

Ata Sarajedini: Candidate for Vice-President

Affiliation: Florida Atlantic University

Position/Title: Bjorn Lamborn Endowed Chair and Professor

PhD institution: Yale University, 1992

Areas of scientific interest:

- Resolved stellar populations in galaxies
- Globular clusters
- Open clusters
- Pulsating variable stars



AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Scientific Editor, Journals of the American Astronomical Society, 2016 – present
- Associate Editor in Chief, *The Astronomical Journal*, American Astronomical Society, 2012 – 2016

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Dean and Professor, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Florida Atlantic University, 2017 – 2020
- Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, 2012 – 2016
- Associate Dean for Research, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, 2012 - 2016
- Associate Chair and Acting Chair, Department of Astronomy, University of Florida, 2009 – 2012

Statement:

The science of Astronomy, by its very nature, possesses a natural appeal to the general public through its various components. Not only are there a plethora of amateur astronomy groups focused on observing the sky with the naked eye, binoculars, and telescopes, but there are numerous lifelong learners focused on continuing education and broadening the horizons of their knowledge in science through astronomy. This is where we need to take advantage of astronomy's appeal to the general public to help improve their science literacy. I have done this kind of outreach and public engagement through my free podcast called "Astronomy Minute"

on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, as well as my radio show called "Science Rocks!" on the AM/FM dial, at OldiesSouthFlorida.com, and ScienceRocks.FM.

In addition to improving science literacy among the general public, it's important for the AAS to advocate for the interests of the astronomical community in all venues where it is appropriate and fruitful. This is especially relevant as we have entered the JWST era and are soon to enter the TMT, GMT, and LSST (Rubin Observatory). This is a particularly exciting time for the science of astronomy and astronomers in general - both amateur, professional, and those who are enchanted by the universe and its sheer size and beauty.

I am honored by the nomination to serve as an AAS Vice President especially given the prominent role that the Society currently has and will be playing in the future as I've outlined above. The coming years hold a golden opportunity for us to excel as a science, a profession, and as advocates for science education among the general public. I look forward to helping the AAS to achieve its goals in these and other areas.

You can learn more about my podcast and radio show at astronomyminute.org and ScienceRocks.FM, respectively.