

AAS Committee on the Status of Women  
Issue of February 28, 2020  
eds: JoEllen McBride, Nicolle Zellner, Heather Flewelling, Maria Patterson, and Alessandra Aloisi

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1. Rest in Power Katherine Johnson

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

"It is always difficult when a hero passes on. But celebrating their accomplishments, and the path they paved for others, is a great way to empower future generations of scientists. Katherine Johnson, a NASA mathematician whose calculations help send astronauts into Earth orbit and eventually to the Moon, passed away earlier this week."

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/02/rest-in-power-katherine-johnson.html>

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2. NASA Dual-Anonymous Peer Review Town Hall

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

NASA's Astrophysics Division held a virtual Town Hall on February 27, 2020, at 1pm ET to discuss the implementation of dual-anonymous peer review for the Astrophysics General Observer and General Investigator (GO/GI) programs. A second Town Hall will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 12:30pm to discuss the four conventional ROSES programs.

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/02/nasa-dual-anonymous-peer-review-town.html>

Read more about how these changes in the NASA peer-review process were inspired by a successful experiment with the Hubble Space Telescope at

<https://www.space.com/nasa-hubble-telescope-dual-anonymous-test-astrophysics.html>

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3. Memorialized on Mercury: A Monument to the Life and Work of Maya Angelou

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

By Jordan M. Bretzfelder

"As we celebrate Black History Month, there is no better time to remember the life and work of the poet, memoirist, dancer, singer, actress, and civil rights activist Maya Angelou (1928-2014). This year, her legacy deserves extra attention. On September 19th, 2019, 50 years after the publication of her most famous work and first autobiography, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, a new and permanent monument to her contributions to literature and the arts was approved by the International Astronomical Union (a.k.a the IAU). You may be wondering what outer space has to do with the first Black woman to publish a nonfiction best seller."

Read more at:

<https://womeninplanetaryscience.wordpress.com/2020/02/25/maya-angelou-crater-on-mercury/>

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4. 37 Women Who've Upended Science, Tech, and Engineering For the Better  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Courtney Linder

"From Grace Hopper to Elizabeth Magie, these are the inventors who have shaped STEM as we know it."

Read more at

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a26998723/womens-history-month-stem-inventions/>

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5. Astronomy Expands Its Scope From the Heavens to Humans  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Sarah Scoles

"Every 10 years, astronomers weigh in on the state of their field. For the first time, they're tackling Earth-centric issues like gender bias and diversity."

Read more at

<https://www.wired.com/story/astronomy-expands-its-scope-from-the-heavens-to-humans/>

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6. The woman who explained the stars  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Giuseppina Fabbiano

"Public acclaim escaped one of the twentieth century's most illustrious astronomers, Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin; a new biography sets her in the firmament."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00509-3>

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7. Study: Gender Inequality Persists in Science Careers and Publishing  
From: Alessandra Aloisi [aloisi\_at\_stsci.edu] and JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Lois Elfman

"Four scientists, Dr. Albert-László Barabási, Dr. Alexander J. Gates, Dr. Roberta Sinatra and Dr. Junming Huang, have taken a new approach to examining gender differences in scientific disciplines in academia. They had seen evidence that female scientists publish fewer articles throughout their careers and their work receives fewer citations. To build a comprehensive picture, they opted for a longitudinal analysis of academic publishing."

Read more at

<https://diverseeducation.com/article/168041/>

Read the original study published in a *PNAS* article at

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/02/14/1914221117>

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8. The Activist Group MeTooSTEM Is Facing Allegations Of Harassment Against Its Own Leader

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

By Peter Aldous

"Two individuals on the group's three-person leadership team have resigned, a week after one of them wrote to the group's governing board calling for MeTooSTEM's controversial founder, BethAnn McLaughlin, to step down. The two leaders, Angela Rasmussen and Teresa Swanson, had backed a Chinese American MeTooSTEM volunteer, Jaedyn Ruli, who complained that McLaughlin had harassed them. Ruli has also resigned from the group."

Read more at

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/bethann-mclaughlin-metoostem-resignation-harassment>

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9. 'The spark has ignited.' Latin American scientists intensify fight against sexual harassment

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

By Lindzi Wessel, Rodrigo Perez Ortega

"For decades, from his base at the University of Los Andes (Uniandes) in Bogota, Colombia, biologist Adolfo Amezquita Torres made his name studying the diverse, jewelike poisonous frogs of the Andes and the Amazon. But on campus, he compiled a darker record, former and current students have alleged in dozens of complaints. They say he mistreated women, including by favoring and emotionally abusing female students he was dating and retaliating against those who rejected his advances or complained about his behavior. Earlier this month, university officials concluded he was guilty of sexual harassment and misconduct and fired him in a watershed moment for the university—and for a growing effort to fight sexual misconduct on campuses across Latin America."

Read more at

<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2020/02/spark-has-ignited-latin-american-scientists-intensify-fight-against-sexual>

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10. Women's History Month event on Science, Sex, and Gender

From: Nancy Morrison [nancyastro126\_at\_gmail.com]

On Friday, March 13, the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine will host a Women's History Month event on Science, Sex, and Gender.

Moderated by Harper Jean Tobin (National Center for Transgender Equality), a panel of experts will explore the role of science in evolving and expanding notions of sex and gender.

Read more and register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-sex-and-gender-womens-history-month-2020-registration-96750749095>

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

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to *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* 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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#### 13. 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*  
To unsubscribe send an email to *aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org*