

# AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

December  
2004  
Issue 123

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Robert Kirshner, [aaspres@asas.org](mailto:aaspres@asas.org)

### 2004-2005

#### AAS Election

The December issue of the *Newsletter* is largely dedicated to providing members with information about the candidates standing for election for a number of important AAS offices.

Please read the candidate statements carefully and vote on the ballot enclosed in this issue. Sign the enclosed envelope to validate your vote, insert your ballot and mail the ballot so that it is received in the Office of the Secretary by **Friday, 31 January 2005**.



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Everybody has this happen to them—you're sitting on an airplane, headed for the AAS meeting or an observing run or a windowless room at NASA headquarters when a stranger sits down in the seat next to you. You're revising a manuscript (changing "affect" to "effect" or the other way around), or writing a referee report ("this paper contains too few references to the pioneering work of the anonymous referee"), or browsing through the *AJ* ("this paper is pretty good, I wonder if I'm a co-author.") The person next to you, picking up on these subtle cues, asks, "What do you do?" Here you must make a quick judgment. Do you want to talk to this person?

If your answer is yes, then you say, "I'm an astronomer" and you can be sure your neighbor will pick up that thread—possibly asking for a personal horoscope, possibly asking you for insider information on that satellite that landed so firmly in Utah, and possibly asking if the dark energy is really the cosmological constant. In any case, both time and the airplane will fly.

On the other hand, if the idea of talking to this stranger ("outreach" in NSF-speak) is less appealing than having three hours of root canal work, you just say, "I'm a physicist." Somehow, that always produces a social retreat, leaving you in your own cocoon of noise-cancellation to compose letters of recommendation that skirt the inside edge of perjury.

All of us know that astronomy is the physical science that people find most accessible—the number of amateur astronomers, students filling out those wisely-constructed distribution requirements, and people with their own idea of how the Universe began is very large compared to the number of amateur chemists. Well, legal amateur chemists.

But the line dividing astronomy and physics is not a bright stripe of chalk ending in a "foul" pole (entirely in fair territory, as recently demonstrated by Mark Bellhorn of the Boston Red Sox.) What we all know is that the union of astronomy with physics we call astrophysics means more than just the idea of spectrum analysis those words connoted around 1900 when the *Astrophysical Journal* was founded and the Red Sox dominated the World Series. Now, there is a rich dialog between areas that used to be mostly astronomy and areas that used to be mostly physics.

This was brought home to me last month when I went to the 25th birthday celebration at the Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics at UC Santa Barbara. After a pleasant airplane trip (the woman sitting next to me was my wife and she was not intrigued by my mysterious reading matter), I drove up to the little gate house at UCSB where they give out the parking permits. They have one of those programmable flashing highway signs that usually says, "Parking Lot Full" or "Detour for Construction of Large Nanotechnology Building." This October morning, it said, "Congratulations David Gross, {flash} 2004 Nobel Prize winner in Physics {flash, flash flash}." David is the Director of the KITP, so this wise choice by the Swedish Academy added to the fun of the occasion. His work on quark confinement, with Frank Wilczek and Howard Politzer was done back in 1973, so David knows something about waiting, but not as much as Red Sox fans.

David had asked people to send in their ideas for questions that physics would have to address in the next 25 years. It won't surprise any of you to see that astrophysics is right at the center of the future of physics as seen by its own seers: "<http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/future04/>"

How did the Universe begin? What is the dark matter? What is the dark energy? How do stars form? How do planets form? Will gravitational wave detectors or observations of black holes upset our understanding of general relativity? I don't know about you, but these are questions I would gladly converse about with an airline seatmate, and they are not only part of astronomy, they are right at the heart of what is exciting in physics. That's why physicists drift across the border and we welcome them. Of course, there are differences in dialect: one attendee interjected into a talk by Scott Tremaine on the dynamics of the solar system, "What's an AU?" Some of them should join the AAS, too!

And finally, a note on cause and effect. I could not help but notice (and could not keep myself from helping others notice) that there was a lunar eclipse last night that coincided with the Red Sox victory in the World Series, the first since 1918. Some foolishly linked the red moon with the triumph of the Red Sox. In our never-ending battle against ignorance and superstition, I propose that we repeat the experiment next year with the Sox in another Series at a different phase of the moon. See you in San Diego!

## CHRETIEN WINNERS 2004

### AAS Executive Office Staff

**Robert W. Milkey**, Executive Officer  
**Kevin B. Marvel**, Deputy Executive Officer  
**Diana T. Alexander**, Meetings Manager  
**Susana E. Deustua**, Director, Educational Activities  
**Zuzana Kelyman**, Registration Coordinator  
**Judith M. Johnson**, Publications Manager  
**Shantice Jones**, Membership Services Specialist  
**Debbie L. Kovalsky**, Information Systems Manager  
**Natalie F. Patterson**, Financial Assistant  
**Dennis W. Renner**, Manager, Membership Services  
**Crystal M. Tinch**, Publications Specialist

The *AAS Newsletter* (ISSN 8750-9350) is published in March, June, August, October, and December by the American Astronomical Society, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231; Tel: 202-328-2010, Fax: 202-234-2560, aas@aaas.org; www.aas.org.

The \$115.00 annual membership dues for the American Astronomical Society include \$3.00 that is applied toward a subscription to the *AAS Newsletter*. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AAS, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231.

Items of general interest to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to crystal@aaas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcomed. For further information about deadlines and submitting articles, see www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.html. Items submitted to the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to ela@aaas.org.

**Judith M. Johnson**, AAS Publications Manager  
**Robert W. Milkey**, Editor  
**Crystal M. Tinch**, Associate Editor  
**Jeff Linsky**, U. Colorado, Associate Editor, Letters

### Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

The *AJ* and *ApJ* accept manuscripts electronically that are prepared using the AASTeX manuscript package. Following are some important addresses for obtaining information about AASTeX and electronic submission.

### AASTeX Homepage:

www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX

User Support: aastex-help@aaas.org

### Journal Homepages/Manuscript

Submission: *AJ*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*

www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html

The Chretien winners for 2004 are Dr. Franck Marchis of the University of California, Berkeley and Dr. Dimitri Pourbaix, of the Free University of Brussels. The Chretien award is given each year in honor of the memory of Henri Chretien, French Professor of Optics and co-ordinator of the Ritchey-Chretien telescope design, the American Astronomical Society has been named to administer grants to further international collaborative projects in observational astronomy. Emphasis is on long-term visits and the development of close working relationships with astronomers in other countries.

Dr. Franck Marchis will use adaptive optics, IR imaging and spectroscopy for a planetary science research campaign focused on asteroidal satellites. He has worked in the field of adaptive



*Dr. Franck Marchis*



*Dr. Dimitri Pourbaix*

optics and adaptive optics deconvolution for many years and is pursuing improving an algorithm specifically designed for planetary observations. Through the campaign to study asteroidal companions, he and his collaborators seek to find new asteroid-satellite systems, determine their physical properties including surface composition and to study the formation mechanisms and stability of such binary asteroid systems.

Dr. Pourbaix, will search the entire Sloan Digital Sky Survey for binary stars and will identify and characterize them in preparation for the launch of the Gaia and SIM space-based astrometry missions. He has already searched the initial SDSS data release 1 (DR1) using the CID technique and found more than 400 new binary stars. In the coming search for extrasolar planets using astrometric data from space-based missions, it is of the utmost importance to understand the influence of binary stars, especially since reference stars must not be binaries or errors in positions of candidate systems will be induced. Pourbaix's efforts will be an added piece of knowledge that will aid these coming missions accomplish their goals.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note: Letters to the Editor on current issues of importance to astronomers are welcomed. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 250 words. Send to Jeff Linsky, Associate Editor, Letters, (jlinsky@jila.colorado.edu; 303-492-7838 phone; or 303-492-5235 fax) one week prior to the *AAS Newsletter* deadline. Letters may be edited for clarity/length (authors will be consulted) and will be published at the discretion of the Editors.

## MEMBER DEATHS NOTED

Since the October *AAS Newsletter*, the Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members, former members and affiliate members:

**David F. Bender   Thomas Donahue   John Kraus   Ray White**

# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## PRESIDENT (vote for one)

### Candidates:

**David J. Helfand**

**J. Craig Wheeler**

#### *Duties of a President:*

- Presides over Council meetings;
- Serves on the Council as President-Elect, President and Past-President;
- Presides over the Annual Business Meeting;
- Chairs Executive Committee;
- Represents the AAS at official functions and before other organizations;
- Serves when required as official spokesperson for the AAS;
- Appoints members to various AAS committees.

*Term:* One (1) year as President-Elect, two (2) years as President and one (1) year as Past-President

#### *Current President:*

Robert P. Kirshner

### **David J. Helfand**

**Affiliation:** Columbia University.

**Position:** Professor and Chair, Dept. of Astronomy; Co-director, Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory.

**Ph.D.:** University of Massachusetts, 1977.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Neutron stars and supernova remnants; radio surveys and cosmology; high energy astrophysics.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Harlow Shapley Lecturer, 1982-2002; Chair, High Energy Astrophysics Division, 1987-1988; Associate Editor, *ApJ Letters*, 1987-1990; AAS Representative, IAU National Committee, 1987-1991; Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, 1988-1989; Councilor, 1996-1999; Chair, Education Office Review, 1999-2000; Investment Advisory Committee, 1998-2001; Centennial Lecture Committee, 1999-present; Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, 2000-2003.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** NRAO Users Committee, 1982-1985; NAIC Users Committee, 1982-1985; NAS Space Science Board Committee on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1986-1989; NAS Astronomy Survey Committee, three Panels, 1989-1990; AIP Public Information Committee, 1991-1994; NASA ADS Advisory Committee, 1991-1992; NASA SOMOWG, 1991-1993; ASCA Users Group, 1991-1994; Space Telescope Advisory Committee, 1996; NAS Task Group on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1996; Editorial Committee, Annual Reviews of Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1997-2001; Sackler Distinguished Visiting Astronomer, University of Cambridge, 1998-1999; Chair, Executive Committee of the Faculty, Columbia University, 2000-2001; Phi Beta Kappa National Book Award Committee, 2002-present; Department Chair, 1986-1992, 1994-1997, 2002-present; Department Chief, 1977-present.

