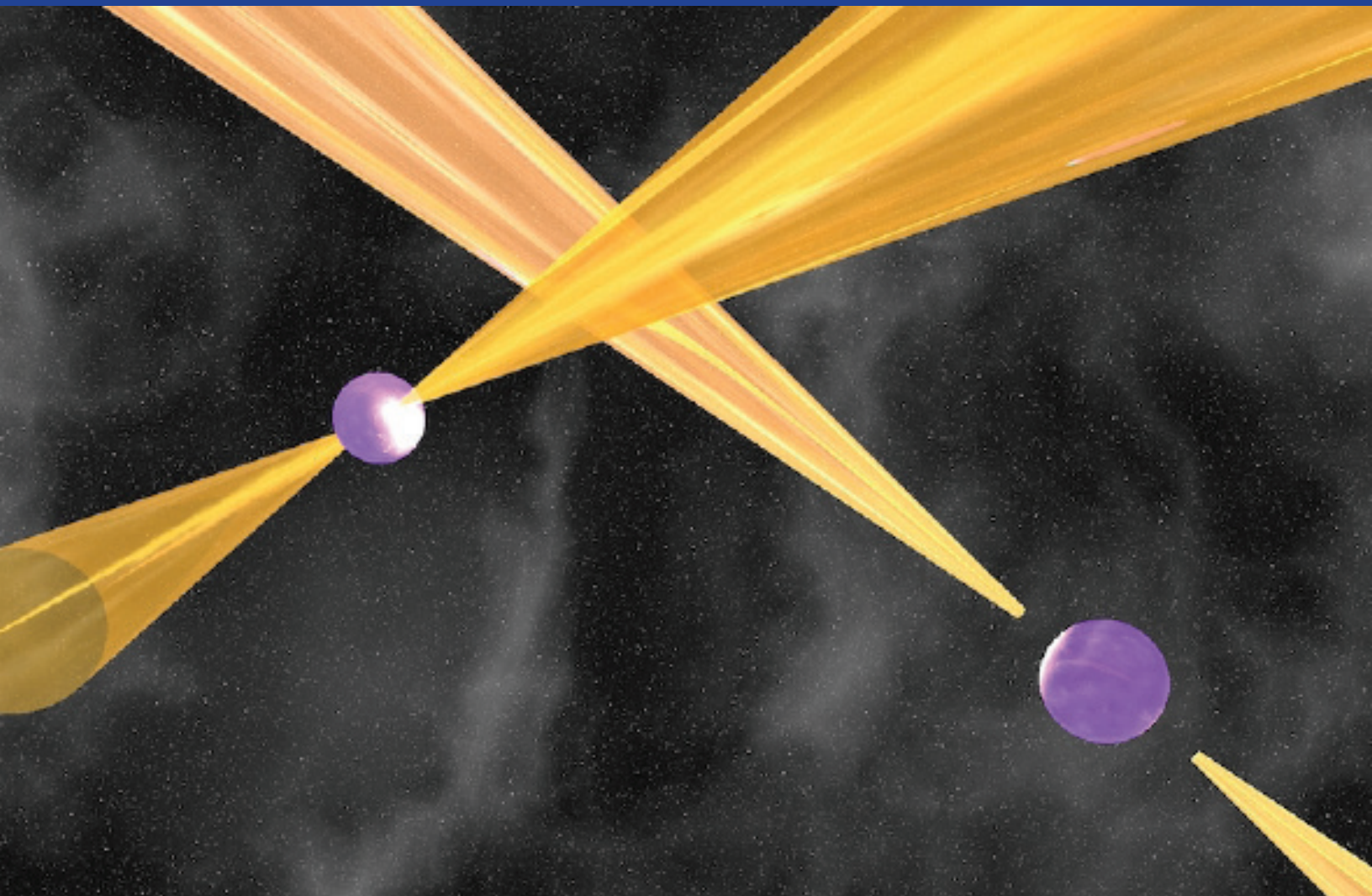


2024 Annual Report





The Mission of the AAS

To enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe as a diverse and inclusive astronomical community.

The Vision of the AAS

To create a world where all people value and benefit from a scientific understanding of our universe.

The Values of the AAS

Curiosity: We conduct research driven by our curiosity about the universe.

Integrity: We act with integrity, ethical behavior, and transparency as we perform our investigations and share our results.

Inclusivity: We use fair and accessible practices to create a diverse and welcoming scientific community.

Empowerment: We mentor and support our early career members, using our resources to create a positive environment for them and for our astronomical community.

Sustainability: We accomplish our work using environmentally sensitive actions rooted in scientific understanding.

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President’s Message

I was humbled to begin my presidency of this storied organization, the American Astronomical Society, in its 125th year of existence, as its 50th president! It is also a great honor for me to be elected as the first African-American president of the Society! To have the recognition and trust of my colleagues to lead this organization is daunting, but I have not been one to shy away from a challenge.

