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## President's Column

J. Craig Wheeler, [aaspres@aas.org](mailto:aaspres@aas.org)

I'm still reflecting on "My Dinner with Mike," actually, "our dinner." Executive Officer Kevin Marvel, Chair of the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, Jack Burns, and I had an informal dinner with NASA Administrator, Michael Griffin, just before the Thanksgiving holiday. The idea was not to focus on any particular issues, but to let the conversation flow to keep the lines of communication open between our community and the NASA administration. I believe we all four found this a useful exercise. Dr. Griffin has a strong personality and deep convictions, but it is clear he wants to do the best job he can for all of NASA's components and that he is under budgetary constraints not of his choosing.

Several key ideas came out in the course of the meal. This was shortly after several people were asked to step down from the NASA Advisory Council (NAC). That was, and remains, a sensitive issue. Dr. Griffin was adamant that the old advisory structure allowed influence that inappropriately affected NASA policy and budgetary decisions and that it had to be reformed. He confirmed Jack Burn's insight that the changes were made to the advisory structure in a manner designed to give the science community more of a seat at the NAC table where top-level decisions are made and that he was open to making the process more effective. We need to work with NASA to make this system function as well as possible. Dr. Griffin was also very sensitive to the burden of mission reporting paperwork. He was emphatic that he wanted to hear of any case when a PI thought a report had no real merit, and that he would endeavor to fix that problem. At one point I asked about an issue that had been bothering me; Dr. Griffin seemed to develop a relatively negative impression of the astronomy community early in his tenure, and I wanted to know why. One factor turns out to be that some members of our community e-mailed complaints to him that were not just quarrelsome, but rude and profane. Such e-mail continues. I have one piece of advice to members of our community doing that. STOP IT! We can have our differences of opinion, but it is terribly damaging to our community if we do not express these differences in a professional and constructive manner.

Several of us also had dinner with Dr. Harrison (Jack) Schmitt, Chair of the NAC, during the Seattle meeting. Once again, Dr. Schmitt is a strong personality with deep convictions, but he listened to our discussion comparing and contrasting the old advisory committee structure with the current one. I think we can have a constructive conversation on this issue.

If we do not formally know the identity of the new Associate Administrator (AA) for the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), we will soon. This is a position of great responsibility in a time of opportunity and turmoil. I have every reason to believe that the AA will bring a new sensitivity to the issues of advice from our community to NASA and *vice versa*. I am confident this person will work to restore R&A funding, but we must be aware that SMD also has a constrained budget. We need to help the new AA all we can with objective, scientific advice.

The Beyond Einstein Program Assessment Committee (BEPAC) study by the National Research Council (NRC) to set priorities for those missions is well underway with a series of town hall meetings scheduled. This will be a difficult and probably contentious process, but the fact that NASA turned to our community through the offices of the NRC to make these decisions is a good example of the community involvement we want to encourage.

This spring will mark great interest in, and anxiety over, budgets. The new Congress will establish the FY 07 budget by some variation of a Continuing Resolution. By the time you read this, the impact of that on NASA and NSF budgets for the current year should be clear. Earmark

## AAS Officers and Councilors

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*Items of general interest* to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to crystal@aaas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcome. For 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 crystal@aaas.org.

Judith M. Johnson, 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

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# Letters to the Editor

## Per Aerospace ad Astra

With the next Decadal Survey soon to begin, and many of the payloads from the previous survey delayed by funding, we are seeing new interest in alternative strategies (1). Fusion physicists, for instance, have recently forged a truly global collaboration to fund the \$12 billion dollar ITER project (2). In particle physics on the other hand, DOE labs have put Big Science on hold, and are opening their facilities to Little Science projects (3). Another new direction has been taken by U.S. solar physicists.

A generation ago, solar research in the U.S. was still led mainly by faculty at major research universities such as Harvard, Stanford, Chicago, and CalTech. Recently, the most influential space solar research group has emerged at Lockheed. Finances have gradually led U.S. astronomy from wealthy 19<sup>th</sup> century amateurs to the present mix of federal and private funding. Now, pressures to fulfill astronomers' ambitious hardware requests suggest a broader move of space astronomy toward the more powerful lobby offered by the aerospace sector.

Universities are increasingly being driven by financial pressures to re-organize along corporate lines (4), so the distinction between research environments at, e.g. Lockheed and Stanford is likely to diminish. Aerospace companies now compete for grants more easily thanks to new NASA regulations that withhold salaries and overheads from reviewers. Also, NASA and the NAS see no conflict of interest when solar planning committees are chaired by employees of the aerospace firms that build the hardware.

The next generation will decide whether needs for super-sized instruments justify such new directions for Big Astronomy. If they do, some rugged individualists may opt out to manage hedge funds, like Larry Summers. But they will be able to afford to retire early to pursue curiosity-driven, private research like their Victorian predecessors. So the wheel should come full circle. To paraphrase the famous RAF motto: "Per aerospace ad astra"—et the aerospace industry lead us to the stars!

## References:

1. "Wishing for the Stars" *Nature*, 443,386 (2006)
2. "ITER's \$12 Billion Gamble" *Science*, 314,238(2006)
3. "Embracing Small Science in a Big Way" *Science*, 313, 1873 (2006).
4. "Paying the Price of University Reform" *Nature*,444,123 (2006)

Peter Foukal  
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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.

# From the Executive Office

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

Looking back on the Seattle meeting, I can say that I am bursting at the seams with pride at the top-notch staff here at the Executive Office. Your dues pay their salaries and you too should be proud with their remarkable capabilities. Let me explain why.

From July through December of 2006, the office ran in an understaffed mode. Several staff left the office for personal reasons, pursuing new jobs in other places. The remaining staff picked up the slack and introduced new services as well. For the first time ever, we have an online dues renewal process. For the first time ever, we have an online donation system. Both of these new services produced clear and positive results.

The staff, especially Judy Johnson and Kelli Gilmore, your publications and meetings managers respectively, carried the heavy load of supporting our largest joint meeting ever in Seattle. Joint meetings present unique problems and complications and always introduce schedule delays and unexpected difficulties. As the meeting day approached, I felt confident that everything would go well.

Then Kelli called me in my hotel room the day before the council meeting.

“Kevin,” she said, “are you sitting down?”

Unbelievably, the truck carrying all of our meeting supplies had been involved in a multi-truck pile up on the cold, snowy and windswept plains of Wyoming (or Montana, at that point details were sketchy). Luckily, nobody was injured, but all of our equipment would not arrive in time and was in an unknown state of exposure to the elements.

Kelli and the staff mobilized quickly, using even spouses of staff members, to help pull together all the equipment and supplies needed for a successful meeting. The fact that almost everything went smoothly is a credit to your Executive Office Staff members and I hope you can thank them personally at the next meeting you attend. We have a dedicated and competent team supporting our Society and it is a team we can all be proud of.

This spring the staff will visit the nearby Green Bank Telescope and we continue to seek astronomers locally to come give once-a-month colloquia talks at a general level to our staff. These activities help connect them to our community and strengthen the already substantial bond they feel to you all.

As always, let me know of any complaints you may have and send any compliments directly to your staff members of choice.

We are in the process of issuing and assessing responses to a request for proposals for the publication of our journals. Your president, J. Craig Wheeler, will keep the broader astronomy community informed of the progress of this undertaking. My role will be to guide the process and ensure the best possible publishing solution for our journals, which remain central to the field. Although there are risks in this process, there are potentially substantial benefits as well. I am happy to say that the people—your fellow members—helping with this process have been fantastic to work with and have all brought valuable input to the table. We will be successful in this endeavor, and whatever the future may hold, our journals will remain low-cost, easy-to-use and central to the field they were established to serve.

reform seems to have momentum and, overall, that is good. On the other hand, this treatment of the FY 07 budget seems to have sidelined the effort to gain a special supplement for the NASA budget to make up for costs associated with the loss of the Challenger. The status of the American Competitiveness Initiative that might augment NSF and DOE, and maybe NASA, is threatened at this writing, but may have been clarified by the time you read this. By now the Administration's FY 08 budget will have been proposed and will be the subject of active debate. This is where we all need to apply leverage. Administrators at NASA and NSF can only do so much if their budgets do not afford the assignments with which they are tasked, never mind the dreams and aspirations of the astronomy community. Communicate with your Congress-people.

Another issue that is playing out this spring, closely related to some of those above, is the reaction of our community to

the Senior Review report of the NSF Division of Astronomy. The Division and the Senior Review committee faced daunting issues to open opportunities for new initiatives. The recommendations of the committee involved some pain to virtually every portion of the NSF-sponsored astronomy community. My personal impression is that the recommendations for the large, diverse, and fractionated optical/IR community still need special thought and consideration. In any case, the Senior Review was advisory to the AST Division. Implementation is a work in progress. The NSF is hosting a series of town hall meetings to get further feedback on the recommendations of the Senior Review. I urge all interested people to use those venues to express your opinions, in a civilized and professional manner.

## Secretary's Corner

John Graham, [aassec@as.org](mailto:aassec@as.org)

### AAS Election

The results of the latest AAS election are presented below. The Society thanks all who agreed to stand for election, for their commitment and service to the community, and congratulates the winners. New AAS Officers and Councilors begin their terms after the Annual Members Meeting on 30 May 2007 in Honolulu.

#### President (2008-2010)

John P. Huchra

#### Vice-President (2007-2010)

Lee W. Hartmann

#### Secretary (2007-2010)

John A. Graham

#### Councilors (2007-2010)

Chryssa Kouveliotou

Felix J. Lockman

Nicholas B. Suntzeff

#### Pub. Board Chair (2008-2011)

Richard F. Green

#### USNC-IAU: Cat. I (2008 – 2010)

Edward B. Churchwell

#### Nominating Committee (2008-2010)

Mercedes T. Richards

Faith Vilas

### Committee Vacancies Need to be Filled

Vacancies for several AAS committees will be filled by Council at its meeting in Hawaii in May 2007. Current committee members are listed under Council/Committees on the AAS homepage, [www.aas.org](http://www.aas.org). Committees which have vacancies are:

Committee on Employment

Investment Advisory Committee

Light Pollution, Radio Interference and Space Debris

Committee on Status of Minorities

Committee on Status of Women in Astronomy

Committee on Childcare at Meetings

AAS Members may themselves volunteer, or suggest other Members for one of the vacancies. To assist members of the Committee on Appointments who may not know everyone, please include the date of PhD, as well as a few sentences conveying the background and area of expertise of the named individual. Our goal is to have both quality and breadth across the AAS committee structure. Please let us know if you think you could help.