**Statement:** I became an astronomer one January evening in the back seat of a car during my sophomore year at Amherst. Professor Bart Bok, driving our lucky group of undergraduates toward Kitt Peak, suddenly barked from behind the wheel, "Is anyone here considering becoming an astronomer?" Despite being a registered theatre major, I was enjoying the warm Arizona evening and said yes. His first question: "If you were called to testify before Congress to discuss why they should fund astronomy, what would you say?" Somewhere, I had already picked up what I thought to be the politically astute response, and launched into a disquisition on the technical spinoffs, the value for science education... He abruptly interrupted: "No, that is not why we do astronomy. We do it as part of an ageless quest for perspective on our place in the Universe, an aesthetic pursuit which distinguishes us as human. Always argue for support on the same grounds you would use to make the case for symphony orchestras and poets." Since then, I always have. I would bring my energy and constructive iconoclasm to the Presidency of the AAS, working to improve our public and our international outreach, and to nurture our journals and meetings. I would also engage vigorously in public debate in support of science and of rational education, always with Professor Bok's admonition in mind. I would probably cook less for two years, but would enjoy the opportunity to serve our discipline (rather than fettuccini alfredo).

### **J. Craig Wheeler**

**Affiliation:** Dept. of Astronomy, University of Texas at Austin.

**Position:** Samuel T. and Fern Yanagisawa Regents Professor of Astronomy.

**Ph.D.:** University of Colorado, 1969.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Supernovae, stellar evolution, black holes, accretion disks, gamma-ray bursts, astrobiology.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Vice-President, 1999-2002; Committee on Status of Women in Astronomy, 1994-1996; Nominations Committee, 1993-1995, Chair, 1994-1995; Tinsley Prize Committee, 1993-1995; Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, 1991-1993; Warner and Pierce Prize Committee, 1989-1991; President, High Energy Astrophysics Division, 1989-1990; Vice-President, High Energy Astrophysics Division, 1988; Executive Committee, High Energy Astrophysics Division, 1981-1983.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** NRC Space Studies Board, 2002-present; Co-Chair NRC Committee on the Origin and Evolution of Life, 2002-present; Chair, panel on Stars and Stellar Evolution, NRC Task Group on Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, 1996-1997; Member, Director Selection Committee, Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory, 1993; Interim Board of Directors, GEMINI Project, 1993; Program Advisory Committee, National Science Foundation Science and Technology Centers Program, 1988-1991; AURA/NOAO Visiting Professor, 1989-1990; Chair, Department of Astronomy, University of Texas at Austin, 1986-1990; Program Advisory Committee, National Science Foundation Division of Advanced Scientific Computing, 1986-1989, Chair, Subcommittee on National Centers for

Supercomputing, 1988; International Organizing Committee, Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics, 1981-present; General Manager, various offices, Aspen Center for Physics, 1979-present.

**Statement:** The Columbia tragedy intertwined in an especially acute way the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle program, the need for adequate safety for courageous astronauts and the quest for the highest quality science. The new Exploration Policy provides much-needed priorities for the human exploration of space, but with ramifications including proposed delays in other areas (for instance, Beyond Einstein, JDEM, and the Sun-Earth Connection) and plans to shut down HST before the end of its potential useful scientific life. Critical areas of astronomy should not be sacrificed because they are deemed “other science” that does not fit within the perceived goals of the Exploration Policy. The vast public support for astronomy in general and HST in particular is playing a role in the decisions concerning HST and must be carefully nurtured. The highest quality science by all qualified people remains the guiding principle for our field and the funding agencies that support it. Astronomy promises a rich future, but realizing that potential in these turbulent times will require a concentrated effort by the AAS, among other institutions. As President of the AAS, I will endeavor to aid the society in all its goals.

## VICE-PRESIDENT (vote for one)

### Candidates:

**Robert D. Mathieu**

**Paul A. Vanden Bout**

#### *Duties of a Vice-President:*

- Serves on Council;
- Responsible for selecting invited speakers for AAS meetings;
- Responsible for overall scientific content of AAS meetings;
- Two senior Vice-Presidents serve on the Executive Committee.

*Term:* three (3) years

#### *Current Vice-Presidents:*

Pierre Demarque\*

Chris D. Impey

Wallace L. W. Sargent

\*term expires June 2005

### **Robert D. Mathieu**

**Affiliation:** University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Position:** Professor of Astronomy.

**Ph.D.:** University of California, Berkeley, 1983.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Evolution of binary star populations and star clusters; evolution of stellar angular momentum; star formation.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** AAS Education Prize Committee, 2004-2007.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:**

Director, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NSF Center for Learning and Teaching), 2003-present;

Committee of Visitors, Division of Astronomy, NSF, 2002; President, WIYN Board of Directors, 1999-2004; UV/OIR Panel, Decadal Survey Committee, 1999; Associate Director, National Institute for Science Education, 1998-2001; Guggenheim Fellow, 1992; Presidential Young Investigator, 1989.

**Statement:** The American Astronomical Society has enhanced my life in astronomy, directly through meetings, journals, career services, and education and indirectly through diversity initiatives, political advocacy, and outreach. It would be a privilege to serve my colleagues and give back to the AAS as Vice President.

I am a mid-career professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. My research program comprises observational studies in stellar dynamics and stellar evolution from formation through late evolutionary stages. I have worked from X-ray to radio wavelengths, with an emphasis on high-resolution optical spectroscopy. For the last decade I have served in leadership roles for the WIYN Observatory, most recently as Board President. I am PI of a 5-yr NSF Center for Learning and Teaching, the *Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning*, whose mission is to prepare future faculty in all fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This diversity of experience mirrors the diverse missions of the AAS. As Vice President I would seek to strengthen the connections between research, teaching, professional development, and the diversity of our community itself. I would also seek to increase our collaborations with other disciplinary societies; these societies – often with greater resources – are addressing many of the same challenges as the AAS. Astronomical research and the community are rapidly growing; AAS leadership must meet the challenge of maintaining connections while fostering this growth.

### **Paul A. Vanden Bout**

**Affiliation:** National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

**Position:** Senior Scientist.

**Ph.D.:** University of California - Berkeley, 1966.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Interstellar medium, star formation, starburst galaxies.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Councilor, 1990-1993; Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, 1997-2004; Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris, 2001-2004; Henry Norris Russell Lectureship Committee, 2002-2004.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Director, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 1985-2002; Interim Director, Atacama Large Millimeter Array, 2002-2003.

**Statement:** The principle duty of the Vice-Presidents is to organize the scientific programs of the Society meetings. I would welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The AAS meetings are critically important for the face-to-face exchange of ideas, results, and conclusions in astronomical research. Selection of invited speakers should maintain the tradition of high scientific standards, achieve a balance among the research interests of the members, and promote diversity. I would encourage use of topical and special sessions as well as sessions that educate the membership to new perspectives at the interfaces

between astronomy and other disciplines. I strongly support the role AAS meetings have in facilitating employment of astronomers, furthering science education, and promoting public outreach. Vice-Presidents also serve on the AAS Council. I am convinced that the future of astronomy will be even better than the golden age we have enjoyed provided we do everything we can to provide opportunities that bring young people into astronomy with their ideas, energy, and new perspectives. To that end, the AAS must represent astronomy to the public and to government as effectively as possible. I would use my experience to help guide and support the Society's programs in promoting astronomy.

## TREASURER

**Candidate:**  
**Hervey S. (Pete) Stockman**

*Responsibilities of the Treasurer:*

- Responsible for the financial affairs of the Society; perform all duties customary to that office; responsible for all corporate funds and securities;
- Keep, or cause to be kept, full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in the books of the corporation;
- Render annually to the Council, or when the Council so requires, and account of the financial condition of the Society;
- Secure audits of the financial operations of the Society as needed.

*Term:* three (3) years

*Current Treasurer:*  
*Leonard V. Kuhl*

### **Hervey (Pete) Stockman**

**Affiliation:** Space Telescope Science Institute.

**Position:** Head, James Webb Space Telescope Mission Office.

**Ph.D.:** Columbia University, 1973 (Physics).

**Areas of scientific interest:** AGN, Cataclysmic Variables, Astronomical Instrumentation.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** AAS Investment Advisory Committee (2001-2004).

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Deputy Director, Space Telescope Science Institute, 1988-1995; Trustee, Walters Art Museum, 2000-2003, Board Vice President, 2003-2006.

**Statement:** As a non-profit, the AAS uses its financial resources to best achieve its mission, the advancement of astronomy. The AAS Treasurer is responsible for monitoring the fiscal health of the Society and advising the AAS Council on the allocation of financial resources. In this latter role, the Treasurer integrates the advice of the Budget Committee, the Investment Advisory Committee, the Publications Board, and the AAS Executive Office. One of the most difficult decisions for the Council is balancing the near term needs of the Society (e.g. maintaining affordable publications, memberships, and meetings) and future goals and obligations. The Council is best prepared for making these decisions by receiving objective financial advice and forecasting from the Treasurer.

The AAS is fortunate to have a very professional Executive Office, with responsibilities clearly delineated between itself and the Council. In my experience, such an arrangement, coupled with fiscal transparency, is essential for smooth running of the Society for the overall benefit of science now and in the future.

## COUNCILORS (vote for no more than 3)

**Candidates:**  
**Gary J. Ferland**  
**Lee W. Hartmann**  
**Suzanne L. Hawley**  
**Brian R. McNamara**  
**James S. Ulvestad**  
**Kim Venn**

*Duties of Councilors:*

- Serve as part of the governing board of the AAS; and
- Have the legal responsibility to help make all decisions to manage, direct, and control the affairs and property of the Society.

*Term:* three (3) years

*Current Councilors:*

Bruce W. Carney\*

Christopher Sneden\*

Jean H. Swank\*

Todd A. Boroson

Carol A. Christian

Alycia J. Weinberger

Jill Bechtold

Karen S. Bjorkman

Alan M. Title

*\*term expires June 2005*

### **Gary J. Ferland**

**Affiliation:** University of Kentucky.

**Position:** Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Texas, 1978.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Quantitative spectroscopy, chemical evolution.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** None.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** 1990's Decadal Survey ("Bahcall") Committee, 1988-1991; review panels; HST TAC, Hubble Fellows, Chandra Fellows, Chandra TAC, NASA/MIDEX.

**Statement:** The educational mission of the AAS has become even more important with the shifting emphasis in national priorities in response to the events of the past few years. Congress and others want to do more to bring young people into the physical sciences and engineering. Astronomy's natural fascination for young people can be a recruiting tool for the hard sciences. Here in Lexington, roughly one third of the University of Kentucky undergraduates will take an astronomy course before graduating, and outreach to in-service teachers

magnifies the effort to present science and technology in the best possible light. Both motivate young people to consider the physical sciences as a vocation. This educational/outreach mission is our best hope for remaining a national priority and insuring the future prosperity of our profession.

