

Lisa Prato: Candidate for At-Large Trustee

Affiliation: Lowell Observatory

Position/Title: Astronomer

PhD institution: Stony Brook University, 1998

Areas of scientific interest:

- Star and planet formation
- Young binary stars
- Circumstellar disk evolution
- Herbig-Haro objects



AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Chair, Publications Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2022 – present
- Member, Strategic Assembly, American Astronomical Society, 2019 – present
- Co-Chair, Publications Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2019 – 2022
- Member, Publications Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2017 – 2019

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee, Sagan Summer Workshop, 2021
- Member, NEID (WIYN) Spectrograph Operational Readiness Review, 2021
- Member, Keck Observatory Archive Users Group, 2021 – present
- Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Lowell Observatory, 2020 – 2021
- Member, Scientific Organizing Committee, Star and Planet Formation in the Southwest II, 2018
- Visiting Scholar, National Central University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, 2018
- Member, Scientific Organizing Committee, IRTF Future Directions Workshop, 2018
- Chair, NIRSPEC (Keck) Instrument Upgrade Review Committee, 2017
- Beatrice Tinsley Visiting Scholar, University of Texas at Austin, 2017
- Member, Visiting Committee, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, 2012 – 2013
- Member, Gemini Observatory Science Advisory Committee, 2009 – 2011
- Adjunct Faculty, Northern Arizona University, 2009 – present
- Member, ALTAIR Committee, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, 2008 – 2009

Statement:

"Astronomical" = scientific and "Society" = people; the American Astronomical Society is a remarkable organization of people striving to do great work and helping each other, the broader scientific community, and the public to connect with opportunities and resources to advance scientific research, education, knowledge, and understanding. To these ends, the AAS needs to bring everyone to the table and to find ways to reach across regions and demographics to make the doing of science and the outcomes of science available to all current and future generations. Diversity, inclusion, equity, justice, and respect are not "extras" to be tacked on to the scientific enterprise: these values comprise the core fabric upon which innovative science must be built. Humanity cannot afford to continue to miss out on the novel and unique contributions from currently underrepresented communities if we are to sustain the vibrant and strategic growth and improvement of our field, and drive the scientific literacy of the larger society. AAS can play a key role by supporting members' creative approaches to addressing inequities in communities' and institutions' ability to carry out science, leveling the playing fields and access to key resources, and supporting sustainable approaches to the future of our enterprise. AAS' move to open access publications, and the provision of expanded financial support to offset increases in page charges, demonstrates the Society's leadership in making fundamental resources more accessible.

It is an honor to be nominated to run for the Board of Trustees of the AAS, and I am grateful and privileged to have this opportunity to communicate my statement to the membership. On the Board of the AAS, I will work to represent all members of the Society and I will work to support and promote great science, expanded opportunities for marginalized and underrepresented groups, open access to resources, and sustainable practices. Evolution, growth, and change take time and patience but my experiences as a member, Co-Chair, and Chair of the AAS Publications Committee has taught me that a group of dedicated Society leaders working together can make a positive difference for our members and our discipline.