive great personal pleasure from the enjoyment that the universe and its components bring to us. We as astronomers need to continue to work hard to exhibit and extol this excitement to the greater community. As Secretary, I will do my best to help further the cause of astronomy, and of science, as well as perform all the expected duties of Secretary. My experience will provide the corporate memory that, together with the flux of ideas from the other Officers and the Councilors, should combine to make a more efficient, useful, and supportive organization for the membership and the discipline.**COUNCILOR (vote for no more than 3)****Candidates:****Thomas R. Ayres****Dana E. Backman****Sun Kwok****Susana Lizano****Adrian L. Melott****Robert Rosner***Duties of Councilors:*

- Serve as part of the governing board of the AAS; and
- Have the legal responsibility to help make all decisions to manage, direct, and control the affairs and property of the Society.

Current Councilors:

John P. Huchra*

John C. Mather*

Neil D. Tyson*

Roger D. Blandford

Debra M. Elmegreen

Douglas N. C. Lin

Charles J. Lada

Dimitri M. Mihales

Ellen G. Zweibel

terms expire June 2001*Thomas R. Ayres***Affiliation:* Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy, University of Colorado.*Position:* Research Professor (Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences).*PhD:* University of Colorado, 1975.*Areas of scientific interest:* Cool stars and the sun; UV, x-ray, and IR spectroscopy; model atmospheres and radiative transfer; image processing and data analysis.*AAS positions and dates:* liaison with Solar Physics Division (1996-present).

Other experience relevant to service in AAS office: Numerous users' committees, and ad hoc working groups.

Statement: I've been an active astronomer for thirty years, during a period that has seen astounding revolutions in satellites, high-performance computing, and ground based telescopes. These remarkable technical achievements have been accompanied by equally dramatic changes in the demographics of employment and teaching in astronomy: "soft money" and "outreach" have been major additions to our lexicon. Through all of this, the AAS has provided a major focus for the needs and concerns of professional astronomers and a key point of contact to the outside world: the general public, news media, politicians, federal funding agencies, and philanthropic organizations. Successfully maintaining these varied relationships depends critically upon the people who run the show: the AAS executive officers, the councilors, and the committee members. I would bring to the council my own varied experiences as a soft-money funded researcher, biennial teacher of graduate classes, player on the fields of space astronomy, dabbler in daytime/nighttime ground-based observing, and model solar systems builder. I also would bring my experiences working in the world of politics, and I don't mean just the intrigues of university departments and machinations of our favorite space-age bureaucracies, but the real world of stuffing envelopes and phone-banking to elect progressive representatives at the local, state, and national levels. I would welcome the opportunity to serve the community, as an AAS councilor.

Dana Edward Backman

Affiliation: Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster.

Position: Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy.

PhD: University of Hawai'i, 1985.

Areas of scientific interest: Star and planet formation, properties of nearby stars, extrasolar planet detection, stellar age indicators, habitable zones, astrobiology, science education.

AAS positions:

Other experiences relevant to service in AAS office: NASA Nearby Stars project scientist, 1998-present; Terrestrial Planet Finder science working group, 1997-2000; member of SIRTf's IRAC and MIPS instruments' GTO teams; HST TAC (star formation and circumstellar disks panel); NASA ADP and Origins peer review panels.

Statement: I would like to be a voice on the AAS Council for the many astronomers whose research often makes use of small telescopes, visitor time at national observatories, and Internet-accessible databases, and for astronomers in primarily teaching positions at small colleges and universities.

I support work by the AAS, ASP, and APS to help astronomers share teaching materials and methods, combining the best of time-tested techniques with results of recent pedagogical research.

I also wish to emphasize the responsibility of all astronomers to commit significant time and energy to public education and outreach, and will seek ways the AAS can help us carry out this responsibility. Such efforts are a vital long-term investment for continuation of the strong public support our field enjoys.

Sun Kwok

Affiliation: University of Calgary

Position: Professor and Canada Council Killam Fellow

PhD: University of Minnesota, 1974

Areas of scientific interest: Late stages of stellar evolution, planetary nebulae, interstellar chemistry, infrared astronomy.

AAS positions and dates:

Other experience relevant to service in AAS office: Chairman, IAU Working Group on Planetary Nebulae, 1994-present; Principal investigator (Canada) for the Odin mission, 1994-present; Member of Advisory Panel, Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Academia Sinica, 1993-present; Member, Editorial Board of *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific*, 1993-1996.

Statement: Astronomy is in a golden era as we enter the new century. With an increasing number of space missions and ground-based surveys such as 2MASS and SLOAN, a large amount of data will be generated. The wide availability of data in the public domain, coupled with the decreasing costs of CCDs and computers, will allow frontier research programs be carried out at small and medium-size institutions. We should make use of this opportunity to broaden the research base in astronomy and involve more people in our quest for the understanding of the universe.

Astronomy is one of the few scientific disciplines that enjoys a high profile with the general public. Astronomers also have a very positive image among young people. As professional astronomers, we have an obligation to communicate the excitement that we feel about our work to the public. As a member of the AAS council, I will promote activities in education and public outreach. In addition to the intrinsic merit of such activities, better communication with the public will ensure the continued support of our profession, which relies almost entirely on public funding.

Astronomy is a truly international science. I would like to see AAS develop stronger ties with professional associations in Europe, Asia, and South America.

AAS has played an important role as the collective voice of professional astronomers. As a council member, I will ensure that the AAS continues to be responsive to the concerns of all members, and to effectively represent the discipline to government and private interests.

Susana Lizano

Affiliation: Instituto de Astronomia, UNAM.

Position: Professor.

PhD: University of California, Berkeley, 1988.

Areas of scientific interest: Star formation, interstellar medium.

AAS positions and dates:

Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:

Statement: One of the main challenges of the AAS is to explain to the public and the government the importance of astronomy. It is a priority task of the AAS to transmit to the public the enthusiasm of discovery of new knowledge about our Universe and to educate the government as to the importance of the enlargement of human culture. It is true that astronomical research produces forefront technological developments that will have a direct social impact. Nevertheless, it has been through the search of pure knowledge that humanity has advanced in quantum steps in all the fields of science. As a North American organization, the American Astronomical Society can profit from the energy and work of all its members, including those in Canada and Mexico. If elected, I will work hard to pursue the scientific and educational goals of the society.

COUNCILOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS*Continued from previous page.***Adrian L. Melott***Affiliation:* University of Kansas.*Position:* Professor of Physics and Astronomy.*PhD:* University of Texas, 1981.*Areas of scientific interest:* Physical cosmology (large-scale structure, dark matter), QSO absorption spectra, UV background.*AAS positions and dates:* Member, DDA; organizer of AAS topical session, 1995.*Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:* Organizer of five workshops, 1988-1998, including one at Aspen Summer Institute, 1994. Fellow of the American Physical Society since 1996; founding board member, Kansas Citizens for Science, 1999. NASA UV-MOWG, 1991-1994.*Statement:* We are in a period of rapid expansion of opportunities in astronomy, through a flood of new data collected and to be available in the near future. Theory, simulation, and data analysis software are making possible many new insights at this time. The public is extremely interested in these results. Science-related journalism generates the biggest response from medical news, dinosaurs, and anything to do with astrophysics. There is a decoupling between this public interest and the support level of astronomical research. We have not been clever about translating public interest into funding. It is an accident of history that astronomy and physics are separate sciences. I would like to see closer cooperation with the APS, particularly the Astrophysics Division.

Science is under general attack. Some examples are what Feynman called "cargo cult science" (e.g. shoe magnets); postmodern relativism (democracy of viewpoints) in academia; and, of course, the creationist assault on origins as recently exemplified by the Kansas State Board of Education. I will push for the AAS to be much more proactive in communicating the nature of science; my experience as an activist in this effort will provide considerable insight into what is possible and what is useful.

Robert Rosner*Affiliation:* University of Chicago, Enrico Fermi Institute and Departments of Astronomy & Astrophysics and Physics.*Position:* William E. Wrather Distinguished Service Professor.*PhD:* Harvard University, 1976.*Areas of scientific interest:* Solar and stellar physics, and theoretical astrophysics.*AAS positions and dates:**Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:* Chair, Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Chicago, 1991-1997; Chair, Visiting Committee, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 1995; Trustee, Adler Planetarium, 1990-1998; Member-at-large, AURA Board, 1994-1997, Member, 1997-1999; Member, NASA Information Systems and Science Operations Working Group, 1996-1998; Member, NAS Board on Physics and Astronomy (BPA), Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics ("McCray panel"), 1994; Chair, Nominating Committee, APS Astrophysics Division, 1994-1995; Member, NAS Committee on Astronomy & Astrophysics, 1996-1998; Member, NAS Solar Physics from Ground ("Parker") Committee, 1997-1998; Member, NAS National Research Council (NRC) Committee on Computational Physics, 1997-1998; Chair, Theory

Panel of NAS NRC Committee on Fusion Science, 1999-present; Member, NAS NRC Committee on Plasma Sciences, 1999-present; Member, High Altitude Observatory (HAO)/National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Scientific Advisory Committee, 1999-present; Member, Evaluation Committee, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam, German Research Council, 1999; Member, Review Committee on Physics and Astronomy, Research Council of Norway, 1999-2000; Review Team, University of Arizona, Tucson, Physics Department, May 2000; Committee of Visitors, NSF Atmospheric Sciences (ATM)/UCAR/NCAR (ULAPOS) Section, August 2000; Member, NAS Committee on Solar and Space Physics, 2000-2002.