### **Lee W. Hartmann**

**Affiliation:** Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

**Position:** Senior astrophysicist.

**Ph.D.:** University of Wisconsin, 1976.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Star and planet formation.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** None.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** IAU Commission 36 member; NASA Origins of Solar Systems Steering Committee, 1992-1995; Local Organizing Committee, Cool Stars Workshop, 1997; Vice-Chair for Gordon Conference on Origins of Solar Systems, 2005.

**Statement:** The AAS plays an important role in promoting astronomy and astrophysics through its various activities. In addition to maintaining its core programs of journal publication and meetings, it is important to continue AAS public policy efforts, not just by addressing funding and missions of NSF and NASA, but also making careful statements on broader issues such as teaching of science in our schools. Two particular concerns of mine are relevant to the continued health of the discipline though attracting and supporting the best young talent. One is the need to increase the number of minorities entering our field. The NSBP/AAS undergraduate scholarships are a good start, but further initiatives should be considered. A second concern is the increasing number of government restrictions placed on foreign scientists, such as the growing difficulty of obtaining visas and regulations concerning collaboration with and employment of non-citizens. I suggest we should strongly pursue activities, if possible jointly with other societies, to help ease some of these restrictions, which I feel are mostly counterproductive to the government's aims as well as being an impediment to scientific progress.

### **Suzanne L. Hawley**

**Affiliation:** University of Washington, Dept. of Astronomy.

**Position:** Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Texas at Austin, 1989.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Stellar astronomy - low mass stars, flares, magnetic activity; large surveys-SDSS, LSST.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Education Prize Committee, 2003-2006.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** NOAO Users Committee, 1993-1997, Chair 1996-1997; U.S. Gemini and International Gemini Science Committee, 1995-2000; NOAO TAC, 2000-2003; SDSS Advisory Council, 2001-present; LSSTC Board, 2003-present.

**Statement:** I am often called upon to represent the interests of stellar astronomers and of users of small-medium sized telescopes in national policy meetings, while my experience on the Gemini science committee, and with the SDSS and LSST projects, has given me insight into the operations of large telescopes and large survey projects. Promoting diversity,

minority outreach and undergraduate education are currently forefront issues at the University of Washington, as elsewhere. As a member of the AAS Council, I will bring a balanced perspective on these and other important policy matters, and welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

### **Brian R. McNamara**

**Affiliation:** Ohio University, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

**Position:** Associate Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Virginia, 1991.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Galaxy clusters, galaxy evolution, x-ray, optical radio astronomy.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** None.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Constellation-X Science Panel, 2003-present; NOAO TAC, 2001-2004; Chair, Chandra Review panel, 2003; Chair, Chandra Cost Review panel, 2002-2003; Scientific Organizing Committee and Local Organizing Committee for two recent meetings in Charlottesville, VA and Athens, OH; Interim Director, Honors Tutorial Program for Physics and Astronomy, Ohio University, 2003; Undergraduate advisor, Astrophysics, Ohio University, 2003-present.

**Statement:** The number of students studying astronomy has grown dramatically in recent years, and public interest in astronomy is as strong as it has ever been. Our profession owes much of its popularity to the breathtaking discoveries by our fleet of powerful telescopes and space probes, and to the majestic picture of the universe that has emerged from these discoveries. This exhilarating climate of discovery is stimulating the imagination of our youth and fostering in society a deeper interest in and understanding of the physical universe. If our field is to continue to thrive, we must work to guarantee our students better opportunities than those we now enjoy. We must continue to engage the public and seek its support for astronomy and science in general. The American Astronomical Society represents our profession to the public and to Congress. It must do so with a clear and consistent voice. If elected, I will do my best to manage effectively the affairs of the Society and to promote astronomy for the benefit of our members, our students, and our culture.

### **James S. Ulvestad**

**Affiliation:** National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

**Position:** Assistant Director (VLA/VLBA Director).

**Ph.D.:** University of Maryland, 1981.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Seyfert and low-luminosity active galaxies, starburst galaxies, gamma-ray blazars.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, 2003-present; Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, 2003-present.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** NASA Structure and Evolution of the Universe Subcommittee, 2003-present; Panel Chair, Chandra TAC, 2003; NASA/JPL Pre-Project Scientist for ARISE, 1997-2001; NSF Proposal Review Panel member and chair, 1996, 2000; NASA New Millennium Science Working Group, 1996-1998; U.S. Project Science Group

for Space VLBI, 1993-1997; HST Time Allocation Committee, 1995; NRAO Users Committee, 1988-1991 and 1996.

**Statement:** When nominated for AAS Council, I asked myself "What does a Councilor do?" After some thought, I concluded that my role would be to ensure responsible Society management in order to promote the maximum scientific opportunity for the diverse AAS membership.

Throughout my career, I have been a bridge-builder among different parts of the astronomical community. With over 10 years each at JPL and NRAO, I have experience with space-based (NASA) and ground-based (NSF) astronomy, and with bringing the two together. As VLA/VLBA director, I seek to operate and develop major national observatories while facilitating their use by individual investigators. As a CSWA member, I am concerned with developing opportunities for all astronomers of the future, providing the instruments and environment they need to be productive leaders in the coming decades.

AAS actions are most critical when federal and state budgets are under severe stress. Informed by opinions of the Society members, my main priorities will be (1) increasing NSF/NASA cooperation in order to promote scientific achievement, (2) advancing programs that provide training and support for the diverse members of our next generation of astronomers, and (3) supporting AAS outreach to the public and our elected representatives.

## Kim Venn

**Affiliation:** Macalester College.

**Position:** Associate Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Texas at Austin, 1994.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Stellar spectroscopy and chemical abundances, nucleosynthesis, stellar evolution, dwarf galaxy formation and evolution.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Annie Jump Cannon Prize Committee, 2000-2003, Chair 2003.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** NOAO Galactic TAC, 2001-2004; NSF Review panels, 2000, 1999; HST review panels, 1998, 2004; outside reviewer for FWF Austrian Science Foundation, 2001-2004; outsider reviewer for CFHT proposals, 1997, 1999; PI on HST programs, 1997-2003; PECASE/CAREER awardee, 2000-2005; member of the IAU, AAS, ASP, CASCA.

**Statement:** The AAS does an outstanding job in the traditional roles of a professional society. The new online interfacing for publications in our premier professional journals is a great improvement, the organization of the national meetings continues to draw several thousand astronomers semiannually, and the committees that oversee the professional awards and grants continue to have many excellent nominees.

The Society is also to be commended for its advocacy of science in the federal government and funding agencies, and recently for supporting the review of the HST servicing missions. It also supports the career opportunities of its members through the job register, grant writing workshops, and listing student

opportunities. The AAS has been proactive in addressing the concerns of women and minorities in science, and actively promoting astronomy education and public outreach. All of these activities have led to a strong and cohesive Society that benefits all astronomers, from all levels, groups, and institutions in the States, and beyond.

As a council member, I would do my best to support these successful Society activities and to help the Society to continue to serve the astronomical community by being responsive to new developments and the concerns of the AAS membership. I would also propose and encourage more young astronomers to fill active roles on the various AAS committees.

## PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIR (vote for one)

### Candidates:

**Michael F. A'Hearn**  
**Joel E. Tohline**

#### *Duties of the Publications Board Chair:*

- Regularly review the publication policies of each of the Society's publications;
- In consultation with the Editors, report its findings and recommendations to the Council;
- Nominate for Council approval an Editor or Editor-in-Chief for each publication; and
- Act as an advisory Editorial Board for each publication when called upon to do so.

*Term:* three (3) years

#### *Current Chair:*

Sumner G. Starrfield

## Michael F. A'Hearn

**Affiliation:** University of Maryland.

**Position:** Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Wisconsin, 1966.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Comets and planetary science.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Council Representative to USNC-IAU, 1993-1996; Member-Publications Board, 2001-2004; Chairman, Division for Planetary Science, 1993-1994.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** IAU: President Commission 15, 1994-1997; President Division III, 1997-2000; Member, Committee on Small Body Nomenclature, 1997-present; Member, Working Group on NEO, 1994-present; Member Working Group on Cartographic Coordinates, 2000-present.

**Statement:** The AAS journals are the leading journals in the world for astronomy. They have evolved techniques at the forefront for electronic publishing. The challenges for the future will be in trying to stay at the forefront as electronic publishing evolves. A key role for the Publications Board is to ensure that the journals are led by the best possible editors. These two issues will likely be the key ones facing the Publications Board in the next few years.

## Joel E. Tohline

**Affiliation:** Louisiana State University.

**Position:** Alumni Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

**Ph.D.:** University of California, Santa Cruz, 1978.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Stellar hydrodynamics, star formation, compact objects, sources of gravitational radiation, galaxy dynamics, computational science.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Member, Publications Board, 1999-2001; Member, Division Committee of the DDA, 1993-1995; Member, 1988-1990 and Chair, 1990-1991, Brouwer Award Selection Committee.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Member, Applications Strategy Council of Internet2, 1998-present; Interim Director, LSU's Center for Applied Information Technology and Learning, 2001-2003; Member, AIP Advisory Board to *Computers in Physics* and *Computing in Science & Engineering* Magazines, 1996-1999; Chair, LSU Department of Physics and Astronomy, 1994-1997.

**Statement:** The AAS Publications Board provides advice to the AAS Council on all issues related to society publications. Most importantly, when called upon by the Council to do so, the Publications Board provides advice and recommendations regarding the appointment or reappointment of the lead editors of the society's archival journals and, as requested by each editor, the Publications Board provides guidance in the appointment of additional (e.g., scientific) editors. As chair of the AAS Publications Board, I would expect issues related to the editorial leadership of the AAS journals to remain the Publications Board's highest priority. I am also particularly interested in working with the Council and through the journal editors to ensure (a) the most timely dissemination of the results of high-quality research, incorporating as appropriate the capabilities that have been brought to our community by preprint servers; (b) robust, broad, and assessable archival services; and (c) digital publications that interface well with, and become an integral part of, our rich virtual observatory database.

## USNC-IAU, Category I

### Candidates:

**Paul W. Hodge**

**Patrick S. Osmer**

*Duties of AAS Representatives to the US National Committee of the International Astronomical Union (USNC-IAU):*

- Responsible for making decisions regarding US participation in the IAU;
- Recommends astronomers for IAU membership;
- Reviews IAU Travel Grant Applications; and
- Represents the US at IAU General Assemblies.

*Term:* three (3) years

## Paul W. Hodge

**Affiliation:** University of Washington.

**Position:** Professor.

**Ph.D.:** Harvard University, 1960.

**Areas of scientific interest:** Galaxies, star formation, star clusters.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** AAS Vice-President, 1990-1993.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Editor, *AJ*, 1984-2004.