Input must be received in the Office of the Secretary no later than 30 April 2007. Submit suggestions to John Graham, AAS Secretary, by email to [aassec@as.org](mailto:aassec@as.org) or at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, 5241 Broad Branch Road, N.W., Washington, DC 20015, Tel:202-478-8867, Fax: 202-478-8821.



# Council Actions

Presented below are the significant Council Actions Taken at the 209th Meeting of the Council of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle, WA, 6 January 2007. A full listing of the Council Actions is available from the Secretary or Executive Officer upon request.

The AAS Council approved the following Executive Committee actions taken since the last Council meeting:

a) Approval of the agreement between the American Astronomical Society and the Fondation [sic] Chretien as part of the dissolution of the Fondation Chretien. [note: The AAS will receive the assets of the Fondation for the continuation of the Chretien Research Grant Program]

b) Approval of a letter from the Executive Officer, Kevin B. Marvel, to the University of Chicago Press rejecting the proposals by the press to modify the existing business agreement between the Society and the UCP.

c) Approval of the appointment of John Black, Leon Golub, Richard de Grijs, Steve Kawaler, and Chung-Pei Ma as Scientific Editors of the *Astrophysical Journal*.

d) Approved statements applauding NASA Administrator Michael Griffin for approving the servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope and supporting the National Science Foundation's Division of Astronomical Sciences Senior Review Report.

f) Approved the formal transition of responsibilities to the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Astrophysical Journal* to take place on 31 October 2006.

g) Approved the termination of the contracts between the American Astronomical Society and the University of Chicago Press to publish the *Astrophysical Journal* and the *Astronomical Journal* prior to the end of the 2006 calendar year and directed the Executive Officer to so notify the University of Chicago Press and to undertake an RFP process for the publication of the society's journals.

h) Approved title changes for the *Astronomical Journal* Editorial ladder positions.

In addition, the Council took the following actions:

1) Resolved to hold the 2010 summer meeting in Miami, Florida pending acceptable contractual conditions and adequate facilities.

2) Appointed Kevin B. Marvel to serve out Robert W. Milkey's term (2006-2008) on the US National Committee for the International Astronomical Union and Megan Donahue to serve a term (2007-2009) as a Category II member (appointed by the AAS Council).

3) Appointed Kevin B. Marvel to serve out the term (2005-2008) of Robert W. Milkey and John A. Graham to a term (2007-2010), on the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics.

4) Approved funding for the following special projects:

a) A proposal for a joint CSWA-AIP longitudinal study of graduate students in astronomy.

b) Continuing support of American Institute of Physics State Department Fellowship.

c) Sponsorship for one year of the National Young Astronomer Award made annually by the Astronomical League.

5) Established an ad hoc committee to recommend whether or not the AAS should publish the *Astronomy Education Review*.

6) Resolved to fund the award of the 2008 Van Biesbroek Prize out of operating funds and to reconsider at a later date as to whether it would be awarded annually after the year 2009.

7) Continued, for another five years, the eligibility of candidates for the Warner Prize for those within eight years of receiving their PhD. Consideration of a similar qualification extension for the Pierce prize was postponed.

8) Approved modified language in the rules for the Chambliss awards. These changes will appear on the AAS website and in other places.

9) Established a new Working Group on the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage.

10) Appointed a steering committee to decide on the structure and organization of a Working Group for Laboratory Astrophysics.

## Member Deaths

The Society is saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members, former members and affiliate members:

**Herbert Gursky**  
**Edward "Ted" Harrison**  
**Martha Hazen**  
**Donald E. Osterbrock**

## AAS on iTunes

Download Seattle  
Invited and Prize talks  
<http://podcast.aas.org>

## Member Spotlight

In each issue, we will feature one member, their research or other work, a bit of their history and their picture. We will accept suggestions for this feature, but no self-nominations. If you know of a fellow member who does interesting research, came to our field through interesting circumstances or is just a fantastic person, consider submitting their story to us for possible publication (500 word limit). We will only publish stories approved by members willing to be featured. Email your suggestion to Crystal Tinch, [crystal@aaas.org](mailto:crystal@aaas.org).

# 2007 Prize Winners



**Ann Hornschemeier**  
NASA's GSFC

Annie Jump Cannon Award  
Citation states: The 2007 Annie Jump Cannon Award is given to Ann Hornschemeier for her X-ray investigations of distant galaxies. She developed new ways of studying star formation at large look-back times, connecting X-ray source populations in local

galaxies, such as X-ray binaries and supernova remnants, with those at cosmological distances. Using deep Chandra surveys in concert with other multi-wavelength deep surveys, she probes the connections between galaxy evolution, star formation history and galaxy mass including the effects of cluster membership. She is a leader in her field as demonstrated by her energetic advocacy of X-ray astronomy and her important role in defining the scientific rationale for the Constellation-X mission.



**Stephen P. Maran**  
Retired, NASA's GSFC

George Van Biesbroeck Prize  
The 2007 George Van Biesbroeck prize is awarded to Dr. Stephen P. Maran, recently retired from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, in recognition of his outstanding and unselfish long-term contribution to the astronomical community as Press

Officer for the American Astronomical Society.

In his service far beyond the formal requirements of his position, Maran has fostered communication between scientists, journalists and institutional press officers, promoted astronomy, and made the AAS meetings major events for the communication of science.

Maran has developed a system for the distribution of press releases that insures world-wide exposure of astronomical discoveries. In addition, he has established himself as a credible clearinghouse for astronomical news and information, and has earned the trust of working reporters. The AAS press room now has the reputation of being among the best managed of any at a regular science meeting.

Acting tirelessly and outside the bounds of a "normal" work day for many years, Maran has single-handedly established the model for public dissemination of astronomical results, and has greatly enhanced public understanding of our field.

Maran has also contributed to the public understanding of astronomy through his own popular books, articles, and numerous public lectures.



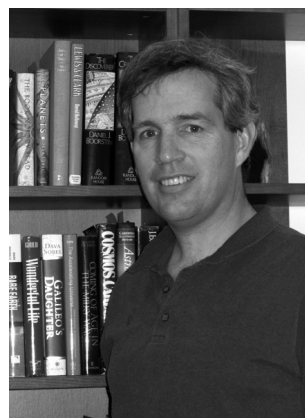
**Sara Seager**  
Carnegie Institute of Washington

Helen B. Warner Prize  
Sara Seager for the Warner Prize, with a citation to read "For her development of fundamental techniques for understanding, analyzing, and finding the atmospheres of extrasolar planets."



**Robert Kennicutt**  
University of Cambridge

AAS/AIP Heineman Prize  
The 2007 Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics is awarded to Robert C. Kennicutt, Jr. for his outstanding contributions to extragalactic astrophysics, in particular to our understanding of the large-scale properties of star formation in galaxies.



**Keith S. Noll**  
Space Telescope Science Institute

AAS Education Prize  
For his creation and leadership of the Hubble Heritage Project of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

For his innovative use of the power and beauty of Hubble

## 2007 Prize Winners continued

Space Telescope images to effectively communicate the scope and value of our scientific enterprise.

For his dedication and commitment to making astronomical data and science accessible to everyone, and to making the Hubble Space Telescope one of our community's most effective public education tools.

And with commendation and appreciation to the entire Hubble Heritage Project team for the extraordinary reach and positive impact that the Hubble Heritage Project has had on the worldwide public understanding of science, astronomy, and the Universe.

### David L. Lambert

McDonald Observatory

Henry Norris Russell Prize Lectureship

The proposed citation is as follows: For fundamental contributions in the field of stellar spectroscopy and the

chemical composition of the sun, the stars, and interstellar clouds. His analysis of stellar abundances, from subdwarfs and cepheid variables to carbon stars and post-AGB stars, has profoundly influenced our knowledge of stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis, and their effects on the chemical evolution of the universe.

For his innovative use of the power and beauty of Hubble Space Telescope images to effectively communicate the scope and value of our scientific enterprise.

For his dedication and commitment to making astronomical data and science accessible to everyone, and to making the Hubble Space Telescope one of our community's most effective public education tools.

And with commendation and appreciation to the entire Hubble Heritage Project team for the extraordinary reach and positive impact that the Hubble Heritage Project has had on the worldwide public understanding of science, astronomy, and the Universe.

## 2007 Chambliss Awards

### Chambliss Medal for Amateur Achievement

The AAS awards the 2007 Chambliss Medal for Amateur Achievement to Brian D. Warner for his many contributions to the photometric study of asteroids. His skillful, methodical observations using multiple CCD-equipped telescopes at Palmer Divide Observatory have resulted in the publication of more than 200 asteroid light curves. His discovery of numerous binaries in the main belt has overturned the idea that binary asteroids form only through tidal interactions with planets. Warner encourages and supports other asteroid observers, both amateur and professional, through his ongoing development of the software MPO Canopus, his regular writing in the *Minor Planet Bulletin*, and his book *A Practical Guide to Lightcurve Photometry and Analysis*, now in its second edition (Springer, 2006). His efforts have facilitated a 21st-century renaissance in precision measurements of asteroid light curves.

