

AAS Committee on the Status of Women  
Issue of July 05, 2019

eds: Nicolle Zellner, Heather Flewelling, Maria Patterson, JoEllen McBride, and  
Alessandra Aloisi

[AAS has migrated their email system to Microsoft Exchange, so please check your  
spam folder if you did not receive the newsletter this week. It is no longer  
possible to subscribe or unsubscribe to the *AASWomen* newsletter by means of  
Google Groups. We have updated our subscribe and unsubscribe instructions below.  
Please follow us on social media for updates and thank you for bearing with us  
as we work out all the kinks.

Twitter @AAS\_Women Facebook <https://bit.ly/2PkU9of>]

This week's issues:

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1. The Advocacy Axis

From: JoEllen McBride via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

By Joan Schmelz, PhD

New high-profile sexual harassment cases continue to appear in the press almost  
daily. A few years ago, a cluster of these cases involved Astronomers. At the  
time, I decided to talk to the press, in part to help take the heat off of the  
Title IX complainants, several of whom wished to remain anonymous. Here's one of  
my quotes from back then:

"We have to find a way to change the system -- to take the pressure off the  
young women in the most vulnerable stages of their careers and shift it to the  
senior men, many of whom have admitted to knowing this 'open secret' for years  
if not decades."

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-advocacy-axis.html>

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2. NASA changes how it divvies up telescope time to reduce gender bias

From: JoEllen McBride [[joellen.mcbride\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com)]

By Alexandra Witze

"NASA has changed the way that reviewers evaluate requests for viewing time on  
the agency's space telescopes in an effort to reduce gender and other biases. It  
now uses a 'double-blind' system, in which neither the proposer nor the reviewer  
knows who the other is."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02064-y>

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3. At 21, Ann Montgomery Became a Lead Engineer at NASA, Managing the Cameras and Other Crucial Gear Used on the Moon

From: Jessica Mink [jmink\_at\_cfa.harvard.edu]

By Kathryn Tully

"The army of workers who made NASA's Apollo program possible, sending a human being to the moon for the first time, included hundreds of thousands of people--from the doctors who screened the astronauts to the crawler-transporter drivers who towed the Saturn V rocket to the launch pad. And among the nearly endless tasks that had to be completed for the Apollo lunar landing, one woman spearheaded a critical engineering project: testing all the small gear the astronauts would take with them to the moon"

Read more at

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ann-montgomery-became-lead-engineer-nasa-during-apollo-managing-lunar-cameras-180972535/>

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4. Making invisible work in STEM more visible

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Linda Wang

"Awareness is growing about "invisible work," such as mentoring students and serving on committees. Many STEM faculty from underrepresented groups, such as people of color, shoulder a heavier burden of this service load, which may put their career advancement at risk. Individuals are starting to speak out on the issue, and some chemistry departments are taking action to incorporate service into tenure and promotion guidelines."

Read more at

<https://cen.acs.org/careers/diversity/Making-invisible-work-STEM-visible/97/i26>

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5. Women feel inferior and less suited to Stem jobs than men

From: Alessandra Aloisi [aloisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

By Katherine Donnelly

"Women limit their ambitions around careers in science, technology, engineering and maths partly because of a mistaken belief that they lack the necessary intelligence, according to new research on Stem and gender at university.

"Even when they study a Stem course at third-level, they subscribe to the stereotypical image of the scientist being male and more intelligent than them."

Read more at

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/women-feel-inferior-and-less-suited-to-stem-jobs-than-men-38268279.html>

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6. Katharine Gebbie

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By *Physics Today* Editorial Staff

"Born on 4 July 1932 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Katharine Blodgett Gebbie was an astrophysicist who spearheaded one of NIST's most scientifically fruitful laboratories."

Read more at

<https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.6.20190704a/full/>

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7. Unstoppable women: These 3 astronomy lovers will inspire you to reach for the stars  
From: Heather Flewelling [heather\_at\_ifa.hawaii.edu]

By Johanna Willett

"If you love astronomy, count your lucky stars that you live in Tucson.

Dark sky ordinances make stargazing particularly good here, attracting both amateur and professional astronomers from around the world. Not to mention the presence of a university that, you know, [takes pictures of MARS](#).

"Among those astronomers are some women who want to encourage future generations to aim for the stars. "

Read more at

[https://tucson.com/thisistucson/tucsonlife/unstoppable-women-these-astronomy-lovers-will-inspire-you-to-reach/article\\_772eec7c-946c-11e9-8b93-678bffa44dc.html](https://tucson.com/thisistucson/tucsonlife/unstoppable-women-these-astronomy-lovers-will-inspire-you-to-reach/article_772eec7c-946c-11e9-8b93-678bffa44dc.html)

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8. Teaching ingenuity

From: Heather Flewelling [heather\_at\_ifa.hawaii.edu]

By Sally G. Hoskins

'After a fulfilling career as a college biology professor, I'm retiring. "What will you miss most?" a colleague asked. My answer was something that, 30 years ago, I would never have expected myself to say: "I will miss the creativity of teaching." When I was a new faculty member, I considered teaching a necessary evil that took me away from the lab bench. I wanted to focus on research, guiding graduate students in what I hoped would be groundbreaking studies on nerve growth. I believed imagination lived not in the classroom, but in the laboratory--to be used for inventing techniques, designing experiments, and interpreting data. But when my life took an unexpected turn, I realized how wrong I had been.'

Read more at

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/364/6445/1102>

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9. Job Opportunities

For those interested in increasing excellence and diversity in their organizations, a list of resources and advice is here:

<https://cswa.aas.org/diversity.html#howtoincrease>

-Service Observer (SO) Position at the Large Binocular Telescope Observatory (LBTO)

<http://www.lbto.org/service-observer---june-2019.html>

-Tenure-track faculty position in any area of astronomy, astrophysics, or planetary science at Florida International University

[https://physics.fiu.edu/\\_assets/pdfs/astronomyhire2020ad\\_nologofinalversion.pdf](https://physics.fiu.edu/_assets/pdfs/astronomyhire2020ad_nologofinalversion.pdf)

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10. How to Submit to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

To submit an item to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter, including replies to topics, send email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_aas.org)

All material will be posted unless you tell us otherwise, including your email address.

When submitting a job posting for inclusion in the newsletter, please include a one-line description and a link to the full job posting.

Please remember to replace "\_at\_" in the e-mail address above.

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11. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_aas.org). A list moderator will add your email to the list. They will reply to your message to confirm that they have added you.

Join AAS Women List through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/postorius/lists/aaswlist.lists.aas.org> and enter the email address you wish to subscribe in the 'Your email address' field. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to. There may be a delay between entering your email and receiving the confirmation message. Check your Spam or Junk mail folders for the message if you have not received it after 2 hours.

To unsubscribe from AAS Women by email:

Send an email to [aaswlist-leave\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave_at_lists.aas.org) from the email address you wish to remove from the list. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to which will complete the unsubscribe.

Leave AAS Women or change your membership settings through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/accounts/signup> to create an account with the online portal. After confirming your account you can see the lists you are subscribed to and update your settings.

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12. Access to Past Issues

<https://cswa.aas.org/AASWOMEN.html>

Each annual summary includes an index of topics covered.

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*AASWomen* Newsletter mailing list -- [aaswlist@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist@lists.aas.org)  
To unsubscribe send an email to [aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org)