Statement: The American Astronomical Society serves as the primary public "face" of the US astronomical community, and as such, it is essential that it accurately represent this community. This can only happen if there is active involvement in our Society on the part of those it seeks to represent. My aim in standing for election to the AAS Council is to do my part in playing this role of representation, both in the fields of my own particular research interests and in the larger context of astronomy's ties to physics and the geosciences.**USNC-IAU, Category I (vote for one)****Candidates:****Ronald J. Allen****You-Hua Chu***Duties of AAS Representative to the US National Committee of the International Astronomical Union (USNC-IAU):*

- Responsible for making decisions regarding US participation in the IAU;
- Recommends astronomers for IAU membership;
- Reviews IAU Travel Grant Applications; and
- Represents the US at IAU General Assemblies.

Current Representatives:

Richard Mushotzky*

James W. Liebert

Ramesh Narayan

term expires 31 December 2001*Ronald J. Allen***Affiliation:* Space Telescope Science Institute.*Position:* Astronomer.*PhD:* Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1967.*Areas of scientific interest:* ISM in nearby galaxies (cold gas, photodissociation), space interferometers (radio, optical and IR).*AAS positions and dates:* Member, 1965-1972, 1986-present.*Other experience relevant to service in AAS office:* IAU member since 1970; Department Chair, Groningen University, 1982-1985; Department Chair, University of Illinois, 1985-1988; Division Head, Space Telescope Science Institute, 1989-1999.*Statement:* I spent nearly 19 years working in astronomy institutes in France and in Holland, and I know that the IAU fulfills an important coordinating function as well as providing a focus for astronomical meetings. Although our own AAS does this job for us, the importance of the IAU internationally and the role which US astronomers can play should not be underestimated. If elected, I will work towards increasing the awareness of our US community for IAU matters and strive to represent US and AAS interests in this important international body.

You-Hua Chu

Affiliation: University of Illinois.

Position: Professor.

PhD: University of California, Berkeley, 1981.

Areas of scientific interest: Interstellar medium, interaction between stars and ISM, circumstellar nebulae, PNe, SNRs, Magellanic Clouds.

AAS positions: Warner/Pierce Prize Committee, 1997-1998.

Other experience relevant to service in AAS office: Review committees for IUE, HST, LTSA, etc., 1990s; SOC chair of IAU Symposium 190, 1998; ROSAT Users Committee, 1993-1998; FUSE Observer Advisory Committee, 1999-2000.

Statement: As ground- and space-based telescopes grow larger and more costly, international collaborations become inevitable. When ground-based observations are threatened by light pollution in space or commercial use of radio bands, coordination of international efforts are essential in protecting for astronomy the windows in wavelengths. With advanced computing and observing facilities abounding, efficient international exchanges of information and knowledge are needed to keep up with the rapid growth in every field of astronomy. These are some of the functions of the IAU, and the US participation of the IAU is through the USNC-IAU. I became better acquainted with the IAU through my organization of an IAU Symposium, and I am familiar with both eastern and western cultures. My career path, having been that of a jobless mother and a soft-money researcher for 12 years before landing a professor's position, makes me uniquely prepared to represent all walks of an astronomer's life, especially the underprivileged. If elected, I will make a difference.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(vote for no more than two)

Candidates:

Douglas K. Duncan

R. Kent Honeycutt

C. Megan Urry

Hugh M. Van Horn

Duties of Nominating Committee:

- Nominate candidates for the positions of Officers and Councilors of the AAS for election by membership. For positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Education Officer, the decision is made in consultation with the Executive Committee of the AAS.

Current Members:

Roberta Humphreys*

Frank Shu*

John Leibacher

Blair D. Savage

Donna Weistrop

*terms expiring

Douglas K. Duncan

Affiliation: University of Chicago.

Position: Associate Professor.

PhD: University of California, Santa Cruz, 1980.

Areas of scientific interest: Primordial and early galactic nucleosynthesis as revealed in stellar abundances; stellar chromospheric activity and rotation; formal and informal science education.

AAS Positions: Education Advisory Board, 1993-1995; Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, 1996-1998; Education Coordinator, 1997-present.

Other experiences relevant to service in AAS office: NOAO 8m telescope planning committee, 1990; Organizing Committee, Women in Astronomy meeting, STScI, 1992; ASP Board of Directors, 1995-1998.

Statement: The AAS serves a greater number and diversity of members than ever before. It needs to actively support members needs in multiple ways: advocating for the support of research and facilities, providing useful, practical help for those who teach, supporting outreach, public communication, and job skills and placement. As the Society grows larger, we need to work harder at internal communication, so that Council and elected officers know what members are thinking, and vice-versa. If elected to the nominating committee, my priority will be to search for excellent candidates who consider communication with AAS members a high priority, and who represent a diversity of institutions and ages. Having been at private (Caltech, Univ. of Chicago), public (UC Santa Cruz), and NASA-related institutions (STScI), and especially having served many AAS members as Education Coordinator, I am sensitive to the different needs and priorities of members at different types of institutions and in different stages of their careers.

Kent Honeycutt

Affiliation: Indiana University.

Position: John W. Hill Professor of Astronomy and Department Chair.

PhD: Case Western Reserve University, 1968.

Areas of scientific interest: Accretion in Stellar Systems; Design and Construction of ground-based instrumentation.

AAS Positions:

Other experiences relevant to service in AAS office: AURA: Board, 1984-1991; Executive Committee, 1989-1991; Nominating Committee, 1987-1989, Chair 1988-1989; WIYN Board, 1989-present; Director Goethe Link Observatories, 1980-present; Chair, Indiana University Astronomy Department, 1982-1986; 1997-present.

Statement: The nominating committee must be able to identify individuals with the talent, energy, and commitment to govern the AAS and to guide it into a complex and fast-changing future for our discipline. The AAS has never been more diverse in both the sub-disciplines represented and in the interests, goals, and expectations of the membership. Activities that are now valued parts of the AAS include encouraging excellence in teaching astronomy, disseminating research results to both the membership and to the public, advancing the profession politically, and identifying employment trends, difficulties, and opportunities. The nominating committee should try to balance the breadth of interests and experience in the nominees while at the same time emphasizing strong overall leadership qualities in the individuals who stand for election. As a member of the nominating committee, I would work conscientiously to help ensure that the nomination process serves the complex needs of the society and its membership.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
Continued from previous page.

Meg Urry

Affiliation: Space Telescope Science Institute.

Position: Head, Science Program Selection Office.

PhD: The Johns Hopkins University, 1984.

Areas of scientific interest: Blazars, jets, active galaxies, black holes, unified schemes, multi-wavelength and high-energy astrophysics.

AAS Positions: Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, 1994-1996, 1998-2003, Chair, 2000; Nominating Committee, 1996-1998, Chair 1997-1998; Executive Committee of the High Energy Astrophysics Division, 1991-1993.

Other experiences relevant to service in AAS office: NAS/NRC Space Studies Board, 2000-2003; NASA Space Science Advisory Committee, 1997-2000; NAS/NRC Task Group ("Thaddeus Committee") on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1996; Executive Committee, Astrophysics Division of the American Physical Society, 1995-1997, 1999-2001; APS Fellow, 1999; APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, 2000-2002; Member AAS, HEAD, APS, American Association of University Women, Women in Aerospace.

Statement: Several years ago I served a short term on the Nominating Committee (replacing someone unable to complete his term) so I have a good idea what's involved.

The committee's task is to present a slate of candidates who are highly qualified and fully representative of the Society. Choice is everything, because who makes it onto the slate affects the direction and effectiveness of the AAS Council and committees. My two top priorities are: (1) Effectiveness: There are effective committees and there are those that spin their wheels. I'll do my best to help choose candidates who will move the Society forward; (2) Diversity. The slate should reflect the variety among our colleagues, so that AAS members can vote for whomever we feel would best represent the interests of the Society. This includes diversity in terms of employment (academic, observatory, industry, amateur), age (newly minted PhDs, senior pundits, and everything in between), gender (for two decades women have been well represented in AAS offices, no need for drastic action), and minority status (more difficult and more pressing).

Hugh M. Van Horn

Affiliation: National Science Foundation.

Position: Senior Science Advisor, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

PhD: Cornell University, 1966.

Areas of scientific interest: White dwarf stars, brown dwarf stars, and neutron stars; physics of dense matter, Dynamo theory.

AAS positions: Annie J. Cannon Award Advisory Committee, 1990-1995, Publications Board, 1991-1996, Chair, 1993.

Other experiences relevant to service in AAS office: Board of Trustees, Associated Universities, Inc., 1983-1993; NSF Advisory Committee for the Astronomical Sciences, 1984-1987, Chair, 1986-1987; AAAS Section on Astronomy, 1992-1995,

Chair-Elect, 1992-1993, Chair, 1993-1994; Director, NSF Division of Astronomical Science, 1993-2000.

Statement: The AAS has long played a vital role in promoting the timely communication of scientific advances in astronomy and astrophysics. The AAS now publishes the world's leading journals in our field, and the popularity of the semi-annual meetings of the Society has grown significantly. The mission of the AAS has evolved over time, as has been necessary to maintain focus on the issues that are important to our membership. Sections have been created to concentrate activities in certain areas. New responsibilities to coordinate information about the availability of jobs have been added. The Society has increasingly assumed responsibility for monitoring Washington activities that are relevant to the health of US astronomy and astrophysics and for coordinating effective action by the community when needed. The AAS has also helped increasingly to coordinate efforts in astronomy education at all levels. Because the AAS has adapted as times have changed, it has continued to play a major role in the lives of American astronomers, and the tremendous growth in membership of the Society reflects this.