These initial few months have been an opportunity for me to experience the AAS, and all that it does in support of our community, up close and from numerous vantage points — through the efforts of the office staff, the member volunteers, and the professionals and students we are able to support as they grow their careers. It is a pleasure to see how far the Society has come in these efforts, over the course of my own career. The range of ground-breaking and awe-inspiring topics in our journals and at our meetings has exploded, as newer areas of the field have blossomed and older areas of research have benefited from the advancement of cutting-edge technologies and methods. With new ground- and space-based telescopes coming online over the next few years, we are poised to continue with even more achievements than realized in this last year. All of this advancement and innovation, much of it from our members, has furthered the AAS mission to “enhance and share humanity’s scientific understanding of the universe as a diverse and inclusive astronomical community.”

As I reflect on that mission, I am reminded of how important the last clause is to the mission. Indeed, without our commitment to continue as a diverse and inclusive community that represents, builds on, and acknowledges the contributions of all our members — and all their talents, skills, and perspectives — we surely would not have been able to last for so long as a vital and vibrant part of the science community. These qualities keep us agile and adaptable as we navigate the evolution of our work in the era of artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques, and as we respond to member concerns about the sustainability and equity of our meetings.

I am looking forward to advancing the functions of the Society in 2025, as well as our astronomical knowledge at the start of the next 125 years of the AAS.

—Dara Norman, AAS President



Photos of AAS President Dara Norman at past AAS meetings. Bottom left: Marcel Agüeros (President-Elect), Paula Szkody (former AAS President), Dara Norman, Catherine Pilachowski (former AAS President), and Kelsey Johnson (former AAS President).

Chief Executive Officer’s Message

The year 2024 marked 125 years since the founding of the American Astronomical Society, a significant length of time! We took the opportunity to honor our long history while continuing the work that defines us today — supporting the astronomical sciences through research, education, advocacy, and public outreach.

We held two major scientific meetings during the year: the 243rd AAS meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the 244th in Madison, Wisconsin, both of which drew astronomers, educators, and students together to revel in the latest astronomical results. The summer meeting included a capstone session from our Solar Eclipse Task Force, which concluded more than a decade of successful planning and engagement around solar eclipses visible from the US.

A major public outreach success in 2024 was the collection of activities connected to the April solar eclipse, including the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) program, which delivered six million pairs of eclipse glasses and supporting materials to more than 15,000 libraries across the country. The program reached an estimated 18 million people, many of whom had never observed a solar eclipse before. Our High Energy Astrophysics Division met in Texas specifically to witness the eclipse, and although clouds were present, key sections of totality were perfectly visible from the meeting location.

AAS Divisions recognized multiple outstanding contributors to astronomy. To mention just two of the many, the Division for Planetary Sciences awarded the 2024 Kuiper Prize posthumously to Dr. Paul Feldman for his influential work in ultraviolet spectroscopy and cometary science; and the Laboratory Astrophysics Division named Dr. Ilsa Cooke its Early Career Award recipient, honoring her research on

the chemistry of complex organic molecules in interstellar environments. Other winners are highlighted on our Division websites and in press releases distributed during the year.

The Society also announced its 2024 AAS award recipients. These included Dr. Andrea Ghez, who received the Annie Jump Cannon Award for her long-standing mentorship and contributions to observational astrophysics; and Dr. Robert Williams, who received the George Van Biesbroeck Prize for his career-spanning service to the community. A full list of prize recipients is available on our website.

We also welcomed 21 new AAS Fellows this year. These members were honored for their significant achievements in research, teaching, and service to our profession.

The 245th AAS meeting, held 12–16 January 2025 in National Harbor, Maryland, broke records as the largest gathering of astronomers in history. Nearly 3,700 participants attended the event, which included scientific talks, panel discussions, and student presentations. Highlights included the Fred Kavli Plenary Lecture by Dr. David Charbonneau and strong participation in the Chambliss student poster competition.

Our next gathering, the 246th AAS meeting, will take place 8–12 June 2025, in Anchorage, Alaska. It promises to be another meaningful opportunity for connection, learning, and scientific exchange — this time under the ever-bright summer skies of the far north.

Thank you for supporting our work and for being part of the AAS community. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming year.

—Kevin Marvel, AAS Chief Executive Officer

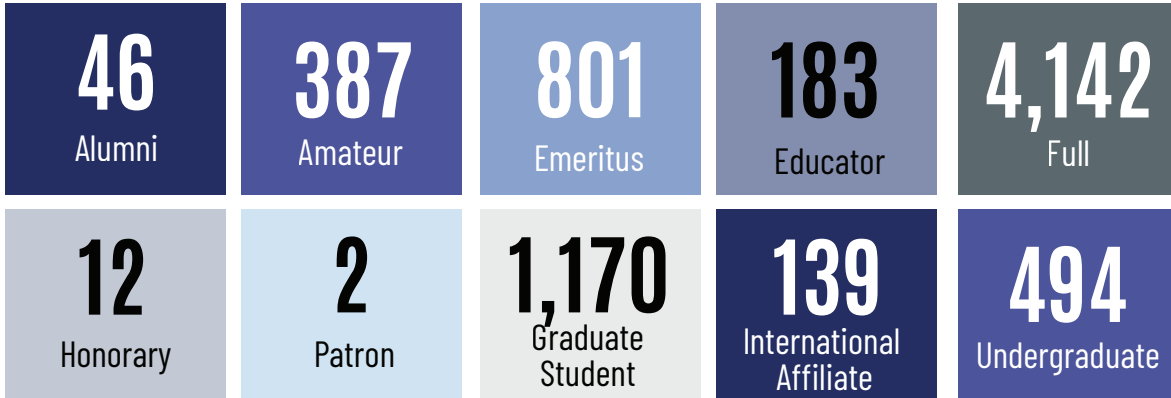


1. Actor John Rhys-Davies and Kevin Marvel at the 243rd meeting in New Orleans. **2.** Jane Rigby, AAS member and elected At-Large Trustee, is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Joe Biden. **3.** AAS member Andrew Harris, Congressman Glenn Ivey, and AAS President Dara Norman at the 245th AAS meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