**Statement:** The U.S. National Committee of the International Astronomical Union has the responsibility of representing the country's astronomers in an organization that is of vital importance to our field. With the rapid growth of astronomical activity in every part of the world, the science has become a global activity more than ever before. It has always led the way in cooperative science and science governance. Lately, with the remarkable ascendance of European astronomy, especially through the spectacular success of ESO, the VLT, IAC and ESA, North American is no longer the dominant influence in astronomy and it is thus more important than ever that U.S. astronomers dedicate their efforts to serving the interests of their world colleagues through the IAU. We must select the best young astronomers for membership, astronomers who are not only bright and talented, but also have the desire to work internationally to further the good health of our profession.

## Patrick S. Osmer

**Affiliation:** Ohio State University.

**Position:** Chair and Professor.

**Ph.D.:** Caltech, 1970.

**Areas of scientific interest:** The evolution of quasars.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Councilor, 1985-1988; USNC-IAU, 1995-1998; Publications Board, 2002-present.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** CTIO Director, 1981-1985; Interim Project Scientist for Gemini, 1991-1992.

**Statement:** Research programs and observing facilities in astronomy and astrophysics are becoming ever more international in nature; indeed, we are at the point that virtually all large projects have international partners. Similarly the international exchange of astronomers and students is so frequent that I believe we all take it for granted today. The IAU is the principal international organization in astronomy for the promotion of research and exchange of astronomers, and it is vital that the U.S. participate effectively in it. Counting my years at Cerro Tololo, with the international Gemini project, and most recently with the Large Binocular Telescope project, I have more than 20 years experience in international observatories and projects and I believe strongly in the importance of developing and maintaining international collaborations. If elected I would work to advance the activities of the USNC for the IAU.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE (vote for no more than 2)

### Candidates:

**Spiro K. Antiochos**

**John Bally**

**Edward M. Sion**

#### *Duties of Nominating Committee:*

- Nominate candidates for the positions of Officers and Councilors of the AAS for election by membership. For the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Education Officer, the decision is made in consultation with the Executive Committee of the AAS.

#### *Current Members:*

Margaret M. Hanson (Chair)

David S. DeYoung

Andrea K. Dupree

Melissa McGrath

Lee G. Mundy

*Term:* three (3) years

### **Spiro K. Antiochos**

**Affiliation:** Naval Research Laboratory.

**Position:** Astrophysicist.

**Ph.D.:** Stanford University, 1976.

**Areas of Scientific Interest:** Solar physics, stellar coronae, plasma astrophysics.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** Chair, SPD 1991-93.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Member of AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, 1997-98; Chair Solar-B Science Definition Team 1996-97; Member NRC Committee on Solar and Space Physics 1995-98; Chair AURA Committee Review of NSO Director 2003.

**Statement:** I have always found the AAS to be an excellently-run, highly-professional organization. Furthermore, during the past few decades the field of astronomy/astrophysics has experienced an era of exciting scientific advances and major growth. The difficulty will be to continue these successes given the present uncertainties in government support both at NASA and the NSF. It appears unlikely that the funding for astronomy will maintain its previous rate of growth in either of these agencies. Therefore, the AAS executive will face major challenges in the near future, and will need the best possible people, both in scientific ability and especially political acumen. Fortunately, there is no lack of wise and dedicated people in the AAS. Over my 30 years of membership in the Society, I have met many of them. If elected, I will work to encourage some of our best talent to assume leadership roles in the AAS administration.

### **John Bally**

**Affiliation:** University of Colorado, Dept. of Astronomical & Planetary Sciences.

**Position:** Professor.

**Ph.D.:** University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1980.

**Areas of Scientific Interest:** Star & Planet Formation, the Interstellar Medium.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** None.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** None.

**Statement:** Fundamental research is the intellectual foundation on which our way of life, our economy, and our strength are based. Astronomical knowledge is the most elegant expression of this intellectual capital. Astronomy is the most easily understood and appreciated branch of all physical science and it has been a motivator for much new research and innovation. The AAS plays a vital role in promoting astronomy to the general public and the various branches of government such as the funding agencies and congress. The health and future of our field depend critically on the abilities of our AAS officers to promote our science. I will work on the Nominating Committee to identify the best individuals to lead our society and to promote the benefits of our discipline to both the public and the government.

### **Edward M. Sion**

**Affiliation:** Villanova University.

**Position:** Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics.

**Ph.D.:** University of Pennsylvania, 1975.

**Areas of Scientific Interest:** White Dwarfs, Cataclysmic Variables Late Stages of Stellar Evolution.

**AAS Positions and Dates:** APJ Scientific Editor, 1996-2001.

**Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:** Member, MAST Users Committee 2003 – present; Visiting Scientist, STScI 1991; Chercheur Associe, CNRS, Toulouse France, 1990; Peer Review Panel Chair, STScI, 1998; Peer Review Panel Chair, NASAADP, 1993; EUVE 1992; Peer Review Panel Chair, NSF 1995, 1998.

**Statement:** As the landscape of American Astronomy has evolved, the AAS has increasingly approached becoming a microcosm of society-at-large with percentage-wise membership within the Society of women, minorities, astronomers at non-academic institutions, astronomers at primarily undergraduate institutions, and foreign nationals at an all-time high. If elected to the Nominating Committee, I will strive to help form slates of distinguished candidates who are both sensitive and responsive to all of the needs of this broadly diverse membership of the AAS while having the leadership skills, energy and enthusiasm to propel the AAS to even greater effectiveness in its service to members, our field and the general public. In this era of greatest excitement and enthusiasm for astronomy, the AAS needs highly talented officers who are able to help the Society meet new challenges, address current and future issues of importance to the scientific community, pursue new directions for the Society's benefit, promote a positive public perception of astronomy and astronomers and enhance education and public outreach. I would be pleased to work with my fellow committee members in identifying the best possible leadership candidates for the AAS.

## DIVISION NEWS

### HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY

Tom Williams, Chair,

#### The San Diego Meeting

The AAS-Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) will meet on Sunday and Monday at the San Diego meeting. (09–10 January 2005). Since this meeting will mark the centennial of the founding of the Mount Wilson Observatory and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of HAD, we plan a special session on Sunday afternoon to celebrate these two events.

Invited speakers for a session on the Mount Wilson Observatory include Ronald Brashear, Donald Osterbrock, George Preston, and Joe Tenn. Their papers will deal with the personalities of Mount Wilson, where they came from and what they contributed to the science and to the institution, and how they dealt with the gradual decline in observing conditions at the peak by adjustments in observing programs until more appropriate facilities finally became available.

Owen Gingerich and Brenda Corbin will share the podium for short talks in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of HAD. Brenda will review the development of the HAD organization over that period, while Owen will review progress in the history of astronomy over that same period. David DeVorkin is preparing a selection of photographic slides to be projected during this session and the ice cream social reception that will follow to close the session.

#### Joint Meeting with DPS

HAD is planning a joint meeting with the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences to be held September 2005 at Cambridge University. Tentative plans for the meeting include paper sessions on planetary science, cosmology, radio astronomy and the general history of astronomy, all topics in which there is a rich history associated with Cambridge University and the UK. Walking tours of locations in Cambridge which have special historical interest in astronomy are planned for one day, to include the Whipple Museum of Scientific Instruments and special exhibits from the Greenwich Observatory Archives in the university library. The UK boasts a wealth of other locations in which astronomy plays an important part in their history ranging from the archaeoastronomical monuments at Stonehenge to the Greenwich Observatory, many special archive and museum collections and modern telescopes. The meeting, our first outside the continental US, will thus create opportunities for a substantial emersion in the history of astronomy for AAS-HAD members who participate.

### PLANETARY SCIENCES

William Cochran, Chair

Voting in the annual DPS elections ended on 21 September. The newly elected officers are: Richard G. French, Vice-Chair, and Bill Bottke and Don Davis, Committee members. The Executive Committee extends its thanks to all the candidates for their willingness to serve the DPS.

The 36th annual meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) took place from 8-12 November 2004, in Louisville, KY. A summary of the scientific sessions, prize awards, and highlights will be presented in the next edition of the AAS *Newsletter*.

New officers and committee members took office at the business meeting, which was held on Wednesday, 10 November. After two years of service as Secretary-Treasurer and one as Treasurer after the committee voted to separate the positions last year, Melissa McGrath stepped down from the Committee. Nadine Barlow will take over as Treasurer. In addition to the newly elected officers, the 2005 DPS officers consist of William B. McKinnon, Chair, Linda French Emmons, Secretary, Ellis D. Miner, Press Officer, Sanjay Limaye, Assistant Press Officer, and Larry A. Lebofsky, Education Officer. The continuing DPS committee consists of Fran Bagenal, Jim Bell, Bill Cochran (past chair), Ann Sprague, and Paul Weissman. Rick Binzel, Catherine de Bergh, and Caitlin Griffith have completed their terms

### HIGH ENERGY ASTROPHYSICS

Roger Blandford, Chair

HEAD held a very successful meeting—its 8<sup>th</sup>—in New Orleans from 8-11 September. There were nearly 450 attendees which made it one of the most popular meetings ever. This is not surprising as this is one of the most exciting times in the history of the field. Chandra X-ray Observatory, XMM-Newton, Integral and RXTE are making observational discoveries at an unprecedented rate, the launches of Swift, ASTRO E-2 and GLAST are eagerly awaited and great discoveries in TeV gamma ray, UHE cosmic ray and VHE neutrino astronomy are surely imminent. On the longer timescale plans are going ahead for an X-ray small explorer, Constellation-X, LISA, EXIST, the Advanced Compton Telescope and the “Generation-X” Observatory. The meeting was preceded by a Swift workshop and concluded with a well-attended teachers’ workshop on the Saturday. Scientific highlights included new results on clusters of galaxies, neutron star and black hole X-ray binaries, the Galactic Center, possible intermediate mass black holes, relativistic jets, gamma ray bursts and supernova remnants. I was honored to present the fourth David N. Schramm award for High Energy Astrophysics Science Journalism to Oliver Morton for a popular article entitled “Moonshine and Glue” for *American Scholar*.

All of this excitement stands in stark contrast to the messages coming out of Washington. The re-alignment of NASA’s priorities under the Exploration initiative, the projected high costs associated with return to flight of the Shuttle, robotic re-servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope, and Project Prometheus, coupled with limitations on the growth of agency budgets, do not augur well for proposed missions that are of special interest to members of HEAD. A small group of HEAD members visited Congress and OMB on 13 October to discuss the results from current high-energy astrophysics missions and explained the rationale for the future missions in the context of a larger space science program.