The leadership of the AAS is crucial to the continuing success of the Society and of the important activities it undertakes. The Nominating Committee plays a key role in identifying the strongest candidates for these leadership positions and in encouraging busy scientists to stand for election to these important offices. If elected to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee, I will work to help uphold the high standards set by previous Committees in identifying and recruiting candidates for these vital tasks.

What's "On Tap" in the January *STATUS*

STATUS, the newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, will be coming out in January, the fifth issue edited by Meg Urry and Lisa Frattare (STScI). It will include the following articles:

- "Margaret Burbidge: Astronomical Pioneer" by **Vera Rubin**;
- "The Statistics of Women Speakers at Astronomy Conferences" by **You-Hua Chu**;
- "Dual Careers, Part 2: Solutions" by **Laurie McNeil** and **Marc Sher**;
- "Good Morning, Gentlemen and Meg: A Profile of Women in Astronomy Today" by **Annie Finkbeiner**;
- "Perspective from the Biological Sciences" by **Diane Hoffman**;
- "Notes From A Life" and "Views from the Field" contributions from our readers

The January 2001 issue of *STATUS* will be mailed in December and there will additional copies for the public at the January San Diego AAS meeting. If you are not already a subscriber, email ssavoy@aaas.org to receive a free subscription. Past and current issues are available online at <http://www.aas.org/cswa>.

COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Meg Urry, Chair, cmu@stsci.edu

Margaret Burbidge Luncheon in San Diego

Margaret Burbidge will be honored for her outstanding contributions to astronomy and for her role in inspiring other women astronomers at the San Diego AAS meeting. A special luncheon on Thursday, **11 January**, hosted by the CSWA, AAS, AURA, AUI, NSF, CIW, and STScI, will include brief remarks by several invited guests. The luncheon will follow her talk at the Special Session sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA).

Anyone and everyone interested should plan to attend. The cost will be \$25 (\$15 for postdocs, \$7 for students). Places must be reserved in advance by sending email to mblunch@stsci.edu, and an accompanying check (made out to the Space Telescope Science Institute, with the memo notation "Margaret Burbidge Lunch") must be received by Meg Urry at STScI by **4 January 2000**. *Seating is limited* so respond promptly if you wish to attend.

About The AWIS

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a non-profit association that works to promote women's activities in all scientific fields, from mentoring to scholarships to job listings. It is dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

AWIS was established in 1971, and has over 5,000 members in fields spanning the life and physical sciences, mathematics, social science, and engineering. AWIS operates a National Office and is governed by the Board of Directors and its National Committees and has more than 70 local chapters in over 42 states. Events at local chapters facilitate networking between women scientists at all levels and in all career paths. AWIS chapters also encourage the participation of girls and women in science by sponsoring educational activities in schools and communities.

AWIS publishes a variety of materials to inform girls and women about science programs and women's issues, including the quarterly *AWIS Magazine*. Other relevant publications are *Cultivating Academic Careers*, *A Hand Up: Women Mentoring Women*, and *Mentoring Means Future Scientists*. The organization helps to shape national policy through Congressional testimony and by participating in a variety of national coalitions.

The AWIS fosters the careers of women science professionals through its Educational Foundation which presents a number of pre-doctoral and undergraduate awards and scholarships every year. All information, instructions, and application forms for these awards are available **only** on the AWIS website at <http://www.awis.org>. For general information write awis@awis.org.

EMPLOYMENT

Kevin Marvel, Associate Executive Officer for Policy Programs

Graduate Student Roundtable in San Diego

At the San Diego AAS meeting, the Committee on Employment and the AAS Education Officer will be co-hosting a Roundtable discussion for graduate students only. The event will take place on Tuesday evening 9 January, from 6 to 7pm, the location to be announced. An email announcement will be sent to AAS junior members before the meeting. The goal of the meeting is to discuss graduate student issues and concerns and to think about ways the AAS can better address their needs. All graduate students registered for the AAS meeting are encouraged to attend and to talk with their colleagues who may not be able to attend to get their input on these topics.

Guinan Turns Over Employment Reins To Allen

Ed Guinan, who has dedicated the last nine years to the Employment Committee — six of which he was Chair — is stepping down for a well-deserved breather. Under his chairmanship, the Committee developed most of the employment services currently offered by the Society: he initiated the popular career workshops at AAS meetings, organized speakers for special employment sessions, brought attention to the plight of astronomers funded by soft-money grants and sought additional executive office staff specifically to focus on employment issues. Guinan is the best model for what the Society can accomplish through its dedicated volunteers. Thank you, Ed!

Marc Allen has been appointed the new chair of the AAS employment committee. Dr. Allen currently works at NASA Headquarters in the Office of Space Science as Assistant Associate Administrator for Strategic and International Planning. He is responsible for coordination of space science long-range planning, including integration of thematic and disciplinary approaches to road mapping and development of strategic and implementation plans. Dr. Allen is also responsible for coordination of space science planning with foreign space agencies, and he represents OSS in Agency-wide strategic management activities, including Agency strategic planning, policy and procedure development, and performance planning and assessment. Allen has served as Director of the Space Studies Board of the National Research Council, and has held management positions at CTA Incorporated and Computer Sciences Corporation. Dr. Allen earned a PhD in astronomy in 1976 at the University of Michigan.

Summer Employment Opportunities on AAS WWW

The AAS maintains a web page of summer employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Institutions with programs (such as REU programs) are welcome to send an email with a brief description of the program, a web link where students can retrieve further information and a contact person's email address. Information for summer 2001 programs will be posted as soon as we receive it. The Summer Employment Opportunities web page is <http://www.aas.org/career/Summer.html>. Send information to Kevin Marvel, marvel@aas.org.

CALENDAR

Listed below are meetings that have come to our attention; new listings or listings with updated information are flagged with an asterisk. Due to space limitations, we publish notice of meetings 1) occurring in North and Central America; 2) meetings of the IAU Commissions and Colloquia; and 3) other meetings as requested by AAS Members. Meetings that fall within 30 days of publication generally are not listed.

A complete list of international astronomy meetings is maintained by Liz Bryson, Librarian C-F-H Telescope (library@cfht.hawaii.edu) in collaboration with the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre, Victoria, BC. The list may be accessed at <http://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings/>

AAS and AAS Division Meetings

197th AAS Meeting (with AAPT)

7–11 January 2001 — San Diego, CA
Contact: Diana Alexander (diana@as.org)

Historical Astronomy Division (with AAS)

7–8 January 2001 — San Diego, CA
Contact: Barbara Welther (bwelther@cfa.harvard.edu)

High Energy Astrophysics Division (with AAS)

7–11 January 2001 — San Diego, CA
Contact: Jonathan Grindlay (josh@cfa.harvard.edu)

Division for Dynamical Astronomy

22–25 April 2001 — Houston, TX
Contact: Joe Hahn (hahn@lpi.jsc.nasa.gov)
<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dda2001>

Solar Physics Division (with AGU)

29 May –2 June 2001 — Boston, MA
Contact: John Leibacher (leib@noao.edu)

198th Meeting of the AAS

3–7 June 2001 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: AAS Executive Office (aas@as.org)

Division for Planetary Sciences

27 November–1 December 2001 — New Orleans, LA
Contact: S. Alan Stern (alan@everest.space.swri.edu)

199th Meeting of the AAS

6–10 January 2002 — Washington, DC
Contact: AAS Executive Office (aas@as.org)

High Energy Astrophysics Division (with APS Division of Astrophysics)

20–23 April 2002 — Albuquerque, NM
Contact: Alice Harding (harding@twinkle.gsfc.nasa.gov)

Other Events

IAU Coll. No. 183, “Small-Telescope Astronomy on Global Scales”

4–8 January 2001 — Kenting National Park, Taiwan
Contact: Kelly Chen (iauc183@joule.phy.ncu.edu.tw)
<http://www.astro.ncu.edu.tw/iauc183>

*Physics at High Pressures: Interiors of Giant Planets, Extrasolar Planets and Brown Dwarfs

8–26 January 2001 — Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Deborah Storm (storm@itp.ucsb.edu)
<http://www.itp.ucsb.edu/apply>

AAS SECOND CENTURY LECTURE by Andrea Ghez, “Unveiling a Black Hole at the Center of the Milky Way”

9 January 2001 — San Diego, CA
Contact: <http://www.aas.org/special/centlecture.html>

Magnetic Fields Across the H-R Diagram

15–19 January 2001 — Santiago, Chile
Contact: Gauthier Mathys (magfield@eso.org)
<http://www.eso.org/magfields2001>

Astrophysical Ages and Time Scales

5–9 February 2001 — Hilo, HI
Contact: Ted von Hippel (timescales@gemini.edu)
<http://www.gemini.edu/science/timescales>

*FIRST Science Workshop

11–13 February 2001 — San Diego, CA
Contact: charmaine.d.mayes@jpl.nasa.gov

*Physics Potential of Supernova II Neutrino Detection

15–16 February 2001 — Marina del Rey, CA
Contact: snii@physics.ucla.edu
<http://www.physics.ucla.edu/SNII>

Washington Area Astronomers Meeting

22 February 2001 — Greenbelt, MD
Contact: George Kaplan (gkaplan@usno.navy.mil)
<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/waa>

IAU Symp. 206: “Cosmic Masers: From Protostars to Blackholes”