Membership

Our science is a worldwide endeavor. Telescopes and missions are large and complex, requiring nations to collaborate. The Society's open-access journals are supported by a diverse and international team of editors and receive contributions from around the world. And AAS members from across the country and the globe work together and travel to meet, collaborate, and present research results. While based in the US, the Society has members in 60 countries and welcomes new members, united by the night sky and our place in the universe, from all countries.

7,376 Total (count as of 20 July 2024)



6,664 Members in USA
712 Members outside USA
60 Countries represented including USA

Education Activities

AAS is proud to offer programs that support astronomy educators who are engaged in a wide range of education, outreach, and mentorship efforts. AAS members interested in staying engaged in astronomy education news are invited to subscribe to the AAS Education Biweekly Newsletter, and to join our Reception for Astronomy Educators in person at your next AAS meeting!

AAS Education Programs in 2024 (and early 2025) included activities in the following four categories:

1. **Programs for individual faculty and instructors** to improve their teaching and classroom practice, such as the Physics and Astronomy Faculty Teaching Institute held in November 2024;
2. **Programs for department chairs and program leaders** to improve their undergraduate and graduate academic programs, such as our June 2024 and January 2025 workshops for leaders in astronomy graduate programs organized with the Inclusive Graduate Education Network (IGEN);
3. **Programs to support astronomy outreach**, public engagement, and informal education, including the re-launch of the AAS Shapley Visiting Lectures Program in partnership with the NASA Community College Network;
4. **Programs for student and career support**, including the TEAM-UP Together program in partnership with the American Institute of Physics.

In addition, AAS Education runs activities designed to support the general community of astronomy educators, including its Education Committee, the AAS Education newsletter, and the Reception for Astronomy Educators at national meetings. Finally, AAS conferences are home to a wide variety of sessions, workshops, and presentations focused on astronomy education, allowing a rich community of scientists, educators, and students to come together to discuss how we share our science and train the next generation of excellent thinkers.



Attendees at the TEAM-UP Together Student Experience Conference in October 2024 in Washington, DC. The AAS is a Lead Partner in this collective action initiative to catalyze structural and cultural change in physics and astronomy to significantly improve graduation outcomes for undergraduates who face the starkest barriers to success in these fields, including a focus on African American students. Photo credit: American Institute of Physics

AAS & Division Meetings










244th AAS Meeting

More than 900 astronomers and affiliates from across the country gathered in Madison, Wisconsin, for the 244th meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS). From 9 to 13 June 2024 — the year of the AAS's 125th anniversary — astronomers, students, educators, and journalists convened at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center for a full schedule of scientific presentations, community-building workshops, town halls, career sessions, and more. [View the Plenary Talks.](#)



1. Scenes from AAS 244: Fred Kavli Plenary Lecturer Rachel Bezanson (Univ. of Pittsburgh) on behalf of the UNCOVER JWST project team. **2.** Kristopher Klein (Univ. of Arizona), winner of the Solar Physics Division (SPD) Harvey Prize, on waves and instabilities in the solar wind. **3.** SPD's George Ellery Hale Prize lecturer Judith Lean (US Naval Research Lab) on solar irradiance variability and its impact on the Earth's atmosphere and climate. **4.** Sam Hale (Alliance of Historic Observatories), the grandson of George Ellery Hale, on the prize's namesake. **5.** John Peacock (Univ. of Edinburgh, UK), winner of 2023 RAS Gold Medal in Astronomy for his outstanding contributions to the field of cosmology across his career. **6.** Carl Rodriguez (Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Helen B. Warner Prize lecture on exploring gravitational-wave sources and their connection to the formation of both star clusters and galaxies. **7.** Noemí Pinilla-Alonso (Florida Space Institute) on planetary surfaces. **8.** Aparna Venkatesan (University of San Francisco) & Teznie Pugh (McDonald Observatory, UT Austin) on the need for dark and quiet skies. **9.** Cecilia Garraffo (Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian) on artificial intelligence in astronomy. **10.** Thomas Beatty (University of Wisconsin–Madison) on observational studies of exoplanets. **11.** Robert Hurt (IPAC) on data visualization and illustrating astrophysics for the public. **12.** Kerstin Perez (Columbia Univ.) on dark matter. **13.** Erika Kohler (NASA Goddard SFC) gave the LAD plenary lecture.