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The AAS Committee on Employment would like to call attention to events which we have planned for the San Diego meeting. The activities described below represent our continuing efforts to improve the employment process for astronomers at all career levels.

(1) The AAS will sponsor a Career Workshop on Sunday, 9 January. Registrants for this special workshop, hosted by Jennifer Giesler, former director of employment services at the American Geophysical Union, will learn how to market themselves in today's challenging employment environment. Attendance is limited, so interested participants should register early. Details can be found at: [www.aas.org/meetings/aas205/events.html#career](http://www.aas.org/meetings/aas205/events.html#career)

(2) On Tuesday, 11 January, the Committee on Employment is organizing a special session on career paths, entitled "Comparing Career Options: Academic, Science Centers and Industry". A panel of three speakers will discuss and contrast the most common career directions that astronomers consider. This session will be scheduled during the usual afternoon time slot, and will include time for questions from the audience. Details posted at: [www.aas.org/meetings/aas205/prelim/career.html](http://www.aas.org/meetings/aas205/prelim/career.html)

(3) On Tuesday evening, 11 January, there will be a graduate student - employer networking reception. Graduate students and those hoping to recruit them for employment in either research, academia or industry are welcome to attend this event. The chair of the Employment Committee will be present to discuss the activities of the committee and how graduate students can benefit from them as well as briefly introducing the recruiters present. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

We encourage every interested astronomer to participate in these activities.

## STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek, CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory  
([knezek@noao.edu](mailto:knezek@noao.edu))

## Pasadena Recommendations

The CSWA has received very helpful comments and suggestions from the AAS community at large on the Pasadena Recommendations. The draft was available for viewing, comments, and suggestions, through the "Members Only" AAS web pages until 17 September 2004. We are grateful to the members who took the time to carefully read through the document. We are incorporating the comments and suggestions from AAS members this fall. We remain on track to present the Recommendations to the AAS Council in January 2005.

## CSWA Activities at January AAS Meeting

The CSWA will be focusing its efforts on keeping the momentum going for the Pasadena Recommendations during the January 2005 AAS meeting. In addition to presenting the recommendations

themselves to the AAS Council, as mentioned above, the CSWA will hold a session centered on the recommendations on Thursday, 13 January 2005, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. This session aims to educate AAS members about the recommendations and to begin to devise ways to implement them. We will start with a report on the outcome of presenting the recommendations to the January 2005 AAS Council meeting. This will be followed by a panel of invited speakers representing the different types of institutions (research universities, observatories, government labs, small colleges, etc.) discussing ideas for promoting and implementing the recommendations. The floor will then be opened to comments and suggestions by the audience.

## Women in Astronomy Database

The CSWA would like to encourage AAS members to make use of the Women in Astronomy database that it maintains. *New submissions are welcome and strongly encouraged.* The database lists the names, professional affiliations, scientific interests, talk titles and contact information for women in astronomy and astrophysics.

The Women in Astronomy list can be used to: find speakers for colloquia, scientific meetings, or school visits; solicit job applicants; and sort by education, expertise, research interests, etc. for statistical or search purposes.

The information contained on this list is submitted by each person listed using the CSWA Submission Form (internal to the database). If you are a member of the database, and haven't looked at your information recently, you might want to make sure everything is up to date! To find out more about this resource, please go to: [www.aas.org/~cswa/WIAD.html](http://www.aas.org/~cswa/WIAD.html).

## Sign up for STATUS and AASWOMEN!

*STATUS* is the CSWA's semiannual printed publication. It consists of original and reprinted articles on topics relating to women in astronomy, in science and/or in society. Contributions such as editorial columns, factual articles, personal stories and letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. If you are interested in submitting an article to *STATUS*, please contact one of the editors: Fran Bagenal ([bagenal@colorado.edu](mailto:bagenal@colorado.edu)), Patricia Knezek ([knezek@noao.edu](mailto:knezek@noao.edu)), or Joannah Hinz ([jhinz@as.arizona.edu](mailto:jhinz@as.arizona.edu)). If you currently do not receive a paper copy of *STATUS* but would like to do so, please email Dennis Renner, [renner@aas.org](mailto:renner@aas.org). Otherwise, you can access issues of *STATUS* on the web from the CSWA website. See [www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html](http://www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html).

The CSWA's weekly electronic-mail newsletter, *AASWOMEN*, alerts AAS members to current issues for women in astronomy. The editors are Patricia Knezek, Michael Rupen and Jim Ulvestad.

To **submit** to *AASWOMEN*: send email to [aaswomen@stsci.edu](mailto:aaswomen@stsci.edu). All submitted material will be posted unless you tell us otherwise (including your email address). To **subscribe** to *AASWOMEN*: send email to [majordomo@stsci.edu](mailto:majordomo@stsci.edu) with a message in the BODY "subscribe aaswlist yourusername@youruseraddress" (no quotes). To **unsubscribe** to *AASWOMEN*: send email to [majordomo@stsci.edu](mailto:majordomo@stsci.edu), with a message in the BODY "unsubscribe aaswlist yourusername@youruseraddress" (no quotes). Back issues of *AASWOMEN* are available from [www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html](http://www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html).

# NEWS FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Eileen D. Friel, Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences, [efriel@nsf.gov](mailto:efriel@nsf.gov)

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## More 2004 NSF CAREER Awards

The Division of Astronomical Sciences at the National Science Foundation has previously announced Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards for FY2004 (*AAS Newsletter* #121). This NSF-wide program recognizes and supports the early career development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. CAREER awardees are selected on the basis of creative career development plans that effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their institution. Since that announcement, three additional awards from AST and one from the Division of Atmospheric Sciences have been made.

Karl Gebhardt, University of Texas at Austin  
“Dark Matter and Black Holes, Deconstructing Galaxies”

Liese van Zee, Indiana University  
“SMUDGES: A Survey for Dwarf Galaxies in the Local Universe”

Guy Worthey, Washington State University  
“Extragalactic Stellar Populations”

Sarbani Basu, Yale University  
“Solar Variability in the Classroom and in Research”

## CMB Task Force

A Task Force on Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) Research (TFCR) has been drawn together by NSF, NASA and DOE, the three federal agencies that support research on the cosmic background radiation, to create a roadmap towards measurement of the polarization of the CMB, in the context of a program to understand the properties of the inflationary epoch of cosmology. This arises from the “Connecting Quarks with the Cosmos” report (<http://www.nap.edu/books/0309074061/html/>) and the NSTC joint interagency response “The Physics of the Universe” (<http://www.ostp.gov/html/physicsoftheuniverse2.pdf>).

The TFCR has been asked to provide an ordered program of preliminary observations and technology development, ultimately leading to a new, and justified, space mission, following on from WMAP and PLANCK. Its report will outline an observational program using ground-based and space-based instruments to elucidate the inflationary epoch, including studies of small scale CMB anisotropy and CMB polarization.

Although the TFCR is on an accelerated schedule towards a report at the beginning of 2005, there is still time for strong opinions to be expressed to the chair, Rainer Weiss ([weiss@ligo.mit.edu](mailto:weiss@ligo.mit.edu)), or to the NSF coordinator, Nigel Sharp ([nsharp@nsf.gov](mailto:nsharp@nsf.gov)).

## PREST Update

The first solicitation for proposals to the Program for Research and Education with Small Telescopes (PREST) (NSF 04-557) was greeted with enormous enthusiasm. Forty-five projects were proposed of which four were funded. The successful projects range from support for the installation of the PROMPT robotic telescopes at Cerro Tololo to improvements to the 1.8-m telescope at Lowell Observatory. In total, \$1.2M was provided by PREST.

The oversubscription of the program indicates that we have identified a real need in the community. However, it must be noted that a number of the proposals misunderstood one or more of the critical elements of the program. The solicitation has been modified to clarify the program’s intent and enumerate the necessary components of a PREST proposal. Those interested in applying to PREST are encouraged to read the latest version of the PREST solicitation at [http://www.nsf.gov/mps/divisions/ast/news/c\\_deadlines.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/mps/divisions/ast/news/c_deadlines.htm). The next deadline for submission of PREST proposals is 20 January 2005.

## Staff Updates at AST

The Division is pleased to announce that Dr. Nigel Sharp, who has served as Program Director for Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology in a visiting scientist position, has accepted a permanent position with the Division. In addition to continuing in his role as EXC program director, he is also taking the lead in interdisciplinary NSF programs, such as the Math Sciences Priority Area and information technology research, and in interagency activities, such as the CMB task force mentioned above. The Division looks forward to drawing on his expertise in these and many other areas of astrophysics in the future.

## New Programs for International Activities

NSF’s Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) has recently revised a number of programs that provide international opportunities for scientists and students. An earlier program solicitation NSF 03-559 (International Opportunities for Scientists and Engineers) has been replaced with two solicitations: NSF 04-035 (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04035>) for International Planning Visits and Workshops; and NSF 04-036 (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04036>) for Developing Global Scientists and Engineers. A third solicitation to encourage international research and education partnerships is planned. A Dear Colleague Letter (NSF 04-034 found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04034>) describes the complete portfolio of OISE supported activities. OISE’s three other program solicitations - International Research Fellowship Program NSF 02-149, East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students NSF 03-608, and Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program NSF 03-506 - remain unchanged and in effect.

# NEWS FROM SPACE STUDIES BOARD

Joseph K. Alexander, Director, Space Studies Board National Research Council

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## New Reports from the Space Studies Board

(All reports can be found at the SSB web site: <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/>)

*Exploration of the Outer Heliosphere and the Local Interstellar Medium: A Workshop Report* draws extensively on discussions at a workshop that was held in May 2003. Four strategic directions emerged from workshop discussions:

**1. Making use of existing assets.** ACE, SOHO, Wind, Ulysses, and the Voyagers are all currently furthering understanding of the outer heliosphere. In particular, the importance of the Voyagers cannot be overstated as Voyager 1 is capable of lasting another 16 years, allowing it to reach 150 AU. Workshop participants agreed that continued support and a long-term vision from NASA Headquarters, and the provision of continuing data coverage of the Voyagers and Ulysses missions from the Deep Space Network, are essential.

**2. Developing new outer heliospheric missions.** It is now possible to build instruments that allow orders-of-magnitude more accurate measurements than those made by the instruments that currently fly on missions. Both in situ and remote measurement could be accomplished within the MIDEX or perhaps the SMEX program. For the interim period, this approach would complement current Voyager and Ulysses activities well.

