

Meredith A. MacGregor

Candidate for Nominating Committee



Affiliation: Johns Hopkins University

Position/Title: Vera C. Rubin Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

PhD institution: Harvard University, 2017

Areas of scientific interest:

Exoplanets, planet formation, stellar activity, astrobiology

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Member, Working Group on Graduate Admissions, American Astronomical Society, 2025 – present
- Member, Task Force on Graduate Admissions, American Astronomical Society, 2024 – 2025
- Member, Education Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2022 – 2025

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Co-Chair, Johns Hopkins University Outreach Committee, 2025 – present
- PRIMA Student Collaboration Lead, 2025 – present
- PRIMA Debris Disk Working Group Co-Chair, 2025 – present
- Member, ALMA North American Science Advisory Committee, 2024 – present
- Member, NRAO FY25 and FY26 Annual Program Plan Review, 2024 – 2025
- Member, Johns Hopkins University Astrophysics Faculty Search Committee, 2024 – 2025
- Co-Chair, Habitable World Observatory Sub-Working Group, 2024 – 2025
- Co-Chair, Next Generation Great Observatories SAG, 2023 – present
- Member, Johns Hopkins University Undergraduate Program Committee, 2023 – present
- Member, Johns Hopkins University Admissions Committee, 2023 – present
- Member, Green Bank Observatory Program Operations Review Panel, 2021 – 2022
- CASA Associate Director, 2021 – 2022
- Co-Chair, NASA IR STIG Leadership Council, 2020 – 2023
- CASA Executive Committee Member, 2020 – 2022
- Chair, Gordon Research Seminar Origins of Solar Systems, 2017 – 2019
- Member, NASA IR STIG Leadership Council, 2016 – present

Statement:

I still remember attending my first AAS meeting as a junior undergraduate student. I was new to the world of professional astronomy, and trying to figure out my path into this career. At the same time, I was awed to have found a community of other likeminded people who shared the same excitement for science that I did. It has been more than a decade since that first meeting, and AAS meetings look different for me now. I have the joy of watching my own students give their first presentations and introducing them to this diverse world of astronomy. In our current world that often distrusts science, the advocacy and community of the AAS is even more precious and critical. I am honored to have the opportunity to run for office and take a more active role in this organization that has meant so much to me over the years.

As a faculty member, I am passionate about education and have worked over the last few years to support the education initiatives of the AAS. As a member of the AAS Education Committee, I helped write a report on 'The Landscape of Undergraduate Astronomy and Astrophysics Degree Requirements' (<https://www.arxiv.org/abs/2602.03959>). I also served on the AAS Task Force for Graduate Admissions and made significant contributions to that group's final report and recommendations (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.09759>). Now, as a founding member of the AAS Working Group on Graduate Admissions, I am working to make sure that we follow through and enact those recommendations. We hosted special sessions for both of these groups at the most recent AAS winter meeting in Phoenix, AZ to share our findings and continue the discussion with the broader community.

Outside of the AAS, I have taken on other leadership positions at both my home institution and in professional astronomy. One notable example is the Infrared Science and Technology Integration Group (IRSTIG), which I joined in 2016 and served as a Co-Chair from 2020 - 2023. In this role, I have had the opportunity to advocate for the importance of infrared science to NASA and coordinate community efforts for the decadal survey, among many other efforts. I have found this role especially valuable to see how science and technology can and must work together to push our field forward.

The AAS Nominating Community is tasked with bringing forward a slate of candidates for officers and At-Large Trustees in every AAS election (like this one!). That job is tremendously important - the candidates chosen and elected will ultimately shape the future of our professional society. I take that job very seriously and believe that the leadership of the AAS must reflect the diversity of its members. Indeed, the power of the AAS comes from the breadth of people, professions, and institutions that it includes. If elected, I will leverage my past leadership and community advocacy experience to actively engage with the AAS membership and learn what is needed from the society's leadership to continue guiding us through these challenging times.