AAS 245 in Numbers

3,693 Attendees 	1,252 First-time attendees	2,336 Abstracts $y=ax^2+bx+c$	20 Exhibitor theater presentations	128 Press registrants 	9 Press conferences 
17 Prize lectures & plenary talks 	1,085 Oral talks	1,161 iPosters 	40 Press presentations	478 Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award entries	200 Volunteer Chambliss poster judges
268 Meeting sessions, workshops & events	64 Exhibitors 	46 Grad/REU Fair sponsors 	25 Chambliss Student Award winners 	30 K-12 students visited the Exhibit Hall	35 Countries represented by attendees 

Astronomers, students, educators, and journalists gathered in National Harbor, Maryland, to #ExploreAstronomy at the 245th AAS meeting — joint with the AAS High Energy Astrophysics and Historical Astronomy Divisions. At nearly 3,700 attendees, AAS 245 made history as the largest meeting of astronomers ever held. The meeting featured a broad range of sessions, workshops, and events. Seventeen prize lectures and plenary speakers shined a spotlight on the most exciting areas of astronomical research from some of the sharpest minds working to deepen our understanding of the universe. [View the Plenary Talks.](#)



1. Congressman Glenn Ivey from Maryland’s 4th Congressional District — which includes both Goddard Space Flight Center and National Harbor — joined us at the Opening Reception. Rep. Ivey addressed members and met with Black In Astro; we are excited to work with him to support space sciences. **2.** The Henry Norris Russell Lecture was given by Neta A. Bahcall (Princeton University) on the unveiling of the dark side of the universe. **3.** Nine press conferences featured exciting new astronomy research results presented by attendees. **4.** Exhibitors and sponsors organized half-hour presentations covering a variety of topics from professional development to the latest scientific research. **5.** Twenty-five Chambliss Student Award winners were announced, alongside Honorable Mention recipients. We’re thankful to all who helped make this competition possible! **6.** Attendees participated in many workshops on a variety of topics, and our Educators’ Reception brought astronomy educators together to connect with each other and learn about AAS programs in support of education. **7.** Local high school students were greeted at the meeting by members of the AAS Education Committee and participated in hands-on science activities with meeting exhibitors.

Publishing

AAS Publishing comprises five peer-reviewed scholarly research journals, scholarly and amateur books, *Bulletin of the AAS*, and *Research Notes of the AAS*. The *Astronomical Journal* celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2024!

AAS journals saw significant growth in submissions in 2024 and published 5,958 articles — a 19.4% increase over 2023. To accommodate the increased submissions, three new scientific editors were added in 2024, bringing the total number to 38.

In 2024, the *Bulletin of the AAS (BAAS)* published 3,841 presentation abstracts for six AAS-hosted meetings; seven community-contributed reports, news, or commentary on the state of the field; and 17 AAS member obituaries. Under the guidance of Guest Editor Sanlyn Buxtner, BAAS also published the special issue, “Celebrating the Wonder of Science in the Shadow,” including 33 articles celebrating solar eclipses.

AAS Nova featured 207 articles in full-length posts and 242 articles in short digests. In 2024, the site had a 25% increase in page views from 2023, and the most popular topics were the

perennial favorites: black holes, exoplanets, and supernovae. The most viewed article investigated whether gravitational nudges could send the asteroid Apophis careening toward Earth in 2029. (Luckily, the answer seems to be no!)

In 2024, AAS Publishing released five new scholarly titles in the AAS-IOPP Astronomy imprint, one new title in the Willmann-Bell imprint, and one new title in the *Sky & Telescope* imprint. There are currently 84 Willmann-Bell and *Sky & Telescope* books available for sale in the Shop@sky store.

The success of the AAS journals is made possible by significant community support and effort. In 2024, more than 6,500 researchers from over 70 countries worldwide produced 14,480 peer review reports. The AAS is grateful for the community participation in the review process that makes the AAS journals some of the best in the world.

The AAS would also like to thank the scientific editors for their oversight of the journal peer review process as our submissions have grown.



Scientific editors who served in 2024:

- Lee Armus, California Institute of Technology
- Giovanni Carraro, Univ. of Padova, Italy
- Christopher Conselice, Univ. of Manchester, UK
- Michael Endl, Univ. of Texas at Austin
- Manolis K. Georgoulis, Johns Hopkins Univ. Applied Physics Lab
- Brad Gibson, Univ. of Hull, UK
- Leon Golub, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
- Shadia Habbal, Univ. of Hawaii
- Dieter Hartmann, Clemson Univ.
- Greg Herczeg, KIAA/Peking Univ., China
- Luis C. Ho, Peking Univ., China
- Brian Jackson, Boise State Univ.
- Rekha Jain, Univ. of Sheffield, UK
- Steve Kawaler, Iowa State Univ.
- Enrico Landi, Univ. of Michigan
- Chris Lintott, Univ. of Oxford, UK
- Ilya Mandel, Monash Univ., Australia
- Tiziana Di Matteo, Carnegie Mellon Univ.
- Smadar Naoz, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
- Priya Natarajan, Yale Univ.
- Darin Ragozzine, Brigham Young Univ.
- Mubdi Rahman, Sidrat Research, Canada
- Frederic Rasio, Northwestern Univ.
- Claudio Ricci, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile
- Edgar G. Rivera-Valentin, Johns Hopkins Univ. Applied Physics Lab
- Ata Sarajedini, Florida Atlantic Univ.
- Daniel Savin, Columbia Univ.
- Daniel Scheeres, Univ. of Colorado
- Allen Shafter, San Diego State Univ.
- Steinn Sigurdsson, Pennsylvania State Univ.
- Luigi Stella, INAF – Astronomical Observatory of Rome, Italy
- Frank Timmes, Arizona State Univ.
- Faith Vilas, Planetary Science Institute
- Ethan Vishniac, Johns Hopkins Univ.
- Fabian Walter, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Germany
- Jing Wang, Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, China
- Maria Womack, Univ. of Central Florida
- Joan Wrobel, National Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Gary Zank, Univ. of Alabama