**3. Continuing support of theory and modeling.** Continuing theoretical and modeling studies are essential to ensure progress in understanding the interaction of the solar wind and the LISM. Numerous questions raised by Voyager, Ulysses, and other spacecraft missions remain unanswered, and theoretical studies continue to lag observations. In particular, remote sensing techniques, because they are by nature integrated line-of-sight observations, produce results whose interpretation depends on theoretical models of the global heliosphere.

**4. Preparing for Interstellar Probe.** Interstellar Probe, a mission characterized by both enormous scientific potential and technical challenge, will be one of the most exciting undertakings of NASA in the new millennium. Developing the required propulsion technology is the primary technical challenge of this mission. Because Interstellar Probe will require only a rather straightforward trajectory with little need for precise navigation, it could be regarded as an ideal demonstration of nuclear-electric propulsion or solar sailing.

*Solar and Space Physics and Its Role in Space Exploration* provides an assessment of the conclusions of the 2003 NRC report, *The Sun to the Earth—and Beyond: A Decadal Strategy for Solar and Space Physics*, in light of NASA's new vision for space exploration and of the June 2004 report of the President's

Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy (the "Aldridge Commission"). Among the principal findings in the new report are the following:

1. Solar and space physics research has broad, intrinsic importance to exploration of the solar system and the universe, and it comprises key components of the Aldridge Commission's main research themes of origins, evolution and fate.
2. Effective predictions of space weather throughout the solar system to enable exploration by robots and humans depends on a balanced program of applied and basic science to understand the underlying physical processes that control the system.
3. To achieve the necessary global understanding, NASA needs missions in both the Living With a Star and Solar Terrestrial Probe programs supported by robust programs for mission operations and data analysis, Explorers, suborbital flights, and supporting research and technology.
4. The principles that were employed for setting priorities in the 2003 solar and space physics decadal survey remain appropriate and relevant today.
5. For NASA's Sun-Earth Connections program to properly fulfill its dual role of scientific exploration and of enabling future exploration, the prioritized sequence recommended in the decadal survey report remains important, timely, and appropriate.

*The Letter Report on the Terrestrial Planet Finder* provides an assessment of NASA's current plans for the Terrestrial Planet Finder (TPF) mission, in light of NASA's new vision for space exploration and of the June 2004 report of the President's Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy. NASA plans to implement the Terrestrial Planet Finder in two phases; an optical coronagraph (TPF-C) to be built in this decade and an infrared interferometer (TPF-I) to be built in the next decade. In brief, the committee agrees that the TPF mission is exciting scientifically and the mission's goals are consistent with the 2000 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey - *Astronomy and Astrophysics in the New Millennium*. However, the committee raises two primary concerns - one scientific and one programmatic.

1. Scientifically, the committee is concerned that the current schedule for TPF-C does not leave enough time for vital precursor studies (such as SIM and Kepler, as well as ground-based searches) to provide enough data to ensure a positive scientific result for TPF's primary goal.

continued on page 17

## HONORED ELSEWHERE

### **NASA Scientist Inducted into American Academy of Arts and Sciences**

**Dr. Charles L. Bennett** from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. has been inducted, as a Fellow, into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bennett is the Principal Investigator for NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP). Using WMAP, scientists captured the afterglow of the big bang and revealed that the universe is 13.7 billion years old and dominated by a mysterious "dark energy." The confirmation of the dark energy, which drives the universe to expand at an ever increasing rate, was hailed by Science magazine as the 2003 "Breakthrough of the Year."

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences elected 178 new Fellows. Since its inception in 1780, election to the Academy has been one of the highest honors that can be bestowed to an individual. The Academy was founded as an international learned society composed of the world's leading scientists, artists, business people, and public leaders. Currently, there are 4,000 American Fellows and 600 Foreign Honorary Members. Among its Fellows are 160 Nobel Prize laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners.

### **Hirshfeld Awarded \$50,000 from John Templeton Foundation**

**Alan Hirshfeld**, Professor of Physics at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Associate of the Harvard College Observatory, was awarded \$50,000 for his his essay, "How Wonderfully We Stand Upon This World" about Michael Faraday.

Dr. Alan Hirshfeld is Professor of Physics at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and an Associate of the Harvard College Observatory. He received his undergraduate degree in astrophysics from Princeton University in 1973 and his Ph.D. in astronomy from Yale University in 1978. His widely praised book *Parallax: The Race to Measure the Cosmos*, published in 2002 by Henry Holt & Co., chronicles the human stories involved in the centuries-long quest to measure the first distance to a star.

His winning essay may be found at [www.powerofpurpose.org](http://www.powerofpurpose.org). The contest was sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.

### **2005 Hans A. Bethe Prize to Stan Woosley**

The American Physical Society (APS) has awarded the 2005 Hans A. Bethe Prize to AAS member **Stan Woosley**, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The Bethe Prize was established to recognize outstanding work in the areas of astrophysics, nuclear physics, and related fields.

Woosley, an expert in theoretical high-energy astrophysics, studies the most violent explosions in the universe—supernovae and gamma ray bursts. He has developed some of the most sophisticated computer simulations of supernova explosions and gamma-ray bursts, and his "collapsar" model of gamma-ray bursts is the leading theory explaining how they occur.

The Bethe Prize recognizes Woosley "for his significant and wide-ranging contributions in the areas of stellar evolution, element synthesis, the theory of core collapse and type Ia supernovae, and the interpretation of gamma-ray bursts—most notably, the collapsar model of gamma-ray bursts." The prize, consisting of \$7,500 and a certificate, will be presented at the APS meeting in Tampa, Florida, in April 2005.

### **Lanzerotti Nominated to Science Board**

AAS Member **Louis J. Lanzerotti**, was nominated to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation for a term expiring 10 May 2010. Congrats Lou!

### **Claire Max Recipient of Lawrence Award**

AAS member **Dr. Claire Ellen Max** was one of seven recipients of the 2004 E.O. Lawrence Award. Each winner will receive a gold medal, a citation and \$50,000. The award is given in seven categories for outstanding contributions in the broadly defined field of atomic energy.

Max, who has made important contributions to the separate fields of plasma physics and astrophysics, is a central figure in the field of adaptive optics for ground-based telescopes. Her work on laser guide stars is resulting in an ongoing revolution in ground-based astronomy. She is currently a Professor and Astronomer at the University of California at Santa Cruz and Deputy Director of NSF's Center for Adaptive Optics.

## EDUCATION NEWS

### Education and Public Outreach Conference Announcement

**Building Community:** The Emerging EPO Profession will be held 14-16 September 2005 as part of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's 117th Annual Meeting in Tucson, AZ. This international meeting is focused on building and supporting a vibrant and connected community of individuals and groups engaged in educational and public outreach (EPO) in the disciplines of astronomy, astrobiology, space, and earth science. This conference is specially designed for individuals who are bringing the excitement of astronomy to non-astronomers with the shared goal of improving the quality and effective dissemination of education and public outreach efforts. Information is available at <http://astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html>.

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## THE GRAM...REDEFINED?



*Attendees of the 3rd Annual Georgia Regional Astronomer's Meeting (GRAM) at Berry College in Rome, GA on Saturday, 23 October 2004*

The Georgia Regional Astronomer's Meeting is one of the many regional meetings that that brings together astronomers for a day of scientific discussion and discourse. The GRAM meeting brings together astronomers from Georgia and the surrounding region with diverse research interests, professionals from a variety of research and teaching institutions students and amateurs. The event is held annually and interested individuals may contact Chris DePree of Agnes Scott College for more information ([cdepree@agnesscott.edu](mailto:cdepree@agnesscott.edu)).

Let the *AAS Newsletter* know about your regional astronomy meetings!

## ASP NEWS

Michael Bennett, Executive Director, [mbennett@astrosociety.org](mailto:mbennett@astrosociety.org)

### ASP Conference Series to Include Free Electronic Access

Beginning early in 2005, all conference proceedings published by the ASP Conference Series during 2004, and all future volumes, will include full text electronic access. The electronic version, in fully searchable PDF format, will be available at no extra cost to everyone who attended the original conference, and to institutions who have standing orders to purchase all Conference Series volumes (if your institution has a standing order for the Series, the electronic edition will be accessible from computers with your library's IP address).

All papers will be posted to the volume's web site soon after they are all received by the ASP, making it possible to access the articles well before the printed volume appears. Once all papers have been submitted, and the complete volume is proofed and corrected, it will be released for hard-copy printing and distribution in the usual manner. In addition, the final electronic version of the proceedings will remain accessible indefinitely.

Over the past year, the ASP has also improved its print-production system, reducing the total print and distribution cycle by an average of 15 days.

Organizers of upcoming conferences who wish more information about publishing their proceedings through the ASP Conference Series should contact Interim Managing Editor J. Ward Moody at [jmoody@byu.edu](mailto:jmoody@byu.edu).

### New Teaching Aide for Astronomy 101

*Cosmos in the Classroom 2004*, nearly 400 pages of useful articles, ideas, examples, and hints on teaching introductory college astronomy is now available from the ASP. Assembled by editor Andrew Fraknoi as a loose-leaf notebook from handouts and papers at the July 2004 symposium at Tufts University on the teaching of introductory astronomy, the book should prove very useful for anyone who teaches, or soon will be teaching, introductory astronomy for non-science majors. To order your copy, go to the ASP website at [www.astrosociety.org](http://www.astrosociety.org), click on "AstroShop," then click on "Books."

## AAS NEWS

### **AJ Editorial Offices move from Seattle to Madison**

After 25 years of superb service to the astronomical community, the editorial offices of *The Astronomical Journal* will move from the University of Washington to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where Jay Gallagher will become the Editor in 2005. The transition has begun with Ms. Anita Makuluni joining as the Managing Editor in Madison, and will culminate on 31 December 2004. The new Associate Editor for the *Astronomical Journal* will be Margaret Hanson at the University of Cincinnati. Throughout the rest of this year, authors should continue to submit papers to the University of Washington following existing procedures. As of 1 January 2005, authors will begin submitting AJ papers through the Web-based Peer Review system at the University of Chicago Press.

A few papers will be selected throughout the remainder of this year to test the new Web-based system and operations at the Madison and Cincinnati editorial offices. If one of your papers is chosen for these tests, we hope for your cooperation in helping us make a smooth transition in the AJ editorship. Paul Hodge and his staff maintained the highest standards of professionalism and fairness at *The Astronomical Journal*. The new editorial offices are committed to being equally dedicated to serving the astronomical community in 2005 and beyond. Please check the *Astronomical Journal* web page at the University of Chicago Press for additional updates and information ([www.journals.uchicago.edu/AJ/](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/AJ/)) and join us in thanking Paul Hodge and his crew in Seattle for their support of the AJ.