### Chambliss Writing Award

The 2006 Chambliss Writing Award is presented to Barbara Ryden of Ohio State University for her book "Introduction to Cosmology," published by Addison Wesley. In a field

becoming crowded with textbooks, Ryden's stands out for its rigor, its coverage, and its exceptionally fine writing style. "Introduction to Cosmology" fills a gap in the field because there are a number of graduate level textbooks, and many semi-technical books for an introductory course, but very few pitched for a one-semester course for junior or senior astronomy undergraduates. It is an enormous challenge to distill the material of a dynamic and highly technical field like cosmology into this form of presentation.

Ryden has succeeded admirably; her book is fast becoming a classic. Our committee found her enthusiasm for the subject and intellectual curiosity to be inspiring. As one of her four nominators noted "The explanations are exceptionally clear and well-grounded in fundamental physics; the treatment is as mathematical as it needs to be, and no more so. The writing itself is exceptional; Ryden's sentences sparkle with clarity and humor." There are some fine humanist touches, such as the quoting of Updike's poem on neutrinos and her reference to a famous painting by Gauguin. We mention this because the Chambliss medal is, after all, a writing award, and we would like the first award to set a high bar for quality of its writing as well as the clarity of its ideas and its explanations.



# Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Awards

Through the generosity of Carlson Chambliss, the AAS established the Astronomy Achievement Student Awards to recognize exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students who present posters at the semi-annual AAS meetings. Awardees are honored with an engraved bronze Chambliss medal and a certificate. Graduate and undergraduate posters are considered separately. Students with Honorable Mentions receive a certificate.

The AAS thanks all the students who participated in the 209<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Chambliss Student Achievement Awards and who made the judges' job difficult indeed due to the high quality of the presentations. We also thank all the judges who volunteered their time and energy; each judge met and spoke with an average of ten students.

## Graduate Student Chambliss Medal Awardees

Amber Straughn is a 5<sup>th</sup> year graduate student in the Department of Physics at Arizona State University working in the area of Observational Cosmology. Her poster presented at the 209<sup>th</sup> AAS Meeting in Seattle WA, on *Emission Line Galaxies in PEARS: A 2-D Detection Method* was supported by a NASA Harriett G. Jenkins Predoctoral Fellowship and HST Grant 10530. Her advisors are Rogier Windhorst (ASU-School of Earth and Space Exploration) and Jonathan Gardner (NASA GSFC)

Arti Garg is a 6<sup>th</sup> year graduate student in the Department of Physics at Harvard University working in Observational Cosmology. His advisor is Christopher Stubbs. His work is supported by a Harvard University Fellowship. The work he presented at the meeting, *Near-Explosion Lightcurves of SNe Ia from the SuperMACHO Survey*, based on SuperMACHO data and data obtained at CTIO, is also supported by the NSF and the McDonnell Foundation.

## Undergraduate Chambliss Medal Awardees

Betsey Adams is a Senior at Indiana University majoring in Astronomy Astrophysics and Mathematics. Her research presentation was titled , *An Examination of Kinematic Properties of Dwarf Irregular Galaxies*. Her advisor is Liese van Zee, Indiana University.

Amandeep Gill is currently a Junior at Brown University majoring in Physics. Her poster presentation titled *WIYN Open Cluster Study: Lithium Abundances in Dwarf Stars of the Old (6-7Gyr) Open Cluster NGC 188* was based on work

she did this past summer in the Indiana University Astronomy REU Program. Her advisors for the project were Kevin Croxall (Ph.D. candidate) and Constantine Deliyannis.

Ferah Munshi is a Senior majoring in Astrophysics and Physics at the University of California, Berkeley. Her poster, *titled Correlation of Galaxy Types in the 2MASS Redshift Survey with 2MASS/SDSS Colors and HI Content*, is based on work she did this summer as a research student with John Huchra at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA.

## Honorable Mention: Graduate Students

Laura Brenneman; University of Maryland; *First Constraints on Black Hole Spin in Broad Iron Line AGN*

Ryan Campbell; New Mexico State University; *Phase-Resolved Infrared Cyclotron Spectroscopy of Polars*

Phillip Cargile; Vanderbilt University; *A New Low-Mass, Pre-Main Sequence Eclipsing Binary in Orion: Precise Mass Determinations of System Components*

Michele Cash; University of Washington; *On the Feasibility of Detecting UV Auroral Emission from Extrasolar Giant Planets (EGPs)*

David Chamulak; Michigan State University; *The Laminar Flame Speedup by Neon-22 Enrichment in White Dwarf Supernovae*

Maria Cordero; Universidad de Chile; *Search for Close Binaries of Herbig Ae/Be Stars*

Kate Dellenbusch; University of Wisconsin; *Oxygen Abundances in Starbursting Transition Dwarfs*

Scott Engle; Villanova University; *The Secret Lives of Cepheids: Discovery of Strong FUV Emissions in the Classical Cepheids Polaris and beta Dor*

Nicolas Flagey; CalTech; *Dusty Sculptures in the MIPS GAL Survey*

Nimish Hathi; Arizona State University; *Surface Brightness Properties of z~4-6 Galaxies in the HUDF*

Kimberly Herrmann; Penn State University; *P/NLF Distances to Six Face-On Spiral Galaxies*

Christian Howard; University of California, Los Angeles; *A High Precision Radial Velocity Survey of the Galactic Bulge*

Nathan Kaib; University of Washington; *The Effect of the Sun's Early Environment on the Oort Cloud and Comet Showers*



- Emily Levesque; University of Hawaii; *Late-Type Red Supergiants: Too Cool for the Clouds?*
- Allison Mercer; University of Iowa; *High Resolution Radio Observations of the Nebulae of Luminous Blue Variable Stars*
- William Powell; Texas Tech University; *Globular Cluster Tidal Streams: An Observational Study*
- Russell Ryan; Arizona State University; *The Unresolved Stellar Populations of Galaxies in the HUDF*
- Ryan Shannon; Cornell University; *Circumpulsar Asteroids: Inferences from Nulling Statistics and High Energy Correlations*
- Carlos Vargas Alvarez; San Diego State University; *The Evolved Stars of the Globular Cluster M 55*
- David Ventimiglia; Michigan State University; *Quantifying Galaxy Cluster Substructure*
- Rongying Wu; New York University; *A PAH Deficit in Extremely Low Luminosity Galaxies*
- Monica Young; Boston University; *Red AGNs: Dust Absorption or Intrinsic Continuum Difference?*
- Zheng Chen; Stanford University; *Follow-up Spectroscopy for the SDSS-II SN Survey*
- Walter Trentadue; Indiana University; *WYN Open Cluster Study: Signature(s) of Main Sequence Lithium Depletion Mechanism(s) from Subgiants of the Old (6-7Gyr) Open Cluster NGC 188*
- Phuongmai Truong; Texas A & M University; *The Velocity Field and the Spatial Distribution of the "Hot Spots" in Methanol Masers: a Statistical Study*
- Karl Twelker; Middlebury College; *Expanding Ejecta in the Core-Collapse Supernova Remnant G292.0+1.8, Cas A's Older Cousin*
- Mark Wagner; University of California, Berkeley; *Effects of Gravitational Lensing on SNe Discovered Behind Massive Galaxy Clusters*
- Jennifer Yee; Swarthmore College; *Lithium Depletion in the Beta Pictoris Moving Group*

## Honorable Mention: Undergraduates

- James Atwood; Morehead State University; *Microvariability in Active Galactic Nuclei at 1420 MHz*
- Alissa Bans; University of Minnesota; *Steady-State Modeling and Possible Detection of HCl in Eta Carinae's -513 km/s Ejecta*
- L. Ryan Burns; University of North Texas; *Evaluation of a Novel Design for an Electrostatic Quadrupole Triplet Ion Beam Lens*
- Joseph W. Coish; Haverford College; *A More Complete Sample of Planetary Nebulae in the Small Magellanic Cloud: Results from MCELS*
- Amy Colon; Hunter College, CUNY; *Selective Deposition of Thin Films for Future X-ray Optics*
- Jeffrey Coughlin; Emory University; *Five New Low-Mass Eclipsing Binary Systems*
- Wesley Ketchum; University of Oklahoma; *Detailed Spectral Analysis of the Type Ib Supernova 1999dn*
- Matthew Klimek; Rutgers University; *A Multi-Wavelength Investigation of Newly Discovered Supernova Remnants in the Large Magellanic Cloud*
- Elisabeth Mills; Indiana University; *A Wide Area Map of The Galactic Center at 1.1 mm*
- Allison Noble; University of Wisconsin; *Mapping Tidal Interactions in the M51 System*

# AAS Members Spotlight

## An AAS Member at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow

Bob McCutcheon may be reached at [McCutcheonRA@state.gov](mailto:McCutcheonRA@state.gov) or at +7 (495) 728-5156

So how is it that this AAS member found himself handling the nuclear non-proliferation portfolio at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow? It all started over a dinner conversation in 2002, but first...

The Environment, Science, and Technology (EST) Office at Embassy Moscow is the largest such office in the world. Headed by a Science Counselor and Deputy, the office is staffed by fewer than **10\*\*1** Americans and a similar number of Russians who cover four main portfolios: science and technology (including the Academy of Sciences and space issues); health affairs; environment; and nuclear nonproliferation. The latter is covered by yours truly. To be specific, I keep track of developments in the civilian Russian nuclear industry, which is poised to expand dramatically in both the domestic and foreign energy markets over the next decade. I also provide support for teams from Washington that come to negotiate intergovernmental agreements or to participate in international meetings on nuclear issues. During a recent typical week I participated in negotiations on a "123 Agreement" for U.S.-Russian cooperation in the civilian nuclear sector, a meeting of the G-8 Global



Partnership Working Group, and delivered U.S. views to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of an IAEA meeting that will discuss nuclear-related assistance projects.

Let me get back to that dinner conversation. With a background in celestial mechanics, I had spent twenty-five years working in flight dynamics and pointing control on NASA

science missions. In particular, I had worked on HST from launch through all servicing missions and for my final act had participated in the team effort to develop the two gyro science mode. During that dinner conversation, a friend in a similar mid-career situation told me he had signed up for the State Department's Foreign Service exam just to see what would happen. I thought he was joking, but before I knew it, he had taken me to the registration web site. The rest is history, and

here I am four years later, living in Moscow and using that college Russian that had not been of much use working for a NASA contractor.

