

Derek L. Buzasi

Candidate for At-Large Trustee



Affiliation: Florida Gulf Coast University

Position/Title: Whitaker Eminent Scholar in Science

PhD institution: Penn State University, 1989

Areas of scientific interest:

- Asteroseismology
- Stellar atmospheres and coronae, magnetic activity and rotation, gyrochronology
- Exoplanets
- Optical/UV ground/space instrumentation

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Chair, Selection Committee, Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, 2023
- Member, Selection Committee, Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, 2022 – present
- Member, Demographics Committee, 2021 – present
- AAS Agent for Florida Gulf Coast University, 2014 - present

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- ESA PLATO Complementary Science Team, 2022 – present
- Leadership Council, NASA Cosmic Origins Stars Special Interest Group, 2020 – present
- Chair, TESS Data for Asteroseismology Coordinated Activity, 2019 – present
- Councilor, Council on Undergraduate Education, 2019 – present
- Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Science (Exoplanets)*
- Member, Steering Committee, TESS Asteroseismic Science Consortium, 2019 – present
- Kepler Science Team, 2009 – 2014
- Member, Division G: Stars and Stellar Physics, International Astronomical Union, 2003 – present
- Visiting Senior Scientist, NASA Headquarters, 1992 – 1994

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated for membership on the Board of Trustees, and I hope you will allow me to bring my experience and expertise to the further service of the Society and its values: curiosity, integrity, inclusivity, empowerment, and sustainability. These are critical times for astronomy, as we simultaneously operate the current generation and plan the next generation of ground- and space-based facilities in a budgetary and political environment which

is more challenging than ever. I see the functions of the Board as supporting and enabling the members of our Society (as well as being supported and enabled by them), flexibly implementing the existing strategic plan, and planning for the future of both the Society and the discipline as a whole.

Based on conversations with numerous colleagues (and probably far too much time lurking on social media), some specific areas where I would work to make a significant impact include:

- (1) Improving and broadening access to resources, including data, telescopes, journals, and awards, but perhaps most importantly meetings, which must be made financially more accessible to our community.
- (2) Advocating for research support levels which are both more generous and more stable.
- (3) In coordination with international partners, strengthening responses to shared concerns such as the proliferation of satellite constellations and other threats to dark skies, and equitable training of future generations of astronomers, particularly those from previously underrepresented populations.
- (4) Developing and sharing education and outreach tools and best practices to our membership and to the broader science and science education communities.

I have worked in a broad range of institutions, from small colleges to research universities and governmental organizations, and in astronomical applications ranging from multi-wavelength observations to theory to instrumentation. I've also served productively on numerous teams and committees from the institutional to the national and international level, including the AAS Demographics and Heineman Prize Committees. Perhaps the proudest moment I've ever had as an astronomer occurred just a few years ago, when I was asked to take on a leadership position because "everyone likes to work with you, because you listen to them". If I am elected to the Board, I promise to listen, to serve as a conduit between the membership and leadership of the Society, and to help implement policies that support superb science, education, and outreach, expand access and opportunities for our entire community, and advocate for both astronomy and science in general at both a national and international level.