### **Save by Giving. . .to the AAS!**

Now that December is here, people may be thinking about how to minimize their tax liability for 2004. If you find yourself in this situation, we hope that you will remember the AAS when it comes to end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donations. Donations can be made at any time of year or with the payment of your annual AAS membership dues. There are two kinds of contribution you may elect: restricted or unrestricted.

If not earmarked for a particular use, contributions go into the Society's general account to be used at the discretion of the Council. Unrestricted contributions are preferred. Alternatively, contributions are welcomed for one or more AAS programs described in the brochure accompanying your annual dues invoice.

For the longer view, a document has been prepared about how to include the Society in your estate planning: [www.aas.org/membership/plannedgiving.html](http://www.aas.org/membership/plannedgiving.html). We hope that if you are considering tax-deductible gifts, you will "think AAS." Please contact Bob Milkey, the AAS Executive Officer, if you have any questions.

### **Minimize Costs by Renewing Promptly**

The 2005 AAS Membership renewal invoices were mailed in early October. If you haven't received your invoice, contact the AAS at [membership@aaas.org](mailto:membership@aaas.org). Please renew promptly! Instructions for adding subscriptions, changing journal mailing options, or joining Divisions appear on the reverse side of your invoice.

### **AAS Press Officer**

AAS Press Officer Steve Maran retired from NASA Goddard on 1 October 2005, but continues to serve the Society. Please note his new contact information at the AAS Executive Office, [maran@aaas.org](mailto:maran@aaas.org), 202 328-2010 x116. Also, let him know when you plan to announce newsworthy findings at one of our meetings.

### **Don't Forget the AAS Book/Journal/Equipment Donation Forum**

Many members are not aware of the Book/Journal/Equipment Donation Forum, an online resource for those who wish to donate or request books, journals and equipment. Through this service ([www.aas.org/donation](http://www.aas.org/donation)), anyone may post items that they wish to donate or request materials that their organization may need. Shipping arrangements for the materials must be worked out between the donor and recipient and the AAS will not provide valuation estimates for any item. Before you sell that old physics textbook on E-bay or throw that old journal set in the garbage, why not let the Donation Forum give your materials a second shot at usefulness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Call for NRAO Observing Proposals**

Astronomers are invited to submit proposals for observing time on the NRAO Green Bank Telescope (GBT), Very Large Array (VLA), and Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA):

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Observing Period</b>	<b>Note</b>
GBT	2005 Feb 1	2005 Jun - 2005 Sep	
	2005 Jun 1	2005 Oct - 2006 Jan	
VLA	2005 Feb 1	2005 Jun - 2005 Sep	+
	2005 Jun 1	2005 Oct - 2006 Jan	*
VLBA	2005 Feb 1	2005 Jun - 2005 Sep	
	2005 Jun 1	2005 Oct - 2006 Jan	

Notes: (+) C configuration with a maximum baseline of 3 km.

(\*) D configuration with a maximum baseline of 1 km.

Large Proposals may be submitted to the VLBA at any deadline and to the VLA once every 16 months; the next such VLA deadline is 2005 Jun 1 for the period 2006 Jan to 2007 May. For more information on Large VLA/VLBA Proposals, see [www.nrao.edu](http://www.nrao.edu).



Users of NRAO instruments from most U.S. institutions may request travel support for observing and data reduction trips, as well as page charge support. In addition, a program to support GBT research by students at U.S. universities covers student stipends, computer hardware purchases, and student travel to meetings to present GBT results. Applications to this program are tied to GBT observing proposals. Awards of up to \$35,000 are possible.

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2005 Feb 1 for the session in 2005 Jun. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2005 Feb 1 for the session in 2005 Oct. The NRAO also handles proposals for the High Sensitivity Array for VLBI at the same deadlines as for the VLBA; this Array includes the VLBA, VLA, GBT, and Arecibo in the U.S., plus Effelsberg in Germany.

Further information on NRAO instruments, proposal submission routes, and user support is available from the NRAO home page at [www.nrao.edu](http://www.nrao.edu).

## NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 February 2005 for the second quarter of 2005. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities ([sp@nso.edu](mailto:sp@nso.edu)) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities ([nsokp@nso.edu](mailto:nsokp@nso.edu)). Instructions may be found at <http://www.nso.edu/general/observe>. A web-based observing-request form is at <http://www2.nso.edu/general/observe/obsform.shtml>. Users' Manuals are available at <http://nsosp.nso.edu/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at [ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing\\_templates/evaluation.form.txt](ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt).

Proposers are reminded that each quarter is typically oversubscribed, and it is to the proposer's advantage to provide all information requested to the greatest possible extent no later than the official deadline. Observing time at National Observatories is provided as support to the astronomical community by the National Science Foundation.

## Hubble Space Telescope Cycle 14 Call for Proposals

Release Date: 11 October 2004; Proposal Deadline: 21 January 2005

NASA and The Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) are pleased to announce the Cycle 14 Call for Proposals for Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Observations and funding for Archival Research and Theoretical Research programs. Participation in this program is open to all categories of organizations, both domestic and foreign, including educational institutions, profit

and nonprofit organizations, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies.

This solicitation for proposals will be open through 21 January 2005 8:00pm EST. The Astronomer's Proposal Tools (APT), which is required for Phase I Proposal Submission will be made available/released for Cycle 14 Phase I use during the 1st week of December 2004. Results of the selection will be announced in early April 2005.

All programmatic and technical information, as well as specific guidelines for proposal preparation, are available electronically from the STScI World-Wide Web site at the Announcement Web Page with URL:

<http://www.stsci.edu/hst/proposing/docs/cycle14announce>.

Questions can be addressed to the STScI Help Desk (email: [help@stsci.edu](mailto:help@stsci.edu); phone: 410-338-1082).

## UN/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science

The 12th UN/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science was held in Beijing, P.R. China from 24-28 May 2004. Also in May, the decadal report on the series of UN/ESA Workshops (1991-2002) was released by Kluwer Academic Publishers. The most important decision made at UN/ESA/China is that the future basic space science workshops in the period of time 2005 to 2007 will focus exclusively on IHY 2007 preparations. See <http://ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov/events/unbss.shtml> for more information.

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Space Studies Board continued from page 13

2. Programmatically, the committee feels that the insertion of TPF-C into the mission queue in conjunction with the delays in other areas of NASA's astronomy portfolio disrupts the carefully developed scientific balance of that portfolio.

*The Astrophysical Context of Life* presents the results of a study designed to investigate ways to augment and integrate astronomy and astrophysics into astrobiology, into NASA's Astrobiology Program, and into relevant programs in other federal agencies. The report notes that the astrophysical component of astrobiology has a rich and vibrant future in one of the great intellectual enterprises of humankind, understanding the origin and evolution of life. The study identifies areas where astrophysical research has more to contribute to the vigor of astrobiology, for example regarding the Galactic environment, cosmic irradiation in myriad forms, bolide impacts, interstellar and circumstellar chemistry, prebiotic chemistry, and photosynthesis and molecular evolution in an astronomical context. The study also attempts to identify areas where astrophysical research can fruitfully interact with the other disciplines of astrobiology: biology, geology, chemistry. Finally, the report addresses the broad issue of integrating work in an intrinsically interdisciplinary field, and it recommends a series of educational and training initiatives that would benefit the astronomical component of astrobiology, but apply to the whole enterprise.

Washington News continued from back page

their support for the Hubble Space Telescope by being present and sharing a few words. In addition to Congressman Udall, they were Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) and Jim McDermott (D-WA). Other members of the House co-sponsored the event including, W. Todd Akin (R-MO), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), Bart Gordon (D-TN), and Nick Lampson (D-TX). The event was described in an American Institute of Physics FYI, #132, which was distributed on 29 September, 2004. The FYI series summarizes important or noteworthy policy activities and budget issues and is available at no charge through the AIP at the following address: <http://www.aip.org/fyi/>.



*L-R:  
Alex Filippenko,  
Congressman Mark  
Udall (D-CO) and  
STSCI Director  
Steve Beckwith at  
the AAS sponsored  
HST Science  
Briefing.*

## Chile-US Partners in Astronomy

On 29 September, an event highlighting the importance of partnerships between Chile and the United States in the area of Astronomy was held in Washington, DC. The two-part event was organized jointly by the AAS, the Embassy of Chile and the University of Chile and sponsored by Associated Universities Incorporated (AUI), Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) and Caltech.

The genesis of the event was a chance meeting of the science staffer for the Embassy of Chile and myself. We discussed the great role for Chile in the next fifty years of astronomy research and decided to organize an event to highlight the partnerships between our two countries. Two years later and with the additional help of the director of the International University Exchange, the representative of the University of Chile in Washington, "Chile and the US: Partners in Astronomy" took place.

A lunch briefing was held on the Hill attended by more than 60 people, including staffers and members of Congress. Congressman Bart Gordon (D-TN), ranking member of the House Science Committee stepped in to replace Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), who had to undergo a heart operation. Congressman Gordon opened the briefing by highlighting the ongoing partnerships and the tremendous amount of astronomical infrastructure in Chile built with US taxpayer dollars. He pointed out that he felt this was an appropriate investment and applauded the Chileans for their ongoing cooperation and partnership. Dr. Maria Teresa Ruiz, of the University of Chile and Dr. Paul Vanden Bout, the former director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory then presented short talks on the unique benefits of doing astronomy in Chile and some of the history of the cooperation between our two countries, which goes back more than 100 years. Concluding the lunch briefing was Congressman Dario Paya, a member of the Chilean House of Representatives, who avoided the several

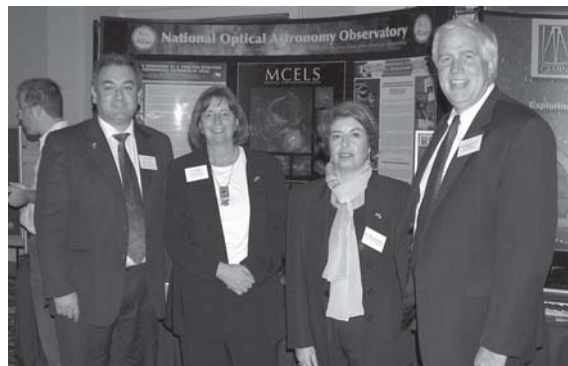
hurricanes impacting Florida at that time to travel to Washington. He presented a short speech highlighting the importance of early government cooperation in the development of Chile as an astronomical location and pledged ongoing support for such activities. Setting a record for the scale of promises made by politicians, he stated that Chile would be amenable to serving as a site for large telescope facilities "until the Sun becomes a red giant, which I understand to be about 4 billion years."

