

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of May 8, 2020

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

[We hope you all are taking care of yourselves and each other. --eds.]

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1. AAS Members Elected to National Academy of Sciences

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com] and Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) announced the election of its new members in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Seven former or current members of the AAS are among them. Congratulations to the new inductees, in particular Daniela Calzetti (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Katherine Freese (University of Texas, Austin), and Suzanne Staggs (Princeton University).

Read the AAS press release at

<https://aas.org/posts/news/2020/04/aas-members-elected-national-academy-sciences>

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2. Belinda Wilkes to Step Down as Director of the Chandra X-Ray Center

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com] and Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

By Megan Watzke and Peter Edmonds

"[Belinda Wilkes](#), who has served as Director of the [Chandra X-ray Center \(CXC\)](#) since 2014, will leave her position later this year. During Wilkes's tenure, Chandra has served as NASA's flagship for X-ray astronomy and delivered remarkable discoveries about the universe."

Read more at

<https://aas.org/posts/news/2020/04/belinda-wilkes-step-down-director-chandra-x-ray-center>

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3. AR enhanced smartphone app for women in STEM stories

From: Kimberly Arcand [kkowal\_at\_cfa.harvard.edu]

Students, families, and teachers on the lookout for fun and interactive educational experiences now have the opportunity to listen to the stars, explore Mars, and visit the Crab Nebula through their smartphones or tablets.

This augmented reality (AR) app features Q&A sessions with women scientists and allows users to take a look at the innovative instruments that enable them to do their work, from Chandra itself to the Mars 2020 Rover. The free app is accessible on both iOS/Apple and Android devices, and is available at the following link: <https://chandra.si.edu/women/ar/>.

Young female aspiring scientists can be immersed in the experience of encountering role models, and science enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy learning about the accomplishments, career paths, and discoveries made by women who have played a key role in the modern history of science.

Women featured in the content of this app include astronaut Cady Coleman, astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell, NASA instrument engineer Christina

Hernandez, computer scientist and astronomer Wanda Diaz, and geologist and director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Ellen Stofan.

The focus on women in science extended behind the scenes, as the app was created by an all-female team of scientists, designers, and digital media experts. The project was led by Kimberly Arcand, Chandra's visualization scientist & emerging technology lead.

Read the press release at

<https://chandra.si.edu/women/ar/pr.html>

Download the app at

<https://chandra.si.edu/women/ar/>

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4. Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Highlighting Asian American Engineers Pt. 1

From: Maria Patterson [maria.t.patterson\_at\_gmail.com]

With the celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month in May, the Society of Women Engineers is highlighting Asian American women engineers in a series of interview blog posts.

Read more at

<https://alltogether.swe.org/2020/04/celebrating-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month/>

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5. Scientist Mothers Face Extra Challenges in the Face of COVID-19

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

By 500 Women Scientists

"The pandemic is amplifying nearly every disadvantage that women in STEM already face. But institutions and the scientific community can help."

Read more at

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/voices/scientist-mothers-face-extra-challenges-in-the-face-of-covid-19/>

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6. 5 tips for working from home as a woman in STEM

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

By Mande Holford

"I'm at home – not at the bench doing experiments, not in my office speaking with colleagues and not in the field on an expedition surveying and collecting venomous snails. Instead, I'm cooking, feeding, cleaning, dressing and trying to homeschool my two children. ... While it won't be easy and requires a lot of self-care, we can identify the stressors and articulate our pain points with the goal of removing the cactus spines altogether. Here's how."

Read more at

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/covid-19-women-in-stem-childcare/>

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7. Netherlands science university accused of bias over drive to hire female staff

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

Eindhoven University of Technology "is being investigated over claims of gender discrimination after it increased its cohort of female academics by 25%." It did so by advertising and filling positions exclusively with women.

The university's rector, Frank Baaijens, said, "We feel that we can become a better university if we have a better representation of scientists in the university." Still, the institute is being asked by the Dutch Institute for Human Rights to justify its policy.

Read more at

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/07/netherlands-science-university->

[accused-of-bias-over-drive-to-hire-female-staff](#)

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8. Nominations for AAS Honors, Prizes, and Awards for 2021 Are Now Open  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com] and Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

The 2021 AAS prize cycle is under way. Please nominate a deserving colleague or yourself for an AAS honor, prize, or award. This year the AAS has introduced an entirely new nomination system. Nominations for AAS Fellows and all Society awards and prizes with a 30 June 2020 deadline must be submitted online using the new portal on the OpenWater Awards website.

Read more about the new portal at

<https://aas.org/posts/news/2020/05/nominations-aas-honors-prizes-and-awards-2021-are-now-open>

Submit nominations at

<https://aas.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>

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9. 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.

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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10. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the AASWOMEN newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to 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 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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11. Access to Past Issues

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

Each annual summary includes an index of topics covered.

AASWomen Newsletter mailing list -- aaswlist@lists.aas.org  
To unsubscribe send an email to aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org