The differences between working in diplomacy and working in a technical environment are profound, but for obvious reasons, having a technical and scientific background is of great benefit when working in an EST office. Although I no longer work with quaternions or ephemerides on a daily basis, I do have a ringside seat and in fact am a participant in advancing U.S. science policy. It is an exciting place to be.



## The Big Picture

The 3 November 2006 grand re-opening of the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles unveiled a set of astronomy exhibits written by associate AAS member Carolyn Collins Petersen, in collaboration with C&G Partners, LLC of New York City, and a curatorial team based in Los Angeles. The exhibit features thematic collections of exhibits covering all aspects of astronomy, from backyard observing to discoveries at the limits of the known universe. "The exhibits are aimed at turning visitors into sky observers," Carolyn said. "Someone visiting Griffith Observatory can come away knowing something about how astronomy works, whether it's in their own backyard or in a professional observatory."

Carolyn is based in Massachusetts and works with several other observatories as a writer and editor. She was selected as the senior science writer for the Griffith Observatory exhibit program after a nationwide search.



## Arlo Landoldt

On Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1957, “small, studious Arlo U. Landoldt, our twenty-year-old aurora and airglow specialist” set foot at the South Pole. He was still there to record the signals from the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, launched October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1957. Many people who rely on Arlo’s superlative work in astronomical photometry are unaware that he was in the first ever winter crew at the South Pole Station, newly constructed for International Geophysical Year. One of only 18 people that winter (8 scientists under the leadership of Paul Siple, and 8 navy men under Lieutenant Jack Tuck), Arlo, “a man of eternal good spirits possessed of an infectious laugh,” made a continuous record of Aurora Australis with a spectrograph and an all-sky camera, later meticulously recording data on punched cards for subsequent analysis.

Many activities are underway for International Polar Year in 2007, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IGY and the establishment of a human presence at the South Pole, which has been continuously occupied ever since. However, it would not be right to allow such a significant anniversary to pass unnoticed by the community Arlo has so well served for so long.

Quotations, and the illustration, are taken from “90° South: The Story of the American South Pole Conquest,” by Paul Siple (G.P.Putnam’s Sons, 1959)

## Honored Elsewhere

### Filippenko Named Professor of the Year

AAS Member Alex Filippenko, professor of astronomy, University of California, Berkeley. Filippenko’s love of astronomy and passion for teaching developed at a young age. Since then, he has combined the two interests into a successful teaching career that has been marked with awards and accolades. Filippenko is noted for a teaching style that reaches beyond the traditional classroom lecture, employing music, visual props, and digital media to heighten the experience and engage his students. He has served as a mentor of numerous undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom have gone on to become leading researchers at top-tier institutions. Beyond the classroom, Filippenko has the distinction of being the world’s most highly cited astronomer (1995-2005) and has received numerous awards for his research.

The award is sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the awards recognize professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students.

### Gingerich Awarded 2006 Janssen Prize

Owen Gingerich has been awarded the 2006 Janssen Prize by the Société Astronomique de France (French Astronomical Society). First established in 1897, this prestigious prize is awarded every year (alternately to a French and non-French scientist) to an astronomer of international reputation, both for his or her scientific achievements and for his or her contributions to the diffusion of astronomical knowledge to the public.

Gingerich is Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and of the History of Science at Harvard University and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

According to the award citation, Gingerich’s scientific achievements include the study of stellar atmospheres. He was one of the main proponents of the groundbreaking model of the solar photosphere known as the “Bilderberg model.”

### AAS Members Elected as Fellows

In October, the AAAS Council elected 449 members as Fellows of AAAS. These individuals were recognized for their contributions to science and technology at the Fellows Forum in February 2007 during the AAAS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The new Fellows will receive a certificate and a blue and gold rosette as a symbol of their distinguished accomplishments. Congratulations to the following AAS Members:

Steven V. W. Beckwith, Space Telescope Science Institute  
Philip E. Kaaret, University of Iowa  
Rosaly M. C. Lopes, Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
William B. McKinnon, Washington University  
Jean L. Turner, University of California, Los Angeles  
William R. Ward, Southwest Research Institute

### Jayawardhana Receives Two Honors

AAS member Ray Jayawardhana, an associate professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Toronto, is the recipient of two recent honors: the Early Researcher



Award (ERA) from the Government of Ontario and the Vainu Bappu Gold Medal from the Astronomical Society of India.

The ERA, worth \$150,000, is awarded on a competitive basis to promising young researchers to help build their research teams. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve Ontario's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest research talent.

The Bappu Medal honors the contributions of young scientists from any part of the world in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Past winners include George Efstathiou (UK), Shri Kulkarni (USA) and Brian Schmidt (Australia). Jayawardhana will receive the award and deliver the Vainu Bappu Memorial Lecture at a meeting of the Astronomical Society of India in February 2007.

## **Pipher Elected to National Women's Hall of Fame**

Judith Pipher's research in the field of Infrared Astronomy began in graduate school with work on some of the first rocket-borne telescopes. Since 1971, Dr. Pipher has served on the faculty of the University of Rochester, where she and her colleagues were the first U.S. astronomers to turn an infrared array toward the skies. Her experiments with ground-based and airborne telescopes culminated in development of a camera for, and infrared observations on, the Spitzer Space Telescope, launched in 2003.

The National Women's Hall of Fame is a national membership organization recognizing and celebrating the achievements of individual American women. The Hall was founded in historic Seneca Falls, NY, the site of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848. A not-for-profit educational organization, its programs include inductions of distinguished American women, educational activities, special exhibits, and events for the enrichment of public understanding and appreciation of the diverse contributions women make to society. Two hundred and seventeen women have been inducted since the Hall's founding in 1969.

# **Division News**

## **Solar Physics Division (SPD)**

James Klimchik, Chair, SPD, [spdchair@aas.org](mailto:spdchair@aas.org)

The Solar Physics Division is pleased to announce that the 2007 Hale Prize is awarded to Mukul Kundu of the University of Maryland for his many outstanding contributions to the field of solar radio astronomy and for his service to the solar community in the U.S. and abroad. The 2007 Harvey Prize (young person's prize in solar physics) is awarded to Jiong Qiu of Montana State University for her significant contributions to the study of the Sun and its effects on the Earth's climate. Congratulations to both highly deserving recipients!

## **Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA)**

Marc Murison, Secretary, DDA, [ddasec@aas.org](mailto:ddasec@aas.org)

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy will be held 6-10 May in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Astronomers, astrophysicists, and planetary scientists having an interest in dynamical research will find the annual DDA meeting a friendly, stimulating, and rewarding experience. The meeting will feature invited review talks on a range of topics in dynamical astrophysics, contributed oral papers (with no parallel sessions), and poster papers that are displayed throughout the entire meeting. Invited speakers this year include Frank Shu, Gordon Ogilvie, Alessandro Morbidelli, Steve Lubow, Richard Montgomery, and Lars Hernquist. Further details as they become available may be found online at: <http://dda.harvard.edu/>.

Students in dynamics are invited to apply for the DDA Student Stipend Awards, worth \$600 toward the costs of attending the meeting. (Registration, abstract, and banquet fees are also waived.) The competition is open to all students currently enrolled full or part-time in an academic program at any college or university and doing research in any area of dynamical astronomy. Students are highly encouraged to apply by sending an abstract of a paper for presentation at the meeting, along with a letter of recommendation from an adviser, to Douglas Hamilton ([dphamil@umd.edu](mailto:dphamil@umd.edu)) at the University of Maryland. Please see the DDA web site at <http://dda.harvard.edu/> for more information (click on "Student Stipend Awards").



# International Heliophysical Year 2007

Hans J. Haubold, UNOOSA, Vienna, [hans.haubold@unvienna.org](mailto:hans.haubold@unvienna.org)

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 60/99 of 2005, noted with satisfaction the contribution being made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and the efforts of Member States and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to promote and support the activities being organized within the framework of the International Heliophysical Year 2007 (IHY 2007). In 2007, a number of major anniversaries will occur, among them the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, the launch of Sputnik 1, and UNCOPUOS will also hold its 50<sup>th</sup> meeting. IHY 2007 is an opportunity to (i) advance the understanding of the fundamental heliophysical processes that govern the Sun, Earth, and heliosphere, (ii) continue the tradition of international research and advancing the legacy of IHY 1957, and (iii) demonstrate the beauty, relevance and significance of space and Earth science to the world (<http://ihy2007.org>).

In preparation of IHY 2007, the UNOOSA, in cooperation with NASA, ESA, and the IHY Secretariat, held international workshops in the United Arab Emirates in 2005 (<http://www.ihy.uae.ac.ae/>) and in India in 2006 (<http://www.iap.res.in/ihy/>), and is currently preparing such a workshop to be held at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan in Tokyo, 11-15 June 2007. The starting date of IHY 2007 has been set to February 19, 2007. On that date, during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, the IHY kick-off will include an IHY exhibit, press briefing, and an opening ceremony in the United Nations Office Vienna (<http://www.lesia.obspm.fr/IHY/kickOFF/index.html>). IHY regional coordinators, Steering Committee members, and Advisory Committee members will participate in the IHY kick-off event. The Austrian Academy of Sciences will host a one-day symposium on IHY 2007 in Vienna on 20 February 2007.

## Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST)

Dave Dooling, [dooling@nso.edu](mailto:dooling@nso.edu)

The planned 4-meter Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST) passed the first preliminary design review (PDR) to be held under the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Process (MREFC) guidelines that NSF implemented in late 2005. The four-day PDR assessed ATST's readiness to move into the construction funding approval stage. The National Solar Observatory, which leads the consortium developing ATST, hopes to have the project briefed to the National Science Board in 2007 and funded starting in FY 2009, with operations starting in 2014.

