

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of September 13, 2019

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

[We have a \*new email address\* for receiving submissions to the newsletter:  
aaswomen\_at\_lists.aas.org. An editor will reply with a confirmation of receipt.  
Please update us in your contacts, and thank you for your submissions. --eds.]

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1. AAS Board Reflections: James Lowenthal  
From: JoEllen McBride via womeninastronomy.blogspot.com

"In order to familiarize the astronomy community with the AAS Board and encourage participation, the CSWA created a Reflection Survey for outgoing AAS Board members to complete after their terms ended in June. Over the coming weeks, we will feature the responses we've received on the Women in Astronomy blog. Enjoy!

James Lowenthal is Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor and Chair of Astronomy at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. He received his BS in Physics and Astronomy from Yale in 1986 and his PhD in Astronomy from the University of Arizona in 1991. He did postdoctoral work at the Johns Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore and as a Hubble Fellow at the University of California Santa Cruz."

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/09/aas-board-reflections-james-lowenthal.html>

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2. AAS Climate Site Visit program launches  
From: Nancy Morrison [nancyastro126\_at\_gmail.com]

The AAS Climate Site Visit program is under way. At the invitation of a department's chair or an institute's director, a three-person site visit team will spend a day and a half with the organization, conduct interviews in order to assess the climate, and draft a report with actionable recommendations. Organizations will benefit by receiving constructive feedback from neutral, highly-qualified peers.

This program has been developed and is being managed by the AAS Site Visit Oversight Committee (SVOC). Procedures and best practices documents are available here:

<https://aas.org/comms/astronomy-department-climate-site-visit-oversight-committee>

A manual provides the details of a site visit here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19k70KwEVOHv3aU2GqH6Kod6itYSsRlq3/view?usp=sharing>

The manual includes a template that organization members may use to create a letter requesting that their department or institute invite a visit:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pDK6lw-uCHus3rJ0xC-rdu2l0fmBwWzsJQLJTqImE2A/edit?usp=sharing>

Department chairs/institute directors may request a visit, acknowledging that they have read and agree with the key points in the manual, here:

[http://bit.ly/AAS\\_SiteVisitRequest](http://bit.ly/AAS_SiteVisitRequest)

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3. Conference: Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education  
From: Nancy Morrison [nancyastro126\_at\_gmail.com]

Meeting announcement: Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education First Annual Public Summit

Tuesday, November 19 to Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
University of Washington, Husky Union Building  
4001 East Stevens Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98195

"This Summit aims to identify and elevate promising practices for preventing sexual harassment in higher education. Through a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and concurrent sessions, this day-and-a-half event will serve as an opportunity for members of the Action Collaborative and the broader higher education community to gather information, engage in a dialogue, and gain diverse perspectives on how to effectively prevent sexual harassment." ... "We welcome you to join us in-person or virtually through an interactive webcast. The deadline to register to participate in-person is Wednesday, November 6, 2019."

Register here:

<https://nationalacademies.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5dc4a6f3f17fd11adf3be4912&id=62475e925c&e=b7b7650ba6>

Webpage of the Action Collaborative:

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/sites/sexualharassmentcollaborative/index.htm>

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4. How to banish manels and manferences from scientific meetings

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com] and Alessandra Aloisi [aloini\_at\_stsci.edu]  
By Holly Else

"Nancy Amato didn't want to go to Las Vegas. In 2015, it was the chosen venue for one of the main events in her field -- the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA). But she and other women involved in organizing it felt that the city, famed for its strip clubs, was unsuitable. Among the first achievements of the organizing committee -- which that year was all-female -- was moving the conference to Seattle in Washington."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02658-6>

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5. 125 Women in STEM Selected as AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors

From: Alessandra Aloisi [aloini\_at\_stsci.edu]  
by Tiffany Lohwater

"Women innovators across the United States have been selected as AAAS IF/THEN<sup>®</sup> Ambassadors by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Lyda Hill Philanthropies to share their stories and serve as high-profile role models

for middle-school girls."

Read more at

<https://www.aaas.org/news/125-women-stem-selected-aaas-ifthen-ambassadors>

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6. Women hold one in five top science and tech jobs

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

By Georgina Evans and Kate Ryan

"Women hold one in five top jobs in science, technology, maths and engineering globally, which slows down innovation, according to a study of research institutions ...

While women made up more than 50% of higher education students in those subjects -- known collectively as STEM -- their numbers fell dramatically with seniority, found a study by the University of Michigan and the New York Stem Cell Foundation."

Read more at

<https://japantoday.com/category/tech/women-hold-one-in-five-top-science-and-tech-jobs>

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7. TED talks get a spike in 10 years: Influential speeches become new career option for women

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

"Women gave more than half of TED talks -- influential speeches from experts on a range of issues -- in the first half of 2017, up from less than one-third in 2006, according to a study. However, the study published in the journal *Political Research Exchange* also found that ethnic minorities remain under-represented as [TED speakers](#), giving just one in five talks over the same time period."

Read more at

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/ted-talks-get-a-spike-in-10-years-influential-speeches-become-new-career-option-for-women/articleshow/71007077.cms>

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8. Career progression for women in science is still being stifled

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

by Lisa Ardill

"A new study of more than 500 scientific institutions has found that career progression for women in science is 'disappointingly low'.

With initiatives like Athena SWAN in place today, we're certainly working towards greater gender equality in the world of science.

But according to new research, we still need to up our game in terms of helping women progress in STEM careers."

Read more at

<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/careers/women-science-careers-equality>

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9. Overcoming Ice and Stereotypes at the Bottom of the World

From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

By Karina Peggau

"The year 1969 was monumental. It is remembered in popular culture for the [Moon landing](#), the Stonewall riots, and Woodstock. But it also marked an important breakthrough for diversity within the scientific community. Fifty years ago, four women made history as the first all-female team to conduct research in Antarctica and to venture to the South Pole. In doing so, these brave pioneers set an example for women in polar science and beyond for years to come.

Today, women account for roughly one third of all scientists visiting Antarctica ..."

Read more at

<https://eos.org/opinions/overcoming-ice-and-stereotypes-at-the-bottom-of-the-world>

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10. A physics department fosters an inclusive environment  
From: Alessandra Aloisi [alosisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

by Heather Hill

"The syllabus for physics professor [Erin De Pree](#)'s mechanics course at St Mary's College of Maryland starts like any other. But after a list of topics and a schedule of assignments and exams, things get more unusual, with sections on academic accessibility, sexual misconduct, and discriminatory behavior. Laying out a clear set of behavioral expectations is one part of the physics department's efforts to prevent harassment and encourage inclusivity."

Read more at

<https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.2.20190912a/full/>

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11. 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>

- Assistant Professor in Astronomy, Rice University

<https://jobs.rice.edu/postings/21236>

- Research Specialist, Senior, University of Arizona

<https://uacareers.com/postings/41238>

- Research Specialist, University of Arizona

<https://uacareers.com/postings/41236>

- Tenure Track Assistant Professor, Theoretical Physics or Astronomy, Department of Physics and Astronomy, California State Polytechnic University (Cal Poly Pomona)

<https://jobregister.aas.org/ad/22993ae9>

- Open search in physics and astronomy, University of Notre Dame, Department of Physics

<https://jobs.physicstoday.org/jobs/12755169/tenure-track-professor-in-physics>

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12. How to Submit to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

To submit an item to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter, including replies to topics, send email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_lists.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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### 13. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_lists.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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### 14. 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)