

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of February 07, 2020

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

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1. Share Your Best CSWA Memories!

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

2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy. For 40 years, this Committee has been making recommendations to AAS leadership on ways to improve the astronomical community so that all women (people who identify as female, including trans women, genderqueer women, and non-binary people who are significantly female-identified) are welcome and encouraged to pursue astronomy. We have submitted white papers in decadal surveys, endorsed four Women in Astronomy conferences, and shared the perspectives of astronomers whose experiences in the field differ from the status quo on our Women in Astronomy blog among other things.

To celebrate, we asked attendees of our Meet and Greet at the 235th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society to briefly share their favorite CSWA memories. We now want to extend that offer to the rest of the astronomy community. Read the memories below and feel free to add your own in the comments!

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/02/share-your-best-cswa-memories.html>

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2. NASA Headquarters Summer Internships

From: Pat Knezek [[patricia.m.knezek\\_at\\_nasa.gov](mailto:patricia.m.knezek_at_nasa.gov)]

Applications are now being accepted for summer interns at NASA! This year the NASA Headquarters Science Mission Directorate (SMD) plans bring aboard up to 15 students for paid internship opportunities. Students will have the chance to work on exciting new projects and gain meaningful work experience within SMD. There are also opportunities at NASA Centers around the country. The deadline for applications for the summer internships is March 8.

Please direct any interested students to <https://intern.nasa.gov/> and for the

NASA Headquarters SMD opportunities please search for the division-specific announcements listed below:

NASA Science Mission Directorate Internships – Earth Science Division – 16387  
NASA Science Mission Directorate Internships – Heliophysics Division – 16394  
NASA Science Mission Directorate Internships – Planetary Science Division – 16401  
NASA Science Mission Directorate Internships – Astrophysics Division – 16391  
NASA Science Mission Directorate Internships – James Webb Space Telescope Program – 16397

Learn more at

<https://intern.nasa.gov/>

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3. Task force recommends US\$50-million fund to bring African Americans into physics and astronomy

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

*Nature* article highlighting the recommendations of the AIP TEAM-UP task force that were released during the AAS Meeting in January 2020. This article also discusses the efforts underway in the AGU and APS.

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00286-z>

Read our blog post about the AIP TEAM-UP announcement at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/01/cross-post-task-force-recommendations.html>

Read a *Physics Today* article at

<https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.3.4405>

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4. Amazon Prime's 'Troop Zero' shows inspiring effect of Voyager's 'Golden Record' on kids

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

"Troop Zero" on Amazon Prime follows the journey of a young girl who rallies her town together to submit a recording for the Voyager Golden Record. This article interviews the creator of the movie about her inspiration for creating this fictional story.

Read more at

<https://www.space.com/troop-zero-movie-voyager-golden-record.html>

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5. NASA Astrophysics Virtual Town Hall: Dual-Anonymous Peer Review for Astrophysics General Observer / General Investigator Programs

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

"On February 27, 2020 at 1 PM Eastern Time, NASA's Astrophysics Division will host a virtual community Town Hall to discuss the implementation of dual-anonymous peer review for Astrophysics General Observer / General Investigator (GO/GI) programs."

Submit questions at

<https://arc.cnf.io/sessions/mlc4/#!/dashboard>

Join Webinar at

<https://nasaenterprise.webex.com/nasaenterprise/j.php?MTID=m4418b2712db800a4801f0c93ec3c4ae5>

Meeting password: Astrodapr2020!

Audio-only participation is available by calling +1-415-527-5035 and providing access code 904 996 893.

More information at

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/dual-anonymous-peer-review>

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#### 6. Equal Representation in Scientific Honors Starts with Nominations

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

The American Geophysical Union (AGU), like many professional societies, is working towards increasing the diversity of recipients of its honors. This past year, members of the AGU's Space Physics and Aeronomy section created a Nomination Task Force with this goal in mind. Weekly meetings were held, "shadow nominators" volunteered to shepherd nomination packages, and letters of support were written, reviewed, and revised. In the end, three of the six nominees from underrepresented groups received honors.

Read more and learn what the task force did to accomplish this at

<https://eos.org/opinions/equal-representation-in-scientific-honors-starts-with-nominations>

This follow up includes a nice graph of the increase of female participants in 2019

<https://eos.org/agu-news/agu-makes-strides-in-2019-union-awards-medals-and-prizes>

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#### 7. Cancel cuts to Graduate Research Fellowships

From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu] and Alessandra Aloisi [alosisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

[Eds note: May need to login to access article.]

The National Science Foundation plans to decrease its Graduate Research Fellowship Program awards to only 1600 in upcoming competitions. No supporting evidence or rationale has been provided. A letter to the editor in *Science* describes why this isn't good news for women and underrepresented minorities, or for US science and innovation in general.

Read more at

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6477/519>

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#### 8. Record-breaking NASA astronaut Christina Koch is returning to Earth after nearly a year in space

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

Christina Koch is on her way home from the ISS after completing 3 spacewalks and studying how fire behaves in microgravity!

Read more at

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/2/5/21123928/nasa-astronaut-christina-koch-year->

[space-iss-soyuz-returns-spacewalk](#)

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9. She discovered how to measure the universe. Then the men got all the acclaim.  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

"Silent Sky," currently performing at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., tells the tale of Henrietta Swan Leavitt, the Harvard computer who discovered how to use a star's brightness to determine its distance. Every astronomer uses this technique and yet we're often not told who figured it out until much later in our careers.

Read more at

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/enrichment/arts-culture/480762-she-discovered-how-to-measure-the-universe-then-her>

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10. NASEM: Supporting the Black Student Experience  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

"Join the Committee on Women in Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for our 2020 Black History Month event: Supporting the Black Student Experience, February 21, 2020 at 9:00am-11:00am."

Register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-history-month-2020-supporting-the-black-student-experience-registration-92225263245>

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11. People will not trust unkind science  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

Gail Cardew makes the case in *Nature* that creating a nurturing and supportive scientific culture should begin with leadership and that our kindness affects everyone around us--especially the public.

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00269-0>

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12. Job Opportunities  
For those interested in increasing excellence and diversity in their organizations, a list of resources and advice is here:  
<https://aas.org/comms/cswa/resources/Diversity>

-Postdoctoral Scholar Position in Planetary Science at Northern Arizona University  
[https://hr.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psp/ph92prta/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_APP\\_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS\\_APP\\_JBPST&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=604820&PostingSeq=1](https://hr.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psp/ph92prta/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=604820&PostingSeq=1)

-Support Astronomer at Lowell Observatory  
<https://lowell.edu/about/employment/>

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13. 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

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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#### 14. 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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#### 15. Access to Past Issues

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

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)