The PDR panel agreed that the innovative design will meet the science requirements and has no technology showstoppers, and that the budget and schedule are appropriate: "The panel unanimously agrees that ATST design and management plan are at a satisfactory level for expeditious promotion to the NSB as a candidate for inclusion in the NSF budget." The panel applauded the excellent work of the ATST team to bring the project to this stage.

Finally, the NSF Senior Review is highly favorable to ATST, but could have indirect impacts to efforts to prepare for the

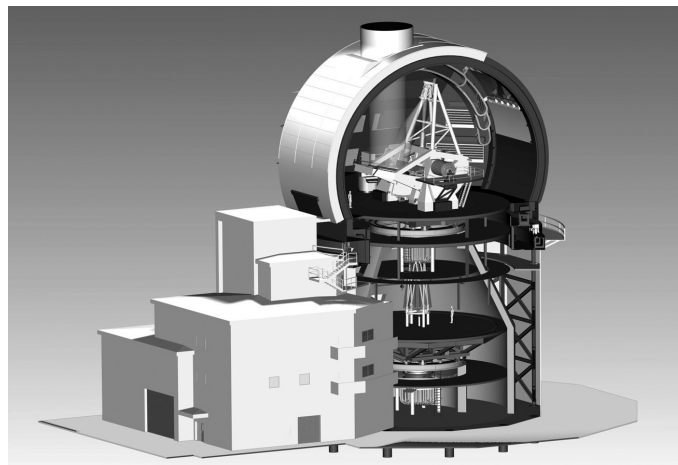
ATST era. NSO plans to use the McMath-Pierce Telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory and the Dunn Solar Telescope at the Sacramento Peak Observatory at Sunspot, NM as technology and science pathfinders rather than ramp down their operations in the short term, as recommended by the Senior Review. Ramping down support of these

telescopes before the ATST is commissioned would be a serious loss of support and capability for the U.S. and international solar physics communities.

Earlier, NSF released the ATST Draft Environmental Impact Statement for building ATST atop Haleakala, Maui, on Sept. 8, 2006; the 45-day comment period ended Oct. 23. A Finding of Record is expected in 2007.

In the most recent activity, an International Program Council was formed in December 2006, and the ATST team is holding partnership talks with representatives from Europe, Asia, and Canada.

For additional information, including the ATST Quarterly Newsletter, visit <http://atst.nso.edu>.



# Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy

Patricia Knezek (CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory, knezek@noao.edu)

## The January 2007 issue of *STATUS*

The January 2007 issue of *STATUS* is now available from the CSWA website, see: [www.aas.org/~cswa/STATUS.html](http://www.aas.org/~cswa/STATUS.html). It includes several articles examining the perceived differences between men and women, and their ability to do science, as well as a new feature "Spotlight," which honors the women and men who promote women in science issues. There is also a tribute by Meg Urry to Dr. Denice Denton, who passed away in June 2006, followed by a transcript of Dr. Denton's presentation to the Women in Astronomy II conference in June 2003, among other items. If you would like a paper version of *STATUS*, please email [membership@aas.org](mailto:membership@aas.org).

## The January 2007 AAS Meeting

The CSWA is delighted to report that at the Seattle, Washington AAS Meeting the AAS Council unanimously voted to provide funding to support the initial survey of the planned long-term (10+ years) longitudinal study of the career paths of women and men in astronomy. This funding is matched by in-kind contributions from the American Institute of Physics (AIP). This first survey will be distributed to current graduate students in astronomy and astrophysics (including planetary science and solar physics) this spring, with a goal of tracking the current cadre of students as they progress through their careers. The AIP will administer the survey and work with the Longitudinal Study Working Group to generate a report of the findings by early 2008. We would like to thank both the AAS and the AIP for their generous support.

The CSWA then held a very successful session on Sunday, 7 January 2007. The first part of the session focused on the Pasadena Recommendation for a longitudinal study of women in astronomy. Dr. Meg Urry (Yale) began by reviewing the work that has been done before on the statistics of women and men in astronomy. Dr. Rachel Ivie (AIP) followed with a description of the planned longitudinal study, and the upcoming release of the first survey. As reported above, the funding for this survey is now in place, the survey content has been finalized, and thus the next step will be the distribution of the survey and collection of responses.

The second part of the session focused on family leave policies. Dr. Hannah Jang-Condell (Carnegie/DTM) gave an informative presentation on the basic requirements from the Family Medical and Leave Act (FMLA), along with some policy guidelines and how they are implemented. She also presented some of the problems particular to astronomers

on an academic track as well as her own recommendations for how to improve current practices. We plan to post some of the information we gather on family leave policies off of the CSWA web site. Both Dr. Jang-Condell's and Dr. Ivie's presentations are posted off of the CSWA web site, [www.aas.org/~cswa/](http://www.aas.org/~cswa/).

## The CSWA & the CSMA issue a joint statement: "After the Senior Review: Considerations for Optimizing the Workforce"

Keivan Stassun and Patricia Knezek, on behalf of the AAS Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA) and the AAS Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA) submitted the following statement to the NSF in response to the Senior Review:

Second only to "optimizing the science," the NSF Senior Review Committee identified "optimizing the workforce" as a core principle in carrying out its charge of examining NSF AST's portfolio of facilities and other discretionary activities. Quoting from the report: "The implementation of the proposed program should consider diverse workforce needs within the Division of Astronomical Sciences supported observatory system and should provide for the training of the next generation of scientists and engineers."

The AAS CSWA and CSMA endorse this key principle as the astronomical community moves forward with the recommendations of the Senior Review Committee. The small absolute numbers of women and minorities (particularly the latter) within the discipline, and their concentration at the early stages of the professional ladder, implies that these constituencies may be particularly vulnerable to breaks in continuity of career trajectory that may naturally arise from divestments of current facilities and redistribution of resources. At the same time, with adequate forethought and deliberate planning, the vigorous new investments planned for the next generation of AST-supported facilities and activities represents a promising opportunity for the community to recommit to encouraging and enabling broadened participation of a diverse workforce. The Senior Review Committee's fifth principle – "engaging the university community" – will likely be important to achieving this goal.

The AAS CSWA and CSMA urge NSF AST and the astronomical community at large to keep these core principles at the fore as we move forward with optimism following the Senior Review.

## The 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
- 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)

## Committee on Employment

Travis Metcalfe , [travis@ucar.edu](mailto:travis@ucar.edu)

### Everything You Always Wanted to Know About JOBS \* But Were Afraid to Ask

Many younger astronomers are unaware of the dangers and pitfalls that await them in the job market. Issues related to fringe benefits (if any), moving expenses, medical coverage for family members, teaching and research expectations can lead to misunderstandings and serious difficulties if they are not addressed early in the job interview process.

The Committee on Employment has often received letters from concerned junior members of the society who feel that they could have used more guidance and assistance before entering the job market for the first time.

Motivated by these concerns, the Committee organized a panel discussion, "Job Applicants: Top 10 Questions You Should Ask," at the January meeting in Seattle. The discussion included five panelists, representing the perspectives of junior and senior academics, staff members at large science centers, soft-money scientists, and industrial positions. The room was packed, with many people standing in the back, reflecting the large population of young job-seekers that is typical of the winter meetings.

After a humorous introduction by Kirk Borne (NASA/GSFC) in the style of a late-night "Top 10" list, each of the panelists presented their own list of important questions to ask, followed by a few questions from the audience. The session generated plenty of interesting and practical advice from the panelists. Elizabeth Barton (UC Irvine) recommended saving very specific questions about benefits until after you are offered the job, since you are then in a better position to negotiate. Bruce Balick (Univ. Washington) suggested meeting with the current graduate students to get a different perspective of the department you are thinking about joining.

Lisa Storrie-Lombardi (Spitzer Science Center) stressed the importance of getting a solid commitment with respect to the fraction of your time in a support position that can realistically be devoted to your own research.

Barbara Whitney (Space Science Institute) mentioned the freedom that soft money could afford to those who don't mind some uncertainty, and advised applicants to inquire whether they would be allowed to supervise graduate students.

Ronald Polidan (Northrop Grumman) emphasized the cultural differences between industry and academia, and recommended asking whether you would be allowed to attend conferences. At the end of the presentations, the session opened to a general discussion with all of the panelists, which yielded some very thoughtful questions and comments.

If you missed the session, don't worry—the Committee has made all of the "Top 10" lists available through the AAS website at: [www.aas.org/career/workshops.php](http://www.aas.org/career/workshops.php)

The Committee on Employment organizes such sessions, as well as the graduate student reception, at every AAS meeting. Feel free to contact the committee chair (Anita Krishnamurthi, [anitak@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:anitak@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov)) or any of the other committee members with suggestions for future discussions, and keep an eye out for more sessions like this one to help guide our next generation of astronomers.

# News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences

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

## Staff Updates

The Division is pleased to welcome Dr. Tammy Bosler to the Division as an AAAS fellow. Tammy will be working on several special projects in AST during her year-long tenure, focusing in particular on looking at ways to enhance existing AST-supported educational programs and develop programs for broadening participation. The Division also hopes to draw on her scientific interest and expertise in stellar populations and nearby galaxies in the administration of research grants programs.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Briley of the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, will be extending his temporary appointment at NSF and will continue to serve as program officer for Stellar Astronomy and Astrophysics for another year.

## Upcoming Deadlines for FY2008 funding

19 July 2007: CAREER (MPS) - Faculty Early Career Development Program – Submission guidelines are unchanged from last year; see program solicitation NSF 05-579. Contact Dr. Brian Patten ([bpatten@nsf.gov](mailto:bpatten@nsf.gov)) for more information.

Mid-August 2007: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites – A new program announcement will be issued soon and will establish new deadlines. Contact Dr. Brian Patten ([bpatten@nsf.gov](mailto:bpatten@nsf.gov)) for more information.

## REU and ROA Supplements

We would like to remind those with existing NSF grants of two opportunities for supplemental funding - Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) supplements and Research Opportunity Awards (ROA).