5–10 March 2001 — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Contact: maser2001@lynx.ccne.ufsm.br
<http://lynx.ccne.ufsm.br>

Mass Outflow in Active Galactic Nuclei: New Perspectives

8–10 March 2001 — Washington, DC
Contact: Mike Crenshaw (crenshaw@buckeye.gsfc.nasa.gov)
<http://iacs.cua.edu/conf.html>

American Physical Society

12–16 March 2001 — Seattle WA
<http://www.aps.org/meet/MAR01/index.html>

*IAU Symposium 207: Extragalactic Star Clusters

12–16 March 2001 — Pucon, Chile
Contact: Eva Grebel (starclus@mpia-hd.mpg.de)
<http://www.mpia-hd.mpg.de/~starclus>

32nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

12–16 March 2001 — Houston, TX
Contact: LeBecca Simmons (simmons@lpi.usra.edu)
<http://www.lpi.usra.edu>

*Workshop: “Young Stars Near Earth: Progress and Prospects”

28–30 March 2001 — Mountain View, CA
Contact: Ray Jayawardhana (rayjay@astro.berkeley.edu)
<http://www-space.arc.nasa.gov/ystars>

*New Quests in Stellar Astrophysics: The Link Between Stars and Cosmology

26–30 March 2001 — Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Contact: Miguel Chavez (costa01@inaoep.mx)
<http://www.inaoep.mx/~costa01/>

European Geophysical Society XXVI General Assembly

2–6 April 2001 — Vienna, Austria
Contact: EGS Office (egs@copernicus.org)

*Extragalactic Gas at Low Redshift

4–6 April 2001 — Pasadena, CA
Contact: John Mulchaey (mulchaey@ociw.edu)
<http://www.ociw.edu/ociw/workshop/April2001>

6th Compton Symposium, “Gamma-Ray Astrophysics 2001”

4–6 April 2001 — Baltimore, MD
Contact: Sandra L. Barnes (barnes@grossc.gsfc.nasa.gov)
<http://cosscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/Gamma2001>

*AAS SECOND CENTURY LECTURE by Vera Rubin

“What’s the Matter in the Universe?”
2 May 2001 — Los Altos Hills, CA
<http://www.foothill.fhda.edu>

- *The Dark Universe: Matter, Energy, and Gravity
1–4 May 2001 — Baltimore MD
Contact: Quindairian Gryce (gryce@stsci.edu)
<http://ntweb.stsci.edu/sd/darkuniverse/index.html>
- Canadian Astronomical Society Annual Meeting
26–29 May 2001 — Hamilton, ONT, Canada
Contact: William Harris (harris@physics.mcmaster.ca)
<http://casca2001.mcmaster.ca>
- American Geophysical Union Spring Meeting
29 May–2 June 2001 — Boston, MA
Contact: meetinginfo@agu.org
<http://www.agu.org/meetings>
- Solar Variability, Climate and Space Weather
13–16 June 2001 — Longmont, CO
Contact: Judit M. Pap (jpap@solar.stanford.edu)
- Tenth UN/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science
25–29 June 2001 — Reduit, Mauritius
Contact: Hans Haubold (haubold@kph.tuwein.ac.at)
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org>
- *IAU Colloquium No. 184, “AGN Surveys”
19–23 June 2001 — Byurkan, Armenia
Contact: Areg M. Mickaelian (iauc184@bao.sci.am)
<http://bao.sci.am/iauc184>
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada General Assembly
28 June–1 July 2001 — London, ONT, Canada
Contact: Peter Jedicke (pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca)
<http://phobos.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc/home.html>
- Fifth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop
5–8 July 2001 — Notre Dame, IN
Contact: Steve Dick (dick.steve@usno.navy.mil)
<http://www.nd.edu/histast4>
- *Symposium at 113th Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, “The High-Energy Universe at Sharp Focus: Chandra Science”
16–18 July 2001 — St. Paul, MN
Contact: James White (director@aspsky.org)
<http://www.aspsky.org/meetings/science2001.html>
- *IAU Colloquium No. 185: “Radial and Nonradial Pulsations as Probes of Stellar Physics”
26–31 July 2001 — Leuven, Belgium
Contact: Conny Aerts (iau185@ster.kuleuven.ac.be)
<http://www.ster.kuleuven.ac.be/~iau185>
- The 12th Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars, Stellar Systems, and the Sun
30 July–3 August 2001 — Boulder, CO
Contact: Thomas R. Ayres (cs12@casa.colorado.edu)
- *Two Years of Science with Chandra
5–7 September 2001 — Washington, DC
Contact: Harvey Tananbaum (ht@cfa.harvard.edu)
http://asc.harvard.edu/symposium_2001.html
- *International Meteor Conference
20–23 September 2001 — Cerknjo, Slovenia
Contact: Ina Rendtel (treasurer@imo.net)
<http://www.imo.net/news.imc.html>
- *Gamma Ray Burst and Afterglow Astronomy
5–9 November 2001 — Woods Hole, MA
Contact: George Ricker (grr@space.mit.edu)

UPCOMING SECOND CENTURY LECTURES

7 December 2000 (corrected date)

Neil Tyson, Director, Hayden Planetarium
“The Search for Life in the Universe Through the Lens of an Urban Astrophysicist”
National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC
<http://www.nasm.edu/>

9 January 2001

Andrea Ghez, UCLA
“Unveiling a Black Hole at the Center of the Milky Way”
The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego, CA
<http://www.rhfleet.org/>

2 May 2001

Vera Rubin, Carnegie Institution of Washington
“What’s the Matter in the Universe?”
Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA
(Cosponsored by NASA’s Ames Research Center, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the SETI Institute)
<http://www.foothill.fhda.edu>

New AAS Award Established: The ABO!

As submitting abstracts becomes exceedingly easy with our electronic submission system, a larger number of abstracts are arriving at the “Eleventh Hour” causing a severe overload on the AAS computers and the Executive Office staff! To encourage presenters to get their abstracts in much earlier — say, earlier than those submitted by Don Osterbrock (for most meetings, he gets running #1) — the AAS is inaugurating a new award starting with the Pasadena Meeting in June 2001. It’s the **Abstract Before Osterbrock (ABO) Award**. Be among the first to wear this prestigious medal. See if you can get your paper in before Don. Winners will be notified before the meeting.

Are You Being Harassed For Your Abstract?

If you have recently been invited to give a talk in an Special or Topical Session, you may be feeling harassed this year. Organizers are asking their invited speakers to submit their abstracts a week earlier than the regular deadline. Since all Special and Topical Session speakers must have an abstract submitted for the Final Program, an earlier submission date lets us know who’s missing so we can alert the session organizers to harass you into submitting. You are not being picked on; *your abstracts are just particularly important to a successful meeting.*

Member Deaths Noted

Since the October *Newsletter*, the Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members:

Wilhelm Becker
Forrest I. Boley
William G. Fastie
Raymond T. Grenchik
Frank J. Kerr
Frank Q. Orrall
Kaj A. Strand
Joseph Weber



At "NASA Night," Ed Weiler, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Science said that funding for Research and Analysis Programs is growing.



Larry Lebofsky wears the glistening Sagan Medal awarded for outstanding communication to the public of the excitement of planetary science.



Armand Delsemme was joined by his wife, Delphine, while he signed copies of his pivotal paper for an enthusiastic audience.

DIVISION NEWS

PLANETARY SCIENCES

A Record-Breaking Meeting in Pasadena

*Al Harris, Secretary Treasurer;
Photos by Kevin Marvel.*

The Division of Planetary Science held their 32nd annual meeting in Pasadena from 23–27 October. The record-setting number of attendees (nearly 900!) shared their scientific research, heard from NASA managers at a "NASA Night" session and presented several prizes. A number of press reports generated coverage in the TV, radio and print media as well as with online news services such as space.com. The next DPS meeting will be in New Orleans, LA from 27 November to 1 December 2001.



Marta Brown, the widow of honoree Congressman George Brown, accepted from DPS Chair Robert Nelson the Harold Masursky Award presented to her husband by the Division.



Armand Delsemme gave his 1999 Kuiper Prize lecture on the "Cometary Origins of the Biosphere."



Division Chair Robert Nelson (left, seen here sporting the Kuiper Belt) presented the 2000 Kuiper Prize to Conway Leovy who suggested that some Martian channels may not be formed by water.



Incoming Division Chair Mark Sykes discussed NASA's comments from the DPS perspective.

DPS Election Results

Wes Huntress (huntress@gl.ciw.edu) is the Division incoming Vice-Chair, and Dan Britt and Steve Larson will be the incoming Committee Members. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all of the candidates for agreeing to stand for election. Your willingness to serve the DPS is greatly appreciated.

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY



Virginia Trimble, Chair

HAD at Zinner Collection, San Diego

Please come gather with your Historical Astronomy Division on the afternoon of Sunday, 7 January, before the opening reception of the San Diego meeting, when we visit the Zinner collection of old astronomical

books, manuscripts, and portraits at San Diego State University. Yes, they have a copy of Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus*, but also a volume with a "Christian Zodiac" and other wondrous things. There will also be talks on famous boners in the development of astronomy, including epicycles, Russell's giant-and-dwarf theory of stellar evolution, and various distance scales. If you are interested in coming, please, right now, today, notify the HAD chair (Virginia Trimble, vtrimble@uci.edu) and send her a check for \$10 to cover lunch and getting back to the AAS meeting headquarters hotel.