The second part of the event took place at the Carnegie Institute of Washington, which graciously served as host for the evening reception as well. Speakers included Congressman Paya; Dr. Jose Maza of the University of Chile; Dr. Fred Lo, Director of NRAO; Dr. Monica Rubio, president of the Chilean Astronomical Society; Dr. Tony Readhead, Caltech; Dr. Nick Suntzeff, CTIO; Dr. Scott Fisher, Gemini; and Dr. Miguel Roth, Director of the Las Campanas Observatory. Powerpoint presentations from these speakers are available at the event website: <http://www.aas.org/policy/USCHILE.html>.

A reception featuring Chilean empanadas and wine concluded the event. Telescope facilities in Chile graciously sent exhibit booths and staff to highlight their institution. Attendees universally felt that it had been a worthwhile event and many spoke of organizing another one in three to five years. As long as Chile's skies remain dark and clear and launch costs to space remain high, it is certain future events like this one will take place.



*L-R: Luciano Parodi, Science attaché, Embassy of Chile, Chilean Congressman Dario Paya (Union Demócrata Independiente (UDI) and member of the Science and Technology Committee of the Chilean House of Representatives), Kevin Marvel, Rodrigo Gaete (Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Chile).*



*Congressman Dario Paya (Union Demócrata Independiente (UDI) and member of the Science and Technology Committee of the Chilean House of Representatives), Dr. Maria Teresa Ruiz (University of Chile), Dr. Monica Rubio (University of Chile and President of Chilean Astronomical Society) and Dr. Richard Meserve (President Carnegie Institution of Washington).*

# CALENDAR

## AAS & AAS Division Meetings

### 205th AAS Meeting

9-13 January 2005 — San Diego, CA  
Contact Diana Alexander (diana@aaas.org)  
www.aas.org

## Other Events

### \*Gravitational Lensing, Dark Matter, and Dark Energy

5-7 January 2005 — Columbus, OH  
Contact: David Weinberg  
(weinberg.21@osu.edu)  
<http://ocfs.osu.edu/>

### The First Symposium on Magellan Science

7-8 January 2005 — Pasadena, CA  
Contact: John Mulchaey  
(mulchaey@ociw.edu)  
[http://www.ociw.edu/ociw/magellan\\_symposium/](http://www.ociw.edu/ociw/magellan_symposium/)

### \*Spitzer Observation Planning Workshop

9 January 2005 San Diego, CA  
Contact: Spitzer Observer Support Team  
(obsplan@ipac.caltech.edu)  
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/ost/workshops/2005jan/>

### Planet Formation and Detection

6-12 February 2005 — Aspen, CO  
Contact: Fred Rasio  
(rasio@northwestern.edu)  
<http://www.astro.northwestern.edu/AspenW05/>

### \*The Eyes Above: Space & Near-Space Telescope Science & Engineering

17-20 February 2005 — Toronto, ON, Canada  
Contact: Mubdi Rahman  
(mubdi.rahman@utoronto.ca)

### From Young Disks to Planets: New Observations, Models and Theories

7-10 March 2005 — Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Rafael Millan-Gabet  
(disks05@ipac.caltech.edu)  
<http://msc.caltech.edu/conferences/2005/disks05/>

### Grand Challenge Problems in Computational Astrophysics

7 Mar - 10 Jun 2005 — Los Angeles, CA  
Contact: Mark Morris  
(pca2005@ipam.ucla.edu)  
<http://www.ipam.ucla.edu/programs/pca2005/>

### IAU Colloquium No. 198

Near-Field Cosmology with Dwarf Elliptical Galaxies  
14-18 Mar 2005 — Les Diablerets, Switzerland  
Contact: Helmut Jerjen (jerjen@mso.anu.edu.au)  
<http://www.mso.anu.edu.au/IAUC198>

### IAU Colloquium No. 199

Probing Galaxies through Quasar Absorption Lines  
14-18 March 2005 — Shanghai, China  
Contact: Brice Ménard (menard@ias.edu)  
<http://center.shao.ac.cn/qsoals>

### \*2005 May Symposium: A Decade of Extrasolar Planets

2-5 May 2005 — Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Quindairian S. Gryce  
(gryce@stsci.edu)

### IAU Symposium No. 227

Massive Star Birth: A Crossroads of Astrophysics  
15-19 May 2005 — Catania, Sicily, Italia  
Contact: Peter S. Conti  
(pconti@jila.colorado.edu)  
<http://www.arcetri.astro.it/iaus227>

### IAU Symposium No. 228

From Lithium to Uranium: Elemental Tracers of Early Cosmic Evolution  
23-27 May 2005 — Paris, France  
Contact: Vanessa Hill  
(Vanessa.Hill@obspm.fr)  
<http://www.gepi.obspm.fr/symp228/index.php>

### \*LISA Data: Analysis, Sources, and Science

29 May-18 June 2005 — Aspen, CO  
Contact: Matthew Benacquista  
(benacquista@msubillings.edu)  
<http://www.astro.northwestern.edu/AspenS05/index.html>

### \*Ultra-relativistic Jets in Astrophysics

11-15 July 2005 — Banff, Alberta, Canada  
Contact: Rachid Ouyed  
(jdevilliers@capca.ucalgary.ca)  
<http://www.capca.ucalgary.ca/meetings/banff2005>

### \*Solar MHD: Theory and Observations - a High Spatial Resolution Perspective

18-21 July 2005 — Sunspot, New Mexico  
Contact: John Leibacher (jleibacher@nso.edu)  
<http://www.nso.edu/general/workshops/2005>

### Michelson Interferometry Summer Workshop

24-29 July 2005 — Pasadena, CA  
Dawn Gelino (dawn@ipac.caltech.edu)  
<http://msc.caltech.edu/school/2005/>

### 9th Asian-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM-2005)

26-29 July 2005 — Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia  
Contact: Premana W. Premadi  
(premedi@as.itb.ac.id)  
<http://www.as.itb.ac.id/APRIM2005>

### \*Neutron Stars at the Crossroads of Fundamental Physics

2-6 August 2005 — Vancouver, BC  
Contact: Jeremy S Heyl (hey1@physics.ubc.ca)  
<http://www.physics.ubc.ca/~hey1/ns2005>

### IAU Symposium No. 229

Asteroids, Comets, Meteors - ACM 2005  
8-12 August 2005 — Rio de Janeiro, Brasil  
Contact: Daniela Lazzaro (lazzaro@on.br)  
<http://www.on.br/acm2005>

### News, Expectations and Trends in Statistical Physics (NEXT2005)

13-18 Aug 2005 — Kolymbari, Crete, Greece  
<http://www.polito.it/next-sigmaphi>

### IAU Symposium No. 230

Populations of High-Energy Sources in Galaxies  
15-19 August 2005 — Dublin, Ireland  
Contact: Evert J.A. Meurs  
(ejam@halley.dunsink.dias.ie)

### IAU Symposium No. 231

Astrochemistry throughout the Universe: Recent Successes and Current Challenges  
29 Aug - 2 Sept 2005 — Monterey, CA  
Contact: Eric Herbst  
(herbst@mps.ohio-state.edu)  
<http://asilomar.caltech.edu/>

### IAU Colloquium No.200

Direct Imaging of Exoplanets: Science and Techniques  
3-7 October 2005 — Nice, France  
Contact: Claude Aime (Claude.Aime@unice.fr)  
<http://www-luan.unice.fr/IAUC200.htm>

### Protostars and Planets V

24-28 October 2005 — Honolulu, HI  
Contact: Bo Reipurth (reipurth@ifa.hawaii.edu)  
<http://www2.ifa.hawaii.edu/CSPF/ppv/ppv.html>

### IAU Symposium No. 232

Scientific Requirements for Extremely Large Telescopes (ELTs)  
14-18 Nov 2005 — Cape Town, South Africa  
Contact: Michel Dennefeld (dennefeld@iap.fr)

Note: Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention (new or revised listings noted with an asterisk). Due to space limitations, and we publish notice of meetings 1) occurring in North, South and Central America; 2) meetings of the IAU; and 3) meetings as requested by AAS Members. Meeting publication may only be assured by emailing crystal@aaas.org. Meetings that fall within 30 days of publication are not listed.



American Astronomical Society  
 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 400  
 Washington, DC 20009-1231

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## WASHINGTON NEWS

Kevin B. Marvel, Deputy Executive Officer, [marvel@aaas.org](mailto:marvel@aaas.org)

### New Director for NSF Nominated



On 15 September the President announced his nominee for the new director of the NSF. Dr. Arden Bement, who had been named acting director to replace departing director Rita Colwell, was selected. Dr. Bement was most recently the director of the National Institute for Standards and

Technology.

In a press release, he stated, "Without your help and dedication, none of NSF's goals or objectives can be met. Although NSF faces significant challenges in the near future due to Federal budget issues, I am committed to the policies and operations that have stood the test of time and have helped make NSF an extraordinary agency. I look forward to working with Dr. Bordogna and all of you in continuing the outstanding manner in which NSF leads the nation. Our pursuit of research and education at the frontiers of science and engineering, our commitment to broadening participation both within and without the Foundation, and our desire to ensure that we have the resources to carry out this vision will be among my top priorities."

Given that in the FY 2005 VA-HUD-IA appropriations bill passed by the House this summer NSF received a 2% reduction from the FY 2004 level, Dr. Bement will need all of our help to accomplish his ambitious vision. Letters to Congress can and should be written on a regular basis, not just in times of crisis. Begin work now to establish relationships that can help you when you need them.

If you will be in Washington to attend a meeting, consider spending an extra day and visiting legislators on the Hill. I stand ready to provide advice, to help schedule appointments and to provide leave-behind materials that you may need.

### AAS Sponsors HST Science Briefing

On September 22 the AAS sponsored a briefing on the Hill covering Hubble Space Telescope science. The speakers were Alex Filippenko, STSCI director Steve Beckwith and AAS president, Robert Kirshner. The AAS was contacted by a senior staffer in Representative Mark Udall's (D-CO) office requesting some kind of briefing on the Hubble. We recommended a briefing focused on the science that the Hubble has accomplished and could accomplish if serviced. This briefing was similar in nature to House Science Committee seminars that were held during the tenure of Chairman George Brown. The event was very well attended by more than 30 congressional staffers and also featured several members of Congress who wanted to share