- REU supplements can be requested to support the participation of undergraduate students in your research program. REU supplements can support both summer and academic year activities, and typically provide funding for student stipends and basic research costs, such as travel to observing runs or meetings. Supplement requests can be submitted at any time of the year, but early in the calendar year is most helpful. Requests should discuss the following: (1) the form and nature of each student's involvement in the research project; (2) the experience of the PI (or other research mentors) in involving undergraduates in research, including any previous REU Supplement support and the outcomes from that support; and (3) the process and criteria for selecting the student(s). If the student has been pre-selected, the grounds for selection

and a brief biographical sketch of the student should be included. REU supplements are not intended to simply provide employment for students doing routine work, but should instead give them an opportunity to carry out supervised research on projects of current relevance. Please see the program announcement NSF 05-592 for more information or contact the program officer for your grant.

- Research Opportunity Awards (ROAs) enable faculty members at predominantly undergraduate institutions to pursue research as visiting scientists with NSF-supported investigators at other institutions. An ROA is intended to increase the visitor's research capability and effectiveness, to improve research and teaching at his or her home institution, and to enhance the NSF-funded research of the host principal investigator (PI). Most frequently, ROA activities are summer experiences, but partial support of sabbaticals is sometimes provided. Except for major instrumentation or equipment, any item acceptable for inclusion under a regular grant proposal may in principle be included in an ROA budget.

ROAs are funded as supplements to ongoing NSF research grants and requests are submitted to NSF by the host institution. Faculty members interested in becoming ROA visiting researchers make their own arrangements with NSF-supported investigators. Alternatively, the PI of an ongoing NSF research grant may initiate an ROA collaboration. We note that individuals at the national observatories may submit ROA requests to bring researchers to the facilities. The prospective visiting ROA researcher and the NSF-supported PI at the host institution should work together to develop a research plan and budget. Please see the program announcement NSF 00-144 for more information or contact the program officer for your grant.

## Research Grants: Common Problems in Preparation of Proposals

From Nigel Sharp ([nsharp@nsf.gov](mailto:nsharp@nsf.gov))

The Division is receiving an increasing number of proposals. Submissions to the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants program increased approximately 10% this year, following a 20% increase last year. Unfortunately, a substantial and increasing fraction of these proposals either do not properly follow the guidelines, or leave out critical



information, or both. This year, many PIs received requests for corrections, or notification of uncorrectable violations. While we were able to accept most of the flawed proposals after fixes, this may not be possible in future. PIs are urged to review carefully the requirements specified in the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG: the current version is NSF 04-23, but there are regular updates, occasionally with significant changes). Proposals that do not conform to the instructions are supposed to be returned without review, which is a distressing waste of your effort. If in any doubt, ask a divisional Program Officer (PO), and remember you're unlikely to get much help on the day of the deadline (this year, we got a proposal almost every other minute from 8am to 8pm EST on November 15th).

The problems we have noticed this year are:

- *Broader impact not addressed in the project summary* – All proposals must address both the intellectual merit and the broader impact of the proposed work, in separate statements in the one-page project summary. We have no discretion over this rule and violations must be returned without review. We suggest you have a separate paragraph on broader impact to make it clear that you have met this requirement.
- *Results from prior support are not included* – The project description must have a section on results from NSF support to the PI and/or co-PIs within the past five years, even if on an unrelated project, and even if the award gave no salary support to the named PIs. The specific required information is listed in the GPG, and must be included. If this section is causing you trouble, please ask an AST PO how to be compliant, as it is not as difficult as PIs seem to think, based on our correspondence with proposers. It was difficult for us to accept these violations this year, because this really is a “return without review” error. Common mistakes: leaving off coPI support, thinking it was only needed if the prior support was related to the proposal, and not including details like the ID, duration, and amount.
- *Formatting requirements* – The GPG specifies not just font size, but also character and line spacing, and page margins. Common mistakes: variable fonts which have

too high a packing density even at the correct font size, figures with tiny captions, figures which overlap into the margins. This is another “return without review” error, and even if we accept non-compliant proposals, reviewers get upset if they have difficulty reading your proposal.

- *Biographical information is incomplete or not in the correct format* – Any included biographical sketch must fit in two pages, must include collaborators in the last 48 months (and not say “in addition to co-authors on listed publications”), must list advisors and advisees, and must list no more than five relevant, and no more than five other, publications. The collaborator list should be in alphabetical order with current affiliations. Requesting and receiving corrections to bios is the single biggest delay we face in proposal review, often extending into January. Please remember this when you complain about how long it takes for us to make a decision.
- *Letters of commitment* – This is perhaps the least clear requirement in the GPG. Letters must be factual and not statements of opinion. In particular, they should not read like endorsements, praising the project and appearing to use the author’s position and standing to influence the merit review process. These letters should state clearly that the collaborator is aware of his/her inclusion in the proposal and agrees to perform the work described.
- *Inappropriate supplementary documents* – Very few items are allowed as supplementaries (and nothing is allowed as an appendix). No biographies, no letters of reference, no publication lists: nothing that should be in the project description and thus could be seen as an attempt to exceed the 15-page limit.

Finally, it is a very good idea to request a download of your entire proposal in pdf format, to check that it’s really the text you expected (and not an early draft), that all the sections are as expected (you haven’t accidentally submitted the 15-page description also as the 1-page summary), and that the formatting has been properly converted into the NSF system (and not shrunk below the formatting requirement). Those examples all happened this year.

# AIP Essay on Fair and Useful Copyright

As many AAS members know (and some may not!), the AAS is an active member society of the American Institute of Physics, which serves as an umbrella organization for a wide range of physics-related scientific societies.

The essay below is being reprinted in our *Newsletter* as it has implications for all scientific publishing. AIP runs an extensive publishing services program and publishes many important journals. The essay represents the opinion of outgoing AIP Executive Director Marc Brodsky on this topic.

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer

Marc H. Brodsky, Executive Director, American Institute of Physics

As Executive Director of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) I often deal with intellectual property issues, particularly those pertaining to copyright. Earlier in my career, as an author eager to report my research results to colleagues, copyright was just one more form to fill out en route to getting my paper published. If I thought about it at all, I probably just assumed that the publisher, usually a society to which I belonged (over the years, I have been a member of six of AIP's ten member societies), needed me to transfer copyright in order to protect my work in some way. I actually probably thought it was for my benefit more than anyone else's. While that turns out to be true, it also is an oversimplification of what, in the modern world of electronic dissemination, is a very complicated and controversial issue.

Since coming to AIP in the fall of 1993, just as the first widely available Web browsers stimulated electronic distribution of articles, I have learned more about copyright than any scientist or engineer should care to discover. Nevertheless there are a few basic concepts all authors should understand because the future of their societies may depend on their decisions.

An important issue confronting learned society publishers and authors today is: Who should own the copyright of published articles and what rights should be given, by license or otherwise, for the pre- and post-publication use of those articles? There are many aspects of this issue, some legal, but others which are matters of policy, fairness, usefulness, economics and the viability of peer review and scientific publishing itself.

The copyright law aspects, while complicated and often costly, are relatively simple compared to the policy and economic ones. The basis of copyright law in the United States stems from Article I of the U.S. Constitution which empowers Congress "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." It is interesting to note the matched goals of this constitutional stricture to promote the

progress of science and the AIP charter to advance and diffuse "the knowledge of the science of physics and its applications to human welfare, and to this end ... to undertake, among other measures, the publication of scientific journals." Internationally, the 1971 Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works provides the basis for copyright law in most countries today. Congress and other legislatures throughout the world have created a system of property and moral rights for authors and their publishers. While granting exclusive rights to control reproduction and distribution of copyrighted works, there are exemptions for what is called "fair use" in the U.S. and "fair dealing" in the UK and parts of Europe. The most obvious fair use is the right to quote from or refer to published works. Also, copyright only protects original, tangible forms of expression and not ideas or data. Ideas or facts can be used by anyone, although in our fields it is expected that suitable attribution is always given. The Berne Convention gives a three-step test to countries that might want to allow some exceptions to copyright protection, namely:

- i. if it is a special case;
- ii. if it does not conflict with a normal exploitation of works; and
- iii. if it does not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of owners of rights.

So what exceptions are fair and reasonable and legal?

For journals, some cases are easy. Most journals allow authors to distribute preprints or reprints of their articles to colleagues. Similarly if a scientist reads something of interest, it is generally acceptable to give or send a copy to a collaborator, student or colleague and say have a look at this. In lieu of a subscription, it is not fair use to regularly ask a subscriber to send copies of articles. It is not acceptable for organizations to make systematic copies for distribution to its employees, students or customers without permission of the rightsholder. There are many complicated issues in the middle ground. How often can one library subscribing to a journal copy articles for another that does not pay for a subscription? This is sometimes called "Inter-Library Loan" (ILL), analogous to loaning physical copies in the days before easy copying. Can a library charge for ILL? Can libraries sell copies (Documents Delivery or DocDel) to its patrons? Who is a library's patron? Is it anyone in the world making a request via the Web? Who determines what rules apply?

While the pre-Web era was somewhat more straightforward, even then there was controversy over just how much ILL was acceptable. Some voluntary guidelines were established in 1978 by the National Commission on Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works (CONTU)<sup>1</sup>. While helpful, these Guidelines are not always well understood or followed. Realizing that the World Wide Web was enabling much easier use and reuse of copyrighted works, a new Conference of Fair Use (CONFU) was convened. After 2½ years of extended discussions and proposed

Guidelines, it was unable to reach a consensus between users who “thought the Guidelines were over restrictive and copyright owners [who] thought they were giving away too much.” It ended in failure in 1997.<sup>2</sup> I think today, many in either group would be happy with such reasonable Guidelines.