HIGH ENERGY ASTROPHYSICS

Paul Hertz, Secretary

First Schramm Award to Sawyer and Zimmerman

HEAD has chosen two winners for the first David N. Schramm Award for High-Energy Astrophysics Science Journalism. The winners are **Kathy Sawyer** of the *Washington Post* and **Robert Zimmerman**, a freelance writer. They shared the \$1,000 prize and were each presented a plaque at the HEAD scientific meeting in Honolulu in November.

Zimmerman won for an article about gamma ray bursts in *The Sciences* entitled, "There She Blows." In the article, Zimmerman delves into the 35-year-old history of burst observations and gibes at a few scientists who were absolutely convinced they understood what these bursts were but have since been proven wrong. "We're going through a renaissance in astronomy, and it's always exciting to be able to write about it," said Zimmerman, who is also a frequent contributor to *Astronomy, Invention & Technology*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. "The great thing about covering astronomy is that you can look up an astronomer's number in the phone book, call them, and they will answer your questions at length."

Sawyer won this year's Schramm Award for her piece in the *Washington Post* called "Flash!," also about gamma ray bursts. The article is full of such rich descriptions as "flamboyant havoc" and "titanic cataclysms," characteristic of Sawyer's thorough yet entertaining reporting. "I'm delighted and honored to win the award," said Sawyer, "especially since Dr. Schramm was always so willing to patiently help me try to understand and put into plain English the knottier aspects of Big Bang astrophysics."

HEAD will present this award every 18 months at its division meetings. Entries are judged by a committee of distinguished

scientists and journalists selected by the HEAD Executive Committee. Information about the prize is available at <http://www.aas.org/head/schramm/schramm.prize.html>.

HEAD Sessions Planned for San Diego

HEAD will host two sessions of invited talks at the San Diego meeting of the AAS in January 2001, as well as sponsor the talk for the 2000 Rossi Prize (awarded to Profs. **Meszáros**, **Paczynski**, and **Rees** for their work on Gamma-ray Bursts).

The first session will highlight high resolution views of compact objects, both high resolution x-ray imaging by Chandra and high resolution x-ray spectra by Chandra and XMM-Newton. Talks will include new results on the pulsar-supernova connection, x-ray spectroscopy of x-ray binaries vs. AGN, and new evidence for massive stellar black holes in external galaxies.

The second session will bring together recent work concerning our understanding of diffuse cosmic structures on a range of scales. Talks will discuss the constraints on cooling flows in galaxy clusters from high resolution images and spectra, the new pictures of the dense central obscuring gas and extended jets in many active galactic nuclei revealed by hard X-ray observations, and direct measures of the S-Z effect made possible by combining high resolution X-ray and radio images.

DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY

Marc Murison, Secretary

Spring 2001 Meeting

The spring 2001 DDA meeting will be at the Lunar and Planetary Lab, Houston, from 22-25 April, 2001. Further information, including contact points, lodging details, deadlines, invited speakers, and meeting program, can be found at the DDA web site (see below) as it becomes available.



Funds Available: 2001 Student Stipend Program

The DDA is holding a competition for student papers to be presented at the spring meeting and can award up to two \$400 stipends. Any currently full- or part-time college or university student is eligible. The deadline for 2001 applications is **1 February 2001**. Submission rules and details are at the DDA web site.

REMINDER - Policy on Unpaid Journal Subscriptions

Member Subscriptions Only

To help control rising Journal costs, the AAS has shortened the grace period for unpaid Journal subscriptions. After **1 January**, no unpaid subscriptions will be mailed. In the event a subscription is reinstated, there will be a surcharge for shipping the back issues — \$25 for the *ApJ* and \$15 for the *AJ* or *ApJ Supplement*, in addition to any membership reinstatement fee. If no back issues are required, no surcharge will be imposed.

CORRECTION: SOLAR PHYSICS MEETING

On page 9 of the October 2000 *Newsletter*, No. 102, about the Solar Physics meeting, the identification of the two students from the University of Memphis, Benjamin Schoepke and Jonathan Cirtain are switched. Jonathan Cirtain is on the left. Apologies from the photographers to all concerned.

AAS NEWS

Department Chairs Meet In Dallas

Bruce Partridge and Bob Rood, Former and Future Conveners

On 22-23 September, department chairs or other representatives from forty astronomy departments and programs convened for an AAS-sponsored meeting in Dallas. This was the second in what we hope will be an ongoing series of biennial meetings of astronomy department chairs. An organizing committee for the next meeting was established: **Bob Rood** (Univ. of Virginia) as convener, **Lancelot Kao** (City College of San Francisco) and **Peter Shull** (Oklahoma State).

Those present began the meeting by sharing information on a number of matters of interest to department chairs, such as starting salaries, startup funds, fringe benefit packages for postdocs, arrangements for graduate students, resources devoted to Astronomy 101, enrollment figures and many others. A small subcommittee, led by **Doug Richstone** (Univ. of Michigan) will gather these statistics both from those present and from other department and program chairs, and eventually place some sort of aggregate summary on the Web.

We also discussed personnel changes in the AST Division at NSF, especially in the Director's office. First, we see it as vital that the new AST Director be a person with excellent leadership and political skills as well as a person with well-established scientific credentials. The important role that members of the community can play as rotators in both NSF and NASA was emphasized; it seemed to us that NSF could attract more rotators if service in the role could be made both more interesting and easier to apply for. It was also the strong view of this group that AST needs a standing advisory group of some sort. If, for whatever reason, the NSF cannot arrange for such a group, could the AAS play a role? Finally, we recommend strongly that a means be found to get AST staffers out into the community more, and at least be present at AAS meetings.

We also discussed graduate and undergraduate education in astronomy extensively. We began with departmental responses to recommendations of the AEPB Report on Graduate Education published in 1997. A number of departments reported on steps taken to broaden the nature of graduate education. We also recognized the need to modernize the traditional graduate curriculum, for instance by including material on large databases. For undergraduate majors intending to go on to graduate school, the stress should be placed on a strong physics background, even at the expense of additional astronomy courses or even undergraduate research. On the other hand, many astronomy departments are experimenting with astronomy majors for students not intending to go on to physics or astronomy graduate programs. The idea is to construct a major that has rigor and logical coherence, but is accessible without the usual framework of physics and mathematics courses. Other departments are experimenting with an astronomy minor to be attached to a Humanities or Social Science degree. In addition, some departments without formal majors or minors for non-science students instead offer a range of courses that go beyond the traditional "Astronomy 101" survey courses. The University of Virginia, for instance, offers several such courses, and the average number of astronomy courses taken is about one per student.

In most departments, the bulk of the enrollments fall in courses we will generically call "Astro 101." These are frequently very large courses (Are the students best served in lecture mode? What role can labs play?) with large content (Should we try to cover it all" or instead either hit the highlights or break the material into several courses?). We spent some time discussing the aims of such a course, whether it should include mathematics, and so on. These issues will arise again in the NSF- and AAS-sponsored workshops on "Astro 101" to be held this spring. Two thirds of the departments represented in Dallas enroll between 20% and 40% of their student body in Astronomy 101 or similar courses. About half reported an increase in enrollment in such courses; about half indicated no substantial change.

Several hours were spent in a discussion of the recent Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee report. The background of that report was laid out by **Joe Taylor**, one of the Co-chairs of the Survey Committee, who explained how the committee itself was assembled, how it worked with its panels, and the schedule for the publication of the final results. Questions arose concerning the stated costs of various major programs. The costs were not constructed by the Committee, but were instead gathered from the responsible funding agency. In the case of ground-based facilities, they include funds for supporting research, providing instrumentation and maintaining the facility, all calculated for a period of five years. When asked, in effect, whether a differently constituted Committee would have reached the same list of priorities, both Joe Taylor and other members of the Survey Committee agreed that the list of priorities was reached clearly and consensually, and would have been very much the same even if the composition of the Committee had been different. On the other hand, many of the recommendations brought to the Committee by its Education and Policy Panel were more controversial, so that not all of them appeared in the final report. Those that did had the backing of the Committee. There was considerable discussion of the Survey Committee recommendation on an integrated, national system for OIR astronomy. What was the intent? A variety of divergent views emerged.

Finally, a number of the department chairs made the point that part of the benefit of such a meeting was the informal time to talk and compare notes. Assuming such meetings do continue, we urge department chairs of those institutions not represented in Dallas to consider coming to the 2002 venue.

Straizys, Elbaz Win Chrétiens

Peter B. Boyce, Chair, Chrétien Award Committee

Vytautas Straizys from Lithuania and **David Elbaz** from France are this year's winners of the AAS Chrétien Awards for international projects.

Straizys will be setting up the primary standards for a new Strömvil system of photometry. By combining the established Strömgren and Vilnius systems, the new Strömvil system utilizes the extensive database of early type stars measured in the Strömgren system and the ability of the Vilnius system to measure temperature, luminosity, reddening, and metallicity across the entire H-R diagram. The Strömvil system will be used on ESA's GAIA mission, which has just been selected as one of their cornerstone missions. As stated in their Web site (<http://astro.estec.esa.nl/GAIA/index.html>), "GAIA will measure more than one billion stars in a global stellar census of our

Galaxy and its nearest neighbors. In addition, it will obtain multi-color photometry as crucial diagnostic data for all stars observed....Through comprehensive photometric classification, it will provide the detailed physical properties of each star



Vytautas Straizys, of the Institute for Theoretical Physics and Astronomy, in Vilnius, will use his Chrétien to set up standards for a new Strömvil system of photometry

observed: characterizing their luminosity, temperature, gravity, and elemental composition. This massive stellar census will provide the basic observational data to tackle an enormous range of important problems related to the origin, structure, and evolutionary history of our Galaxy."