Public Policy

The AAS Public Policy Program worked actively to defend and advance the astronomy community’s priorities amidst a challenging fiscal and political landscape. Budget constraints imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, combined with delays in the Congressional appropriations process, placed significant pressure on the science agencies. Throughout the year, AAS leadership and staff engaged policymakers and agency officials to advocate for the priorities outlined in the Decadal Surveys — including flagship facilities, research grant programs, and state-of-the-profession improvements — and for our community’s priorities for dark and quiet skies. In addition to Board and staff efforts, two volunteer committees were critical to the success of the Society’s efforts: the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) and the Committee for the Protection of Astronomy and the Space Environment (COMPASSE).

AAS President Kelsey Johnson and CAPP Co-chair Andrew Baker led Hill meetings in February, advocating for Fiscal Year 2024 funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA. Additional advocacy efforts included targeted outreach to congressional offices, letters to appropriators, and direct engagement with agency leadership, including the NASA Deputy Administrator. Our collective efforts helped influence supportive language in Congressional reports, particularly for the US Extremely Large Telescope and Antarctic programs at NSF.

The AAS partnered with The Planetary Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Physical Society to advance Fiscal Year 2025 funding goals. This coalition successfully organized a congressional staff briefing on NASA’s Science Mission Directorate (SMD), mobilized over 40 House members to sign a Dear Colleague letter in support of SMD, and advocated for scientific facilities in NSF’s South Pole Station Master Plan.

Grassroots engagement by AAS members was central to the advocacy strategy. The 2024 Congressional Visits Day brought 28 volunteers from 15 states to Washington, DC, for two days of training and advocacy, including meetings with over 40 offices and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. We also issued successful grassroots action alerts, encouraging members to contact their representatives about protecting science funding.

The AAS continued its leadership in protecting dark and quiet skies and promoting space sustainability. Through COMPASSE, the AAS issued statements, submitted regulatory comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and engaged satellite industry partners including Amazon Kuiper and Reflect Orbital to share best practices and explore potential collaborations such as additional satellite constellation workshops. Notably, sustained advocacy contributed to the FCC requiring coordination between satellite operators and NSF to mitigate interference with astronomical observatories. The Board also issued three policy resolutions originating from COMPASSE: Obtrusive Space Advertising; Atmospheric Impacts of Spacecraft Reentries and Launches and Transparency in Cislunar and Interplanetary Spaceflight.

Roohi Dalal joined the AAS as Deputy Director of Public Policy in the fall. A trained astrophysicist and experienced space policy advocate, Roohi brings expertise in orbital environmental protection and international space governance. Additionally, Yaswant Devarakonda finished his time as the John N. Bahcall Public Policy Fellow and took a position at the US State Department.



Sky & Telescope

For *Sky & Telescope*, the first half of 2024 was all about the total solar eclipse of 8 April, while the appearance of a naked-eye comet dominated the second half. The *S&T* staff continued to produce trustworthy content on a wide range of topics, including cutting-edge science stories, observing articles, historical events, and equipment guides.

Magazine: The *S&T* special issue dedicated entirely to the April eclipse was on the newsstands early in the year, featuring practical guides on how best to view the event safely as well as, among other things, projects for the general public to engage in. In addition, both the January and the April issues were replete with eclipse material, while the August issue included *S&T* editors' and contributors' reports on their experiences in the path of totality.

The January 2024 issue debuted two new columns. Former *S&T* editor and renowned amateur astronomer Stephen James O'Meara covers naked-eye stargazing, often drawing on classical mythology, in *Stories in the Stars*. Former editor in chief at *Australian Sky & Telescope*, Jonathan Nally, pens the observing tidbits that accompany the Southern Hemisphere star chart.

A remarkable collection of highly regarded contributing editors and respected freelance writers, illustrators, and photographers continued to support the small *S&T* staff in ensuring that excellent content featured in both the magazine and on the website, all expertly designed by the talented Art Department.

In late spring 2024, Peter Tyson announced his retirement after 10 years at the helm of the magazine. Following a call for applications and a vetting process, *S&T* Observing Editor Diana Hannikainen was promoted to the role on 1 November 2024.

Website & Social: In 2024, *S&T*'s website, skyandtelescope.org, attracted 4.3 million visitors, with page views numbering 8.5 million. Predictably, the April eclipse garnered much attention and prompted a solid rise in traffic through the early months of the year. However, with respect to single stories,

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS's appearance in Earth's skies in the autumn outshone even the eclipse, with the dedicated press release and news story topping the most-viewed posts of the year.