Legal issues aside, what is the value of copyright for learned societies? Does it help sustain the valuable role of learned society journals in promoting the dissemination of information to the widest possible audiences of interest? In my mind there is no question that for AIP and its Member Societies, the transfer of copyright from author to publisher is a very positive ingredient for a scientific journal. It gives the society important freedoms of action available no other way. For example, it reduced the fear of legal complications when we scanned, digitized and posted online the articles from all our journals back to Volume One, Issue One. While perhaps the risk to us was small, some periodical publishers in other fields who only had licenses and not copyrights from authors were sued when they digitized older articles.<sup>3</sup> In other cases, where some document delivery services were reselling articles from our journals, it was essential to have the copyright transfer forms in order to file legal cases to protect the journals. If instead of a transfer, journals only had a license, then protection against misuse would be much more difficult to pursue.

On the other hand, there are those who say that authors should retain copyright and only license certain non-exclusive rights to the publisher. Having viewed in detail some of the proposals<sup>4</sup>, they contain terms that would undermine the subscription value of a journal by allowing posting on any site for any purpose, commercial or not, that might compete with the journal. AIP and many of its Member Societies already grant many author rights, including postings of their own articles on free-access, non-commercial e-print servers.<sup>5</sup>

But these arguments are only illustrative details. The big picture is that much of the current discussion on copyright is intertwined with debate about open access, dominated by advocates of the open access movement. In turn, much of the open access discussion is driven by four very important forces:

- Libraries, whose budgets cannot keep up with growth of research and materials that they and their patrons want;
- Ideologues, who feel that “information should be free;”
- Funding agencies, which feel that if publications result from research they support, then they should be able to mandate free access to those publications without paying for the reviewing and editing costs incurred by publishers;
- Technologies, which lower some of the barriers to entry for publishing and which make it easier to post copies of almost anything. It is incorrect to assume that electronic publishing is cheaper than print publishing. The submission, review and editorial costs are the same. For AIP, the print-specific costs – printing, binding, shipping and mailing – total less than 15% of the overall production costs. Even if there were no print, the extra

production costs for electronic-specific production, such as tagging and linking, more than eats up that 15%.

As a consequence of these forces, there are many who would like to see publishers of costly journals fail and attacking copyright has become one element of a strategy towards that end. While not as costly, on a per article or per page basis, as most commercial publishers, learned societies journals are being swept along in the wave of populism that threatens copyright and the right to choose business models most appropriate for any given society journal.

As authors contemplate their reaction to requests to transfer or retain copyright, it pays to think about what problem we are trying to solve. Will author retention of copyright result in wider promotion, dissemination and acceptance of their results? The answer is not likely. This is because publishers not only add value by peer review and editing, but they also brand, market and distribute journals to audiences that recognize the value of reputable journals. Hopefully you feel that your society's journals are the journals your colleagues are most likely to read. Yes, these journals are costly to subscribe to. They are also costly to produce, distribute and maintain. AIP and its Member Societies have embraced new technologies and have launched many new pricing models which have kept prices as low as we can while sustaining the financial viability of our operations. The result is that more authors submit to our journals and more researchers, educators and students have access to them and use them more effectively than at any previous point in history. Copyright ownership by the societies has helped create that wide dissemination that advances our fields.

<sup>1</sup>Final Report of the National Commission on Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works, July 31, 1978, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 1979, pages 54-55.

<sup>2</sup>Georgia Harper, CONFU-The Conference of Fair Use, [www.utsystem.edu/ogc/INTELLECTUALPROPERTY/confu.htm](http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/INTELLECTUALPROPERTY/confu.htm), June 11, 1997.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Supreme Court, *NEW YORK TIMES CO. V. TASINI* (2001); U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, *GREENBERG v NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC* (2001).

<sup>4</sup>For example, [http://web.mit.edu/ocwhq/pres/facpack/Amendment\\_to\\_Pub\\_Agreement.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/ocwhq/pres/facpack/Amendment_to_Pub_Agreement.pdf)

<sup>5</sup><http://ftp.aip.org/aipdocs/forms/copyrgh.pdf>

# Announcements

## NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 May 2007 for the third quarter of 2007. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (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/cgi-bin/nsoforms/obsreq/obsreq.cgi>. Users' Manuals are available at <http://nosp.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.

## Call for Regular NRAO Observing Proposals

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

Instrument	Deadline	Observing	Period
<b>Note</b>			
GBT	2007 Jun 1 2007 Oct 1	2007 Oct - 2008 Jan 2008 Feb - 2008 May	
VLA	2007 Jun 1 2007 Oct 1	2007 Oct - 2008 Jan 2008 Feb - 2008 May	* +
VLBA	2007 Jun 1 2007 Oct 1	2007 Oct - 2008 Jan 2008 Feb - 2008 May	

Notes: (\*) The B configuration with a maximum baseline of 11 km.

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

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 research by students at U.S. universities covers student stipends, computer hardware purchases, and student travel to meetings to present observing results. Applications to this program are tied to observing proposals. Awards of up to \$35,000 are possible. For details, see [wiki.gb.nrao.edu/bin/view/Observing/NRAOStudentSupportProgram](http://wiki.gb.nrao.edu/bin/view/Observing/NRAOStudentSupportProgram)

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network

at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2007 Jun 1 for the session in 2007 Oct/Nov. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2007 Oct 1 for the session in 2008 May. The NRAO also handles proposals for the VLBI High Sensitivity Array 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 via the NRAO website at [www.nrao.edu](http://www.nrao.edu).

## CSO Call for Proposals - 31 May 2007

The Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) encourages observing participation by astronomers from both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions. For instructions on applying and for information about available instruments, including bolometer cameras, see <http://www.submm.caltech.edu/cso/cso-call.html>.

Applications for observing time between 1 September 2007 through 31 January 2008 are due by mail 31 May 2007. Applications will be reviewed by an outside peer group.

## NASA Infrared Telescope Facility Observing Proposals

Due date for the 1 August 2007 to 31 January 2008 semester is 2 April 2007. See <http://irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/observing/request.php>. Available instruments include: (1) SpeX, a 1-5 micron cross-dispersed medium-resolution spectrograph (up to R=2,500); (2) CSHELL, a 1-5 micron high-resolution spectrograph (up to R=30,000); (3) MIRSI, a 5 to 25 micron camera and low-resolution spectrometer (R=100 to 200), (4) NSFCAM2, a 2048x2048 pixel, 1-5 micron camera with a 0.04 arcsec/pixel scale and a circular variable filter; and (5) PI-instruments including a low-resolution 3-14 micron spectrograph and high-resolution spectrographs for 8-25 microns. Information on available instruments can be found at: <http://irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/> (See INSTRUMENTATION in the sidebar).

## NAIC-NRAO Single-dish Radio Astronomy

The Green Bank (NRAO) and Arecibo (NAIC) observatories are organizing the fourth NAIC-NRAO school on single-dish radio astronomy. The summer school will take place from 8-15 July 2007 at the Green Bank observatory in Green Bank, WV. The purpose of the school is to allow students, postdocs, and experts in other fields of astronomy to explore emerging techniques and applications of single-dish radio astronomy.



The school will consist of an intensive series of lectures from world-class experts as well as hands-on projects in radio astronomy. Participants will be given the opportunity to make observations using the Green Bank and Arecibo telescopes and become familiar with the observation and data-reduction process.

The primary goals are:

- \* to provide participants with a strong grounding in fundamental elements of single-dish radio astronomy, and its relation to other observing techniques,
- \* to give an overview of current and emerging capabilities of single-dish radio telescopes and associated instrumentation,
- \* to provide practical experience with a single-dish telescope and introduce participants to the hardware and software utilized in taking and reducing observations.

Both lecturers and participants are invited to contribute posters describing research conducted with single dishes.

## Washington News continued from back page

collective belts of the science community will continue to have to be tightened.

The route forward now is to engage Congress actively in support of robust funding levels for FY2008. The President's budget has (at the time of this writing) to be released. Rumor has it that the American Competitiveness Initiative, which rolled out with the FY2007 budget and put forward strong growth proposals for our key agencies, will make another appearance. This means that it is incumbent on the science community to support the budget on Capitol Hill throughout the year and make the case to the Democrats now in power that basic research, even basic research in astronomy, is of importance to our Nation's well-being.

The AAS will be participating (see below) in the Congressional Visits Day ([www.setcvd.org](http://www.setcvd.org)) again this year, with the two-day visit taking place on May 1 and 2. We encourage all members to write regularly to their members of Congress, making a personal appeal for robust science funding levels and describing your work in their district or state. There is nothing like a personal letter from a constituent to convince a member of Congress (through their staff) that some policy action should be supported.

Make it a goal to write three letters this year. One when the President's budget comes out, one when the House or Senate releases the appropriations bills for our key agencies and one during the budget endgame. This small commitment of time can result in hundreds of millions of dollars being appropriated to basic science research. Seems like a good trade to me!

Proceedings of the Single Dish School, published in the ASP Conference Series, will be provided to this year's participants as part of the registration fee.

The number of participants will be limited to approximately 40 people. A registration fee of \$200 will include: travel between Dulles airport and Green Bank, the welcome reception, the social events, the school banquet, and a copy of the proceedings.

Further announcements will be posted on the school website at [www.gb.nrao.edu/sdss07](http://www.gb.nrao.edu/sdss07)

Those who wish to participate may pre-register at the website in order to receive future email announcements and news about the school.

## Congressional Visits Day

L. Jeremy Richardson, the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow of the AAS, begins work in early February. His role will be to be the public face for the Society for all policy activities and to guide our policy efforts, with guidance from the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP), throughout the policy season of 2007.

He will be organizing the AAS participation in Congressional Visits Day, a two-day event held annually by a coalition of science societies. Day one is an intense set of briefings from key policy players on the status of the budget and other policy concerns. Day two is a full day of visits with Congressional offices. The AAS also visits the Office of Management and Budget, which not all societies make the effort to do. Our participants are members of our CAPP and early-career members invited to participate. We still have a few slots open for participation. If you are an early-career member and are interested in participating this year or next, please send an email to Jeremy ([richardsonlj@aas.org](mailto:richardsonlj@aas.org)) and we will try and have you participate.