As the mission gets under way, Straizys and his collaborators will be setting up the standards and calibrating the new Strömvil system by observing 800-1000 field stars with well known temperatures,

luminosities, metallicities, etc., including 500 whose distances were precisely measured by the Hipparchos satellite. These stars will be used for fixing the zero points of the stellar magnitudes and colors, and for determining the color equations between the instrumental CCD system and the standard Strömvil system. Straizys will be using telescopes of the University of Arizona to measure the field stars, and will collaborate with **Richard Boyle** and **A. G. Davis Philip** who will be setting up standards in certain selected regions using the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope.

Elbaz will be studying the nature of the strongly evolving population of luminous IR galaxies at $z \sim 0.8$ " which show up as a 10-fold excess of faint, but intrinsically bright, objects in the mid-IR ISOCAM survey. He and his co-workers have shown that most of the star formation which happened at the time when the universe was 30-40% of its present age was dusty. He will begin a collaboration with **David Koo** and **Joel Primack** from the University of California of Santa Cruz (UCSC), to study the optical and near-IR properties of these ISOCAM galaxies with the Keck telescope and to use the density of these infrared sources to better constrain the numerical (semi-analytic) model of galaxy formation and evolution developed by Primack's team.



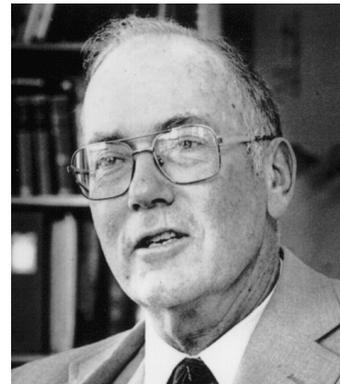
David Elbaz of the CEA Saclay, Service d'Astrophysique and UC Santa Cruz will study luminous IR galaxies at $z \sim 0.8$ ".

Elbaz is enthusiastic about the award, saying "Being myself French, I am particularly honored to receive this award named after the French optical designer, Henri Chrétien, whose inventions led to a wider vision of the "stars"...It would never have been possible to understand that the infrared dots that we had detected (with ISOCAM) were distant luminous galaxies without going back to each of them using the large optical telescopes that Henri Chrétien helped to design."

HONORED ELSEWHERE

Townes Wins NAE's Founders Award.

Charles H. Townes of the University of California at Berkeley has received the National Academy of Engineering's 2000 Founders Award recognizing life-long contributions to engineering. Townes developed the maser-laser principle. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964 and was the AAS 1998 Russell Lecturer.



University of California Berkeley's Charles Townes is Founders Awardee. Photo courtesy of UC Berkeley

NSF CAREER Winners

The NSF Astronomical Science Division has announced the FY2000 winners of its Faculty Early Development Career Program Grants, known as CAREER Grants. The following six AAS members are among them:

- **Andrew Connolly**, University of Pittsburgh, "Bringing Cosmology into the Classroom;"
- **Stephen Eikenberry**, Cornell University, "Multiwavelength Studies of Microquasars;"
- **Frederick W. Hamann**, University of Florida, "Probing the High-Redshift Universe with Quasar Element Abundances;"
- **Mordecai-Mark MacLow**, American Museum of Natural History, "Structure Formation and Support by Magnetized, Supersonic Turbulence in the Interstellar Medium and Star-Forming Regions;"
- **Richard Rand**, University of New Mexico, "The Interstellar Disk-Halo Connection in Edge-on Galaxies - Bringing Research to a Large Audience;" and
- **Kimberley A. Venn**, Macalaster College, "The First Stellar Abundances in Local Group Galaxies."

Two AAS Members Win Presidential Awards

Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) are the highest honor bestowed by the US government on young professionals. Among the recipients of the fifth annual awards announced in October 2000, are AAS Members **Michael E. Brown**, of the California Institute of Technology, nominated by NASA, and **Kimberley A. Venn** of Macalaster College, nominated by the NSF.

Venn will determine the first stellar elemental abundances (e.g., iron) in Local Group dwarf irregular galaxies to study and compare their chemical evolution. The observations are only now possible with the 8-10 meter telescopes and high efficiency spectrographs, and she will use the techniques she developed for the analysis of A-supergiant spectra in the Galaxy, SMC, and M31.

PECASE recipients are given five-year research grants and are honored in a White House ceremony.

(Editor's note: We received word of this award as we were going to press. Unfortunately, Brown was unavailable to provide information about his research in time for publication.)

GENERAL NEWS

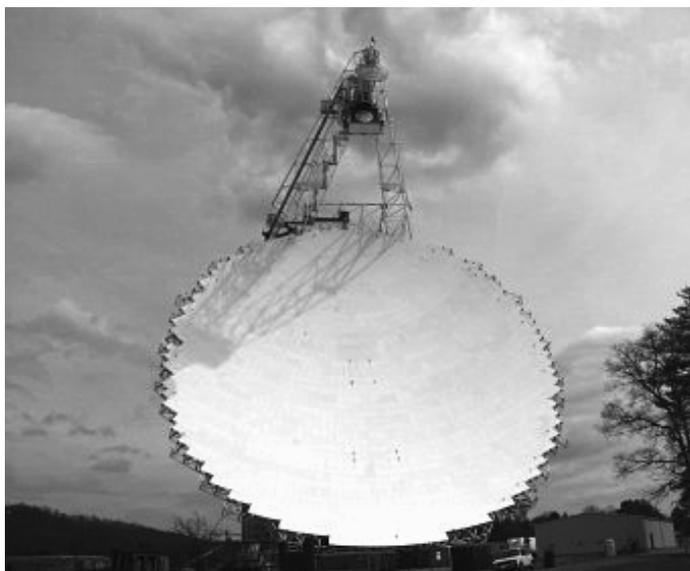
The Green Bank Telescope Sees 'First Light'

Philip R. Jewell, National Radio Astronomy Observatory,
pjewell@gb.nrao.edu

The National Science Foundation's newest astronomical facility, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Green Bank Telescope (GBT), saw first light on 22 August, with a 403 MHz observation of the radio galaxy 1140+223 and the pulsar PSR B1133+16. Three days later, on 25 August, the telescope was dedicated as the *Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope*, in honor of Senator Byrd's (D-WVA) support of the project. The Dedication was attended by NSF Director **Rita Colwell**, NASA Administrator **Daniel Goldin**, AUI President **Riccardo Giacconi**, and Sen. **Robert C. Byrd**, who was the keynote speaker. At the outset of the ceremony, the crowd of 2000 was treated to a live observation of the pulsar PSR B0329+54, which was detected and played over the public address system.

The 100-meter GBT is among the most innovative telescopes ever built. Its most obvious feature is the off-axis feed arm and clear aperture, which reduces side lobes and spectral standing waves, and thus improves sensitivity. The telescope also has an active surface of 2004 individual panels and a unique laser metrology system that can survey the surface figure and determine the absolute pointing of the telescope in near real time. The surface and metrology systems will ultimately give the GBT an operational frequency range of 100 MHz to 115 GHz. Finally, the telescope has a very wide field of view that makes it ideal for the implementation of focal plane arrays for high sensitivity, wide-field imaging. When the GBT reaches its final performance milestones, it will have the highest sensitivity at millimeter wavelengths yet achieved.

The NRAO is now outfitting the telescope with system electronics and receivers while the contractor continues with "punch list" items. First commissioning observations began in



November. The commissioning is divided into three phases: 15, 50, and 100 GHz, respectively. Operation at 50 GHz is scheduled within one year, and 100 GHz within two years.

The NRAO held its first call for "Early Science" proposals on the GBT. These proposals are for unique science projects to be done during the commissioning process, and are aimed at experienced observers. General Audience calls for proposals will be announced at <http://www.nrao.edu/GBT/proposals> on the NRAO web pages, through the NRAO and AAS *Newsletters*, and through the list-served email distribution, "*gbtnews*."

Future proposal calls will come through *gbtnews*, which will also contain status reports, milestones achieved, the availability of new instruments or capabilities, and other such announcements. Send email to majordomo@majordomo.cv.nrao.edu to subscribe. In the body of the email, enter the line "subscribe gbtnews." You will then receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription. Reply with the lines listed in the body of this email, which are of the form: `auth <code> subscribe gbtnews`
`your_email_address`.

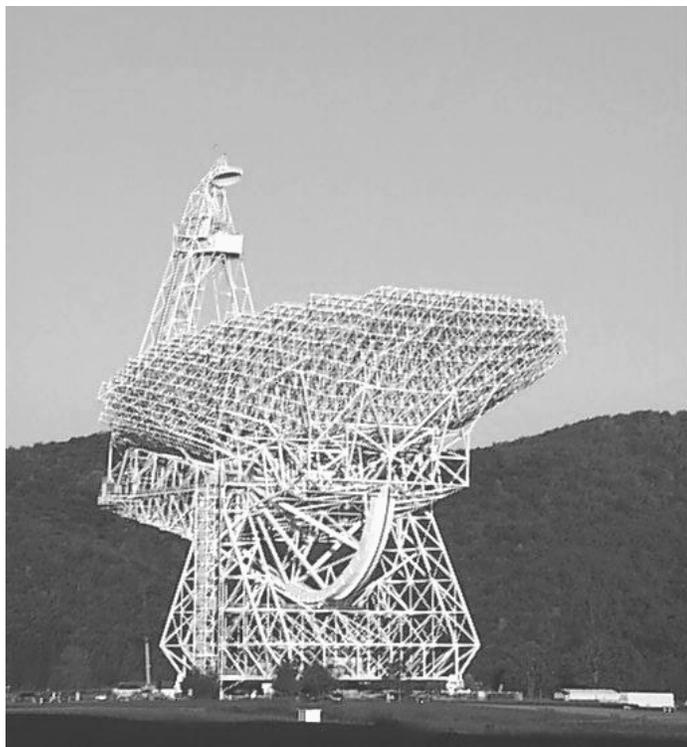
The IDEAL Telescope/Observatory

J. M. Rodriguez Espinosa, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias

The operation of modern telescopes is rapidly changing due to faster computers, the internet and new software technologies which allow the handling of large format detector arrays, but also the managing of proposal preparation software, data reduction pipelines and the archiving and retrieving of data for scientific uses other than those originally proposed.

Under the leadership of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), Spain is building a Keck-type segmented 10-meter telescope. To plan for its most efficient operation, a panel of experts from Europe was established with the sponsorship of the European Union to survey the user community and examine everything effecting telescope operation, utilization and output. Within two months, over 430 responses to the survey had been collected from astronomers in 35 different countries (Fig. 1). The responses from the community are described below.

Astronomers value quite highly having a good suite of science instruments (70%) that are carefully maintained and their performance monitored (63%). They also favor the availability of quick-look data analysis (52%), but are divided about having



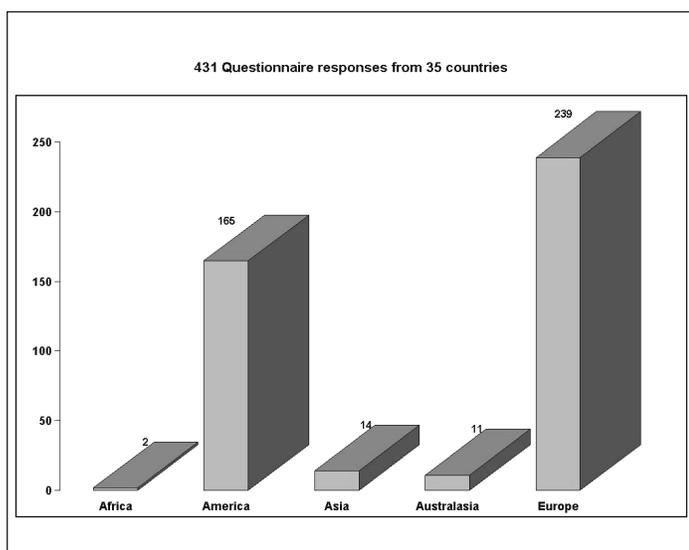
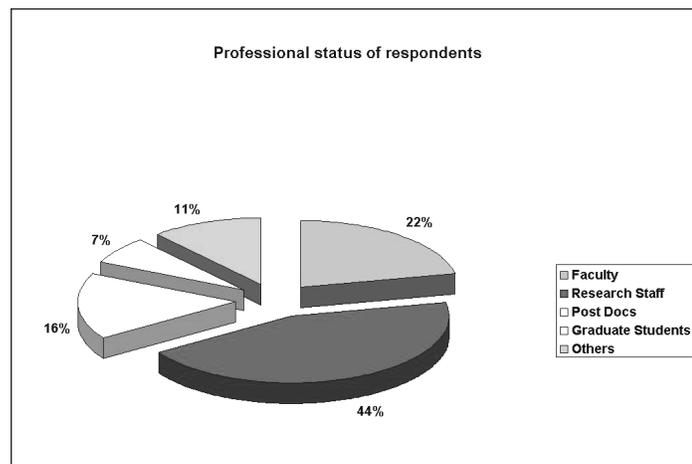


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of the questionnaire replies received. Note that most replies came from Europe and America, however responses arrived from virtually everywhere in the world.

standard calibration data provided by the observatory (47% in favor). The interest in classical observing is relatively high (52%) while enthusiasm for service (queue) observing is not that widespread (42% are genuinely interested, 34% show some interest, while 14% are not interested). Even when it is assumed that observatory performance will be carefully monitored, the community is divided as to the value of service observing. Indeed, 50% of the astronomers accept the usefulness of service observing though with some caveats. Astronomers are clearly worried by the possible loss of observing expertise if most observatories adopt exclusively service observing. However, the use of the smaller telescopes as educational tools for future observational astronomers is mentioned as very valuable.

There is general agreement (71%) in having the observatories provide proposal generation software. This software should provide exposure time calculators (61%), adequate graphics interfaces (40% high interest, 47% medium interest), and should allow submission of proposals through the web (43% high interest, 37% medium interest).

Figure 2. Universe of people who replied to the questionnaire. Note the high percentage of faculty and research staff. This demonstrates the interest in the topics addressed in the questionnaire.



Regarding telescope scheduling in service (queue) mode, astronomers would want to be informed of the approximate date of the observations (57%), and they think that facilities should publicize their short-time observing schedule. Astronomers support the availability of quick-look data analysis tools (77%), and of data reduction packages allowing the elimination of instrumental signatures (63%). The interest in data reduction packages that perform full data reduction tasks is less (40%).

Quality is indeed a must and astronomers consider it very important to have quality checks (58% high interest, 39% medium interest) to monitor the data coming out from the telescope. These quality marks should be saved in the archive (42% high, 46% medium) together with the raw data.

Finally, astronomers agree on the importance of archives (65% high interest, 30% medium interest) for maximizing the scientific output of a telescope/observatory. They value highly (72%) the online availability of a bird's eye view of the data allowing a precise way of judging the quality of the actual data in the archive.

HONORED ELSEWHERE

Continued from page 15

Sunyaev Wins ASP's Highest Honor

The Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal was presented to Honorary AAS Member **Rashid Alievich Sunyaev**, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Garching, Germany, for a lifetime of outstanding research in astronomy. Sunyaev, also of the Space Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, was recognized for his fundamental, life-long contributions to astronomy. The ASP writes, "Together with Yakov Zelâdovich, he was the first to realize that there should be marked features in the angular power spectrum of the cosmic microwave



ASP Bruce Medalist Rashid Sunyaev of Germany's Max Planck Institute of Astrophysics and the Russian Academy of Science's Space Research Institute, Moscow.

Photo, <http://www.aspsky.org>

background, the leftover radiation hiss from the Big Bang, which can be used to measure cosmological parameters (and which were very recently used to show that the Universe is globally flat, as required by most models of inflation)."

APS Lilienfeld Prize to Lawrence Krauss

The Executive Board of the American Physical Society has awarded the Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize to Ambrose Swasey Professor of Astronomy **Lawrence M. Krauss** of Case Western Reserve University. The prize citation reads: "For outstanding contributions to the understanding of the early Universe, and extraordinary achievement in communicating the essence of physical science to the general public."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Isaac Newton Institute In Eastern Europe, Eurasia

Gonzalo Alcaino, *President*, newton@reuna.cl

The Isaac Newton Institute for Astronomical Research founded in Chile in 1978 has, since 1992, expanded into several countries of the former Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. As of the year 2000, the Institute is composed of eleven branches in seven countries (see accompanying map). These are: Armenia (15), Bulgaria (24), Crimea (13), Kazakhstan (17), Kiev (11), Moscow (6), Odessa (34), Petersburg (16), SAO (20), Tajikistan (6), and Uzbekistan (19). The quantities in parentheses give the number of scientific staff members, the grand total of which is 181.

Besides the above named Branches, the Chilean staff of the Isaac Newton Institute is involved in collaboration with astronomers of the Observatory of Rome in several research projects using data secured from telescopes in Chile. It should be noted that papers are submitted only to *The Astrophysical Journal*, *The Astronomical Journal*, and *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

IAU Teaching Commission Revamped

Jay Pasachoff, *US National Liaison, IAU Commission 46*

IAU Commission 46 on the Teaching of Astronomy has merged with the former IAU Commission 38 on Astronomy in Developing Countries to make a new, expanded commission under the name "Astronomy Education and Development." Officers are Syuzo Isobe (Japan), President; Jay Pasachoff (USA), Vice-President; and Julieta Fierro (Mexico), Past-President. The latest newsletter, a list of National Liaisons, a description of the Commission activities, and other information are available at the Commissions's Web site: <http://physics.open.ac.uk/IAU46/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New ICARUS Website for Electronic Submission

Jim Bell, *Icarus Assistant Editor*, jimbo@marswatch.tn.cornell.edu

The editors and staff of *Icarus* are pleased to announce that new and revised manuscripts, as well as reviews, can now be submitted directly via our new Website, <http://icarus.cornell.edu>. We are using a manuscript and review submission program that has been successfully used by *Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta* for hundreds of papers for over a year. We are indebted to Dr. Bob Nichols of Washington University and the *GCA* office for helping us get the site online and tailored to the specific needs of *Icarus* and the DPS community. The information and content on the "old" *Icarus* Website and the current ftp site will still be accessible for a short time during the transition to the new site. Please send comments and feedback on the new manuscript and review submission process (positive as well as negative!) to office@icarus.cornell.edu.

AAPT Membership at a Discount for the AAS

Take advantage of a special price introductory membership offer from the American Association of Physics Teachers. Access <http://www.aapt.org/membership/aas> to read about some of the benefits of membership: the *American Journal of Physics*, the *Physics Teacher* and programs directly related to astronomy.