On social media, *S&T* continued to communicate across all platforms: Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn, adding Bluesky when it came online. On YouTube, eclipse-observing content in both English and Spanish drew the most attention. Statistics show that comets and asteroids pique readers' interest, as the posts on Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS and asteroid 2024 YR4 totted up the most reactions and comments. In addition to solar system objects, solstice posts were very popular.

The monthly podcast continues to attract new listeners, with the October 2024 episode's YouTube video viewed nearly 200,000 times.

Tours: The *S&T*-led eclipse tours — one on land in Texas, the other on a cruise off the Mexican Pacific Coast — drew nearly 500 guests altogether. Weather conditions were clement for both tours, and guests greatly enjoyed the experience. The partial eclipse in Easter Island as well as the prospect of seeing auroras in Iceland (that again sold out well in advance) and off the Norwegian coast attracted more than 80 participants.

Community: Engagement with the astronomical community continued to feature among *S&T*'s staff's activities. During the eclipse, editors were invited to give talks at the Texas Star Party as well as participate in a live-streaming event hosted by Texas Tech University. Hot on the heels of the eclipse, *S&T* attended the Northeast Astronomy Forum in Suffern, New York, where they staffed a booth and showcased various products. *S&T* joined hundreds of amateurs from all over at the annual Stellafane Convention near Springfield, Vermont, where in addition to nighttime stargazing the daytime program featured a talk by an editor. Throughout the year, editors also connected with the community by giving talks to astronomy clubs, either in person or remotely.



1. Associate Editor Sean Walker's photo of the eclipsed Sun taken in Arkansas. 2. The *S&T* tour to view the eclipse in Texas gathered for a group photo (credit: Johnny Horne).

The AAS Fellows Program



The AAS Fellows Program was established by the Board of Trustees in late 2019 to honor members for extraordinary achievement and service and their contributions toward the AAS mission of enhancing and sharing humanity’s scientific understanding of the universe. AAS Fellows are recognized for original research and publication, innovative contributions to astronomical techniques or instrumentation, significant contributions to education and public outreach, and noteworthy service to astronomy and to the Society itself.

An initial group of 242 Legacy Fellows was designated by the Board and announced in early 2020.

These include past recipients of certain awards from the AAS or its topical Divisions, distinguished AAS elected leaders and volunteer committee members, and previously unrecognized individuals with long histories of outstanding research, teaching, mentoring, and service.

Since then, a select number of new Fellows (up to 0.5% of the number of current full members of the Society annually) have been recognized each year.

In February 2024, the AAS honored another 21 members as Fellows.

Fred Adams	Scott Gaudi	Karen Meech	David Wilner
Andrew Baker	JA Grier	Smadar Naoz	Grace Wolf-Chase
Bonnie Buratti	Amanda Hendrix	Priyamvada Natarajan	Stephen Zepf
Raymond Carlberg	Larry Lebofsky	Robert Nelson	
Steven Federman	Matthew Malkan	Glenn Orton	
Peter Garnavich	Robert Mathieu	Ata Sarajedini	

Media Relations

The AAS Press Office consists of Press Officer Susanna Kohler, Deputy Press Officer Kerry Hensley, and the AAS Media Fellow, an astronomy graduate student who works part-time with the Press Office and the Communications team. In Fall 2024, we said goodbye to our 2022–2024 Media Fellow Benjamin Cassese (Columbia University) and welcomed Lexi Gault (Indiana University) as our new Fellow. What was the Press Office up to this year?

- In 2024, we curated and shared more than 1,600 astronomy-news press releases from institutions worldwide via the @AAS_Press Twitter account and the AAS website’s Astronomy in the News page.
- We issued a number of our own press releases throughout the year to our email list of roughly 2,000 astronomy and space science writers worldwide. These releases highlighted AAS prize winners, described new initiatives on which AAS has partnered, and outlined results from important Society activities.
- We maintained an internal database of expert astronomy media sources to connect with astronomy reporters seeking quotes for news stories. Members of the

astronomy community can sign up with the AAS as expert media sources and help ensure that astronomy news stories contain a broad set of perspectives:

<https://aas.org/form/media-expert-source-signup>.

- We organized and ran full press conference programs at AAS 244 in Madison, Wisconsin, and AAS 245 in National Harbor, Maryland. These featured a collective total of about 70 presenters organized across 15 briefing sessions and cumulatively had around 170 press registrants who attended the in-person and live-streamed briefings and produced extensive media coverage of the results.
- We teamed up with Astrobites, a graduate-student-run organization that summarizes recent astro-ph preprints for a broader audience, to live-blog each AAS meeting. Under the leadership of an Astrobites Media Intern — Nathalie Korhonen Cuestas (Northwestern University) for AAS 244 and Lindsey Gordon (University of Minnesota) for AAS 245 — a group of Astrobites authors provided valuable summaries of meeting content that were then published on astrobit.es and aasnova.org.

Division & Topical Meetings



1. LAD Chair Stefanie Milam with Randall Smith, 2024 LAD Laboratory Astrophysics Prize winner. 2. Tyler Parsotan, 2024 HEAD Dissertation Prize winner with HAD Chair Kristin Madsen. 3. Viviana Acquaviva, 2024 Chambliss Astronomical Writing Award winner with AAS President Dara Norman. 4. Samaya Nissanke, 2024 HEAD Mid-Career Prize Lecture.

- 21st Meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division, held 7–12 April in Horseshoe Bay, Texas
- 55th Meeting of the Division on Dynamical Astronomy, held 12–17 May in Toronto, Canada
- 55th Meeting of the Solar Physics Division (joint with the Triennial Earth-Sun Summit), held 7–12 April in Dallas, Texas
- 56th Meeting of the Division for Planetary Sciences, held 6–10 October in Boise, Idaho
- Meeting of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division (joint with AAS 244), held 9–13 June in Madison, Wisconsin
- Meeting of the Historical Astronomy Division (joint with AAS 245), held 12–14 January in National Harbor, Maryland

Divisions, Committees, Working Groups & Task Forces

- While the day-to-day operations of the Society are managed by AAS staff, what the Society can accomplish is greatly enhanced by our volunteer-driven Divisions, Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces. Below are a few highlights from some of these many groups in 2024.
- The Committee for the Protection of Astronomy and the Space Environment (COMPASSE) guided AAS in several initiatives. These included endorsing the European Space Agency's Zero Debris Charter, and making Society statements on transparency in cislunar and interplanetary spaceflight activities, and on the atmospheric impacts of spacecraft reentries and launches.
- The Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy presented a report on their survey of the astronomical community to assess the popularity and feasibility of actions that the AAS can take to reduce harassment and advance career development for women in astronomy. The report and resulting recommendations are now published in the *Bulletin of the AAS*.
- A short-term Task Force on AAS Meetings Workshops was created and presented its findings in time for the June 2024 AAS meeting with the goal of increasing oversight and coordination in the approval of workshops at AAS meetings.
- A Working Group for International Students and Researchers in Astronomy was established to enable the AAS to better support the large portion of its membership who begin their academic careers in the US as international students or researchers.

Prizewinners

To foster and recognize excellence in astronomy, the AAS presents honors, awards, and prizes for outstanding contributions to astronomical research, instrumentation, writing, and service.



- 1. Jennifer Bergner - Annie Jump Cannon Award:** For her innovative astrochemical work at the intersection of laboratory experiments, theory, and observations, which has established new pathways to interstellar chemical complexity.
- 2. John Carlstrom - Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics:** For his pioneering work on microwave interferometry and his leading role in the development of the South Pole Telescope.
- 3. Charles Liu - Education Prize:** For his national and international impact as an enthusiastic astronomy educator throughout his career — including his contributions to informal education via his work at the American Museum of Natural History.
- 4. Carl Rodriguez - Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy:** For fundamental advances on the astrophysical origin of gravitational-wave sources.
- 5. Neta Bahcall - Henry Norris Russell Lectureship:** For her central contributions to determining the average density of matter in the universe and establishing the concordance model of cosmology, and for her dedication to astronomical education and her exemplary service to the community.
- 6. Paul Goldsmith - Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation:** For his pioneering advancements in millimeter-wave astronomy and astronomical receivers, especially his notable development of quasioptics.
- 7. Viviana Acquaviva - Chambliss Astronomical Writing Award:** For the textbook “Machine Learning for Physics and Astronomy” (2023 Princeton University Press), which provides a useful guide to cutting-edge knowledge and skills at a graduate-student level, packaged in a well-produced and accessible text.
- 8. Maria Drout - Newton Lacy Pierce Prize in Astronomy:** For revealing discoveries of the evolution, influence, and end states of massive stars through the study of explosive transients and resolved stellar populations.
- 9. Dennis Zaritsky - Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize:** For his innovative observations probing the structure and evolution of galaxies.
- 10. Dan Caselden - Chambliss Amateur Achievement Award:** For his outstanding participation in the Backyard Worlds citizen science projects, including pioneering the application of machine learning to solar neighborhood ultracool dwarf searches.
- 11. Frederick Seward - George Van Biesbroeck Prize:** For the establishment and implementation of the first open, peer-reviewed Guest Observer program for a Principal-Investigator-led NASA space-based observatory.

Donors

The AAS acknowledges the donors, members, and friends who supported AAS's programs and initiatives in 2024.

Singularity: : \$5,000+

Anonymous (2)
Peter Beiersdorfer
The Brinson Foundation
Arnold M. Heiser
National Solar Obs.
William Romanishin
William C. Wells
Sudie and Gordon Worsham

Quasar: \$1,000-\$4,999

Edward Anders
Diana L. Blaney
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In Memoriam

The Society was saddened to learn of the passing of the following members in 2024. The Society, through its Historical Astronomy Division, strives to publish an obituary for each AAS member after we are informed of the member's death. Obituaries are published and available online through the Bulletin of the AAS website at <https://baas.aas.org/obituaries>.

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Financial Report

As of 31 December 2024, the AAS’s net assets were \$13,324,914, representing an increase of \$1,248,446 from 2023. The increases in revenue occurred in our journals and *Sky & Telescope* operations. All non-profit organizations were required to report all leases in excess of 12 months on the balance sheet. Our “right of use asset” was \$5,055,296, and the corresponding operating lease liability was \$6,192,930, resulting in a paper loss of \$1,137,634. The market value of our portfolio increased by \$220,862.

The *Astrophysical Journal (ApJ)* family, *Astronomical Journal (AJ)*, and *The Planetary Science Journal (PSJ)* produced annual operating surpluses of \$1,531,037, \$76,543, and \$161,468, respectively. The published content in the journals exceeded our estimate by 22.6%. We were able to grant author charge support of \$1,417,189. This support includes the 15% member discount (for one paper) available to any member that pays their annual dues before 31 December of any year. The surplus generated by the journals is directly recorded in the reserve fund to support future journal improvements and ensure that we can produce the journals in perpetuity. Our cumulative journal reserves, as of 31 December 2024, represented 120% of operating expenses, which is within the Board-approved reserve range (100% to 150%).

In July of 2019, we created AAS Sky Publishing, LLC, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAS. Through this subsidiary we purchased *Sky & Telescope* business lines from F+W Media through a bankruptcy sale. At the time of the purchase, we also assumed the fulfillment of subscriptions paid to F+W for future years. F+W sold subscriptions through 2025. Since the entire subscription revenue was not collected by the AAS, we have experienced losses. We anticipated losses in the first five years as we build S&T’s content through an editorial advisory board, increase its subscription base, expand tour operations, and expand the online store. In 2024, the deficit was \$762,439 inclusive of a \$448,000 amortization expense required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. We do anticipate a surplus being produced by 2025.

In an attempt to diversify the revenue streams of the Society, we created AstronomyCom, Inc. (ACI), a wholly owned for-profit subsidiary of the AAS. This for-profit corporation is used to fund partnerships/programs that are not considered to be tax-exempt by the IRS but are closely related to our mission. Our eBooks partnership with IOPP, our journals publisher, is accounted for in ACI. The revenue was \$62,225 in 2024.

In 2024, we awarded Chrétien International Research Grants to 19 individuals in the amount of \$236,856. The International Travel Grants program re-opened in 2023, and we awarded 147 individuals in the amount of \$278,064. Thanks to our membership donations over the years, we have been able to award FAMOUS travel grants to 235 members in the amount of \$211,900 since 2017; dependent care grants to 279 members in the amount of \$80,061 since 2005; and student travel grants in the amount of \$292,492 since 2014.

Figure 1. AAS Balance Sheet

Assets	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,482,768	1,058,352
Accounts Receivable	1,840,475	1,434,112
Inventory	477,568	472,655
Prepaid Expenses	1,083,007	1,060,415
Investments	13,820,358	13,599,496
Deposits	176,613	235,780
Assets Held for Deferred Compensation	774,788	623,981
Goodwill, net	0	448,025
Property and Equipment	818,245	898,592
Right of use of assets - operating leases	5,055,296	5,595,154
Totals Assets	\$25,529,118	\$25,426,562
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,319,848	1,865,193
Deferred Revenue	3,916,638	4,077,624
Operating lease liabilities	6,192,930	6,783,306
Deferred Rent		
Deferred Compensation	774,788	623,981
Total Liabilities	\$12,204,204	\$13,350,104
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	8,589,622	7,746,730
With Donor Restrictions	4,735,292	4,329,738
Total Net Assets	\$13,324,914	\$12,076,468
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$25,529,118	\$25,426,572

Figure 2. AAS Statement of Activities

Unrestricted Activities	2024	2023
Revenues		
Journals	12,578,604	10,331,489
General Programs	4,418,218	4,573,906
Divisions	1,667,190	1,610,096
Other	214,998	249,428
Grants and Contracts	183,713	426,455
Bequests and Memorials	27,486	33,010
AstronomyCom, Inc	62,225	44,252
AAS Sky Publishing, LLC	3,180,509	2,839,765
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	164,925	138,098
Total Unrestricted Income	\$22,497,868	\$20,246,499
Expenses		
General Programs	6,139,346	6,069,316
Journals	9,696,683	8,766,508
Divisions	530,553	633,950
Other	851,017	810,859
Grants and Contracts	157,278	429,883
Bequests and Memorials	42,676	32,148
AstronomyCom, Inc	646	4,330
AAS Sky Publishing, LLC	4,236,777	5,133,769
Total Expenses	\$21,654,976	\$21,880,763
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$842,892	(\$1,634,264)
Temporary Restricted Net Assets		
Bequests and Memorials	142,457	194,336
Contributions and Other	356,538	222,203
Divisions	71,484	96,729
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(164,925)	(138,098)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$405,554	\$375,170
Change in Net Assets	\$1,248,446	(\$1,259,094)
Net Assets Beginning of Year	12,076,468	16,335,562
Net Assets End of Year	\$13,324,914	\$15,076,468

Established in 1899, the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is a major international organization of professional astronomers, astronomy educators, and amateur astronomers. Its membership also includes physicists, geologists, engineers, and others whose interests lie within the broad spectrum of subjects now comprising the astronomical sciences.



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