# Calendar

## AAS & AAS Division Meetings

### DDA 2007 Annual Meeting

6-10 May 2007, Ann Arbor, MI  
Contact: Fred Adams (fca@umich.edu)  
<http://dda.harvard.edu/>

### AAS 210 Meeting

27-31 May 2007, Hawaii  
Contact: Kelli Gilmore (gilmore@aas.org)  
[www.aas.org](http://www.aas.org)

### DPS 2007 Annual Meeting

7-12 October 2007, Orlando, FL  
Contact: Humberto Campins  
(campins@physics.ucf.edu)  
[www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html](http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html)

## Other Events

### IAU Symposium No. 243

**Star-Disk Interaction in Young Stars**  
1-5 April 2007, Grenoble, France  
Contact: Jérôme Bouvier  
(jbouvier@laog.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)

### From Stars to Planets: Connecting our Understanding of Star and Planet Formation

11-14 April 2007, Gainesville, FL  
Contact: Jonathan Tan  
(starstoplanets@astro.ufl.edu)  
<http://conference.astro.ufl.edu/STARSTOPLANETS/>

### \*Symposium at Boston University

12-14 April 2007, Boston, MA  
Contact: Supriya Chakrabarti  
(supc@bu.edu)  
[www.bu.edu/pardee/events/conferences/2007/SPACE/MASTER/index.html](http://www.bu.edu/pardee/events/conferences/2007/SPACE/MASTER/index.html)

### Microstructures in the Interstellar Medium, A meeting in honor of Bob O'Dells 70th birthday

22-24 April 2007, Lake Geneva, WI  
Contact: Gary Ferland  
(gary@pa.uky.edu)  
<http://yerkes.uchicago.edu/meeting/>

### \*2007 April Symposium: BLACK HOLES

23-26 April 2007, Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Quindairian Gryce  
(gryce@stsci.edu)

### \*Origins of DARK ENERGY: A Conference and Workshop

Conference: Dark Energy  
14-17 May 2007, Hamilton, Ontario  
Workshop: Excursions in the Dark  
18-20 May 2007, Waterloo, Ontario  
<http://origins.physics.mcmaster.ca/darkenergy/index.html>

### Multiplicity in Star Formation

16-18 May 2007, Toronto, Canada  
Contact: Prof. Ray Jayawardhana  
(msf@astro.utoronto.ca)  
[www.astro.utoronto.ca/msf](http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/msf)

### \*Extragalactic Jets: Theory and Observation from Radio to Gamma Ray

21-24 May 2007, Girdwood, AK  
Contact: Dr. Travis A. Rector  
(rector@noao.edu)  
<http://aftar.uaa.alaska.edu/jets2007/>

### \*Workshop on the Science Opportunities for the Warm Spitzer Mission

4-5 June 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Lisa Storrie-Lombardi  
(sswarm@ipac.caltech.edu)  
<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/warm/>

### \*In the Spirit of Bernard Lyot: The direct detection of planets and circumstellar disks in the 21st century

4-8 June 2007, Berkeley, CA  
Contact: Paul Kalas  
(lyot@berkeley.edu)  
[www.lyot2007.org/](http://www.lyot2007.org/)

### Third Summer School in Statistics for Astronomers

4-9 June 2007, University Park, PA  
Contact: Eric Feigelson  
(edf@astro.psu.edu)  
<http://astrostatistics.psu.edu/su07>

### \*40 Years of X-ray Astronomy

14-15 June 2007, University Park PA  
Contact: Eric Feigelson  
(edf@astro.psu.edu)  
[www.astro.psu.edu/40yrs](http://www.astro.psu.edu/40yrs)

### \*Frontiers of Astrophysics: A Celebration of NRAO's 50th Anniversary

17-21 June 2007, Charlottesville, VA  
Contact: Laurie Clark  
(lclark@nrao.edu)  
[www.nrao.edu/50](http://www.nrao.edu/50)

### \*Adaptive Optics: Analysis and Methods

18-20 June 2007, Vancouver, Canada  
[www.osa.org/meetings/topicalmeetings/ao/](http://www.osa.org/meetings/topicalmeetings/ao/)

### Transformational Science with ALMA: Through Disks to Stars and Planets

22-24 June 2007, Charlottesville, VA  
Contact: Crystal Brogan  
(cbrogan@nrao.edu)  
[www.cv.nrao.edu/naasc/disk07/disk07.html](http://www.cv.nrao.edu/naasc/disk07/disk07.html)

### Extreme Solar Systems

24-29 June 2007, Santorini, Greece  
<http://www.astro.northwestern.edu/Santorini2007/>

### IAU Symposium No. 244 Dark Galaxies and Lost Baryons

25-29 June 2007, Cardiff, UK  
Contact: Jonathan I. Davies  
(jid@astro.cf.ac.uk)

### \*Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets 2007 (MOP 2007)

25-29 June 2007, San Antonio, TX  
Contact: Kurt Retherford  
(kretherford@swri.edu)  
<http://mop.space.swri.edu>

### \*Astronomy Roundup 2007

28 June-1 July 2007, Calgary, Alberta  
Contact: Astronomy Roundup 2007 Organizing Committee  
(AR2007@shaw.ca)  
<http://calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/>

### \*The Fourth NAIC-NRAO Single Dish Summer School

8-15 July 2007, Green Bank, WV  
Contact: Larry Morgan  
(sdss07@nrao.edu)  
[www.gb.nrao.edu/sdss07](http://www.gb.nrao.edu/sdss07)

### \*7th International Conference on Mars

9-13 July 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Joyce Pulliam  
(Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/seventhmars2007](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/seventhmars2007)

**\*X-ray Grating Spectroscopy:  
Kinematics and Conditions in Hot Gas**  
11-13 July 2007, Cambridge, MA  
Contact: Paul Green  
(xgratings07@cfa.harvard.edu)  
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/xgratings07>

**\*The Biggest, Baddest, Coolest Stars**  
16-18 July 2007, Johnson City, TN  
Contact: Donald Luttermoser  
(lutter@etsu.edu)  
[www.etsu.edu/physics/cool/cool.html](http://www.etsu.edu/physics/cool/cool.html)

**First Stars III**  
16-20 July 2007, Santa Fe, NM  
Contact: Brian O'Shea  
(bwoshea@lanl.gov)  
[www.firststars3.org/](http://www.firststars3.org/)

**Bioastronomy 2007: Molecules,  
Microbes and Extraterrestrial Life**  
16-20 July 2007, San Juan Puerto Rico  
Contact: Karen Meech (LOC)  
meech@ifa.hawaii.edu and Bill Irvine  
(SOC) irvine@fcrao1.astro.umass.edu  
[www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/  
bioast07.htm](http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/bioast07.htm)

**IAU Symposium No. 245  
Formation and Evolution of Galaxy  
Bulges**  
16-20 July 2007, Oxford, UK  
Contact: Martin Bureau  
(bureau@astro.ox.ac.uk)  
[www-astro.physics.ox.ac.uk/~iaus245/](http://www-astro.physics.ox.ac.uk/~iaus245/)

**\*Michelson Summer Workshop—  
Planetary Transits: From Detection  
to Characterization**  
23-27 July, 2007, Moffett Field, CA  
Contact: Dawn Gelino  
(dawn@ipac.caltech.edu)  
[http://msc.caltech.edu/  
workshop/2007/](http://msc.caltech.edu/workshop/2007/)

**Nuclear Astrophysics: Beyond the  
First 50 Years**  
24-28 July 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Stan Woosley  
(woosley@ucolick.org)  
[www.na2007.caltech.edu/](http://www.na2007.caltech.edu/)

**\*Cosmos in the Classroom 2007**  
3-5 August 2007, Claremont, CA  
Contact: Andrew Fraknoi  
(fraknoiandrew@fhda.edu)  
[www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.  
html](http://www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.html)

**40 Years of Pulsars: Millisecond  
Pulsars, Magnetars and More**  
12-17 August 2007, Montreal, Canada  
Contact: Vicky Kaspi  
(vkaspi@physics.mcgill.ca)  
[www.ns2007.org](http://www.ns2007.org)

**\*Star Formation: Then and Now**  
13-17 August 2007, Santa Barbara, CA  
Contact: Jocelyn Quick  
(jocelyn@kitp.ucsb.edu)  
[www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto2/  
?id=913](http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto2/?id=913)

**\*New Perspective on the Interstellar  
Medium: Summer School 2007**  
26-30 August 2007, Naramata, British  
Columbia, Canada  
Contact: Dr. Tom Landecker  
(Tom.Landecker@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)  
[www.drao.nrc.ca](http://www.drao.nrc.ca)

**IAU Symposium No. 246  
Dynamical Evolution of Dense  
Stellar Systems**  
5-9 September 2007, Capri, Italy  
Contact: Enrico Vesperini  
(vesperin@physics.drexel.edu)

**\*From the Sun towards the Earth; a  
Living with a Star Science Meeting**  
10-13 September 2007, Boulder, CO  
Contact: Karel Schrijver  
(schryver@lmsal.com)  
<http://www.lmsal.com/lws2007/>

**IAU Symposium No. 247  
Waves and Oscillations in the Solar  
Atmosphere: Heating and  
Magneto-Seismology**  
17-21 Sept 2007, Isla de Margarita,  
Venezuela  
Contact: César A. Mendoza-Briceño  
(cesar@ula.ve)

**\*Astrophysics in the Next Decade:  
JWST and Concurrent Facilities**  
24-27 September 2007, Tucson, AZ  
Contact: Peter Stockman  
(stockman@stsci.edu)

**IAU Symposium No. 248  
A Giant Step: from Milli- to Micro-  
arcsecond Astrometry**  
15-19 October 2007, Shanghai, China  
Contact: Imants Platais  
(imants@pha.jhu.edu)

**IAU Symposium No. 249  
Exoplanets: Detection, Formation  
and