Sigma Xi Funding for Student Research

Small grants up to \$1,000 for undergraduate and graduate student research in all branches of science and engineering are offered by Sigma Xi. Other funds, up to \$2,500, for astronomy in general, and research specifically involving meteors, meteorites and space are also offered. The spring deadline to apply is **15 March 2001**. Membership with Sigma Xi is required for some, but not all funds. Send applications electronically to the Grants-in-Aid of Research Program, <http://www.sigmaxi.org/giar/guidelines.htm>. See <http://www.sigmaxi.org> for more information about Sigma Xi.

Subscribe to *ALMAnews*

News on the status and progress of the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA) Project is distributed monthly regularly via email in "ALMAnews." The email newsletter highlights current events, project decisions and upcoming meetings; it announces the availability of committee reports and technical memoranda that can be accessed on the web. To subscribe, please email your request to the ALMA secretary, Carolyn White (cwhite@nrao.edu).

NRAO Call for Proposals

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

Instrument	Deadline	Observing Period	Note
VLA	2001 Feb 1	2001 Jun - 2001 Sep	C config/max baseline 3 km
	2001 Jun 1	2001 Oct - 2002 Jan	D config/max baseline 1 km
VLBA	2001 Feb 1	2001 Jun - 2001 Sep	
	2001 Jun 1	2001 Oct - 2002 Jan	

The deadline of **1 June 2001** will also likely apply to receipt of observing proposals requesting large amounts of VLA or VLBA time.

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network. The deadlines are **2001 Feb 1** for the sessions in 2001 May/June and Sep/Oct, and **2001 Jun 1** for the session in 2001 Nov. Further information on NRAO instruments and proposal submission routes is available from the NRAO home page at <http://www.nrao.edu>.

The new NRAO Green Bank Telescope (GBT) was dedicated in August 2000. See article in GENERAL NEWS, page 16.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is **15 February 2001** for the second quarter of 2001. Forms and information are available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at PO Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@sunspot.noao.edu) or PO Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nso@noao.edu). A TeX or PostScript template and instruction sheet can be emailed at your request; obtained by anonymous ftp from <ftp://ftp.sunspot.noao.edu> (cd `observing_templates`) or <ftp://ftp.noao.edu> (cd `nso/nsoforms`), or downloaded from <http://www.nso.noao.edu>. A Windows-based observing-request form is also available at the WWW site. Users' Manuals are available at <http://www.sunspot.noao.edu/telescopes.html> for the SP facilities and <http://www.nso.noao.edu/nsokp/nsokp.html> for the KP facilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS*Continued from page 18***2001 Gruber Cosmology Nominations**

The recently established Cosmology Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation is a \$150,000 prize, given annually to the world's most worthy astronomer, cosmologist, astrophysicist, or scientific philosopher. It recognizes fundamental scientific advances and their authors in the unique realm of cosmology. The 2000 prize, the first award year, was shared by **Allan R. Sandage** and **P. J. E. Peebles**.

Nominations are invited from the fields of astronomy, cosmology, mathematics, physics, and philosophy of science for achievements that have produced fundamental advances in our scientific understanding of the nature of the Universe and how we perceive it. Information about nominating for the 2001 award will be announced shortly at <http://www.gruberawards.org>.

PT OnLine!

The full editorial text of *Physics Today*, a benefit of AAS membership, is now available on the web at <http://physicstoday.org>.

ASP NEWS

James C. White, II, Executive Director, jwhite@aspsky.org

ASP Award Nominations Due

The **Robert J. Trumpler Award** is given to a recent recipient of the PhD degree in North America whose research is considered unusually important to astronomy. Candidates must have received their PhD on or after 1 May 1998 and must be nominated by their department chairs. Nominations must be received by **15 January 2001**.

The **Maria and Eric Muhlmann Award** is given for recent significant observational results made possible by innovative advances in astronomical instrumentation, software, or observational infrastructure. The award is granted for advances in any area of astronomy without restriction to wavelength or space/ground-based observations. Individuals as well as research teams are eligible. Nominations consisting of a two-page letter from any member of the astronomical community worldwide are due on **31 December 2000**.

The **Klumpke-Roberts Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy. Contributions may be in the form of popular books and articles, lectures, radio, TV or movie production, or service to public education in astronomy of any other nature. Two-page nomination letters from astronomers as well as the general public are due on **31 December 2000**.

More information about other ASP awards and each of the awards listed here can be found on the ASP web site at <http://www.aspsky.org/membership/awards.html>. To make nominations for these awards, contact Marilyn Delgado, mdelgado@aspsky.org or 415-337-1000 x100, for additional information or to request a deadline extension.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN*Continued from page 1*

campaign promises must be taken with a grain of salt; we must stand ready to act if our science is not supported at the levels we believe necessary. Kevin Marvel at the AAS Executive Office and the members of the AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) are always ready to help if you are unsure how to go about approaching your elected representatives.

"Taking One's Turn" at NASA, NSF. Another way to increase awareness about astronomical research is through Public Outreach programs, and many of us now participate enthusiastically in these. However, there is one arena where astronomers must make more of an effort if we are to ensure continuing success. Both NASA's Office of Space Science (OSS) and NSF's Astronomy Division (AST) are experiencing profound difficulties in hiring staff astronomers. This column allows little space to argue the case for more participation by astronomers in the day-to-day work of OSS and AST, but it is worth noting that in other fields — biology, chemistry, math, physics — there is a degree of prestige attached to "taking one's turn" in the funding agencies. In the long term, if our best and brightest do not step up to the challenge of a Washington assignment, astronomy may do less and less well in the competition for funds. We all need to think seriously about giving some time to NASA or NSF. And let's accord those who do accept the challenge the respect and gratitude they deserve.

WASHINGTON NEWS*Continued from page 20*

funding for the other National Astronomy facilities such as NOAO and NSO. The wording of this directive indicates Congress's strong support for the National facilities and their commitment to continue the US astronomy research effort with the best possible observational facilities. Hopefully, the next administration will submit a budget that adequately supports all aspects of the national astronomy program. *Letters from AAS members to the Director, Office of Management and Budget (currently Jack Lew), (Executive Office of the President, 725 - 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20503) before February of next year, would be helpful in securing this result.*

The Election: Not Just a New President

In addition to a new President, numerous Congressional seats will likely find new members stepping in to work on the Hill after the November election. It is important that AAS members make an effort to know and communicate with their members of Congress, especially their new members. On the AAS Public Policy Web pages (<http://www.aas.org/policy>) members can access a database, which will provide contact information for the members of Congress representing any particular zip code.

Remember that Congressional offices are set up to handle hardcopy letters more easily than email. Take the time over the holidays to identify your members of Congress and open a dialogue with them about science and research and its importance to the US economy. Also point out that astronomy excites young children and often leads them to enter science or engineering. K-12 education is particularly popular in Washington this year and will likely continue to be important in the foreseeable future. Open a line of communication with your members of Congress so that if a crisis arises, you will already have a willing ear available to hear your issues.





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ELECTION ISSUE



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WASHINGTON NEWS

Kevin B. Marvel, Associate Executive Officer for Policy Programs



As election day approached, here in Washington tension mounted over the FY 2001 budget bills, which remained in limbo nearly thirty days after the close of fiscal year 2000. The good news is that the bill that funds most federally-supported astronomy, the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies bill, passed and was signed into law by President Clinton. Overall, astronomy fared well, especially NASA's Office

of Space Science (OSS), which received significant increases compared to the prior fiscal year. The bad news is that Congress and the President are still battling over other portions of the budget and probably the winter snows will have arrived before the budget issue is fully resolved.

OSS received an overall increase of 13.5% over FY2000 for a total budget of \$2.5 billion dollars. This is a much greater percent increase than the overall NASA budget increase (5%). The increase for the Science, Aeronautics and Technology budget line, which includes OSS, increased by about 11%. This is the result of an increasingly vibrant program with clear goals and missions, which tie directly into the overall NASA strategic plan and the OSS specific science themes. The new Living with a Star initiative, under the Sun-Earth connection theme, which had been deleted from the President's request by the House, ended up receiving its requested \$20 million for start-up in

FY 2001. The Mars Lander 2003 program is funded at a level of \$75 million. This was proposed by NASA *after* the President's Budget was submitted as a result of the rigorous program review occasioned by the losses of both the Mars Polar Lander and Mars Climate Orbiter missions. Among its mandates, Congress specifically tasked NASA to request enough funding in the next fiscal year to restructure of the "Faster-Better-Cheaper" concept as related to OSS mission development. Congress also placed a price limit of \$75 million on the HST WFPC3 camera.

The OSS portion of the funding bill contained a number of unfunded earmarks. This means that OSS must redirect funds from its budget to take on extra Congressionally-mandated programs not in its request. In total, \$39.5 million dollars, or 1.5% of its total budget was directed by Congress towards specific projects that are usually located in the home districts of members of various appropriations committees. Some are good, some are bad, but none of them passed through the peer-review process.

Overall, NSF received less than the President's record setting 17% increase, but it did receive the largest-ever dollar amount increase in the agency's history, for a total FY2001 budget of \$4.43 billion, 13.6% above last year's budget. NSF astronomy fared well, although full details are not yet available. The Congress addressed the flat-funding request for the National Facilities in the President's budget. A specific funding amount of \$15 million was included to cover expenses related to the national radio facilities, including NRAO and Arecibo as well as a request that NSF provide a prioritized list for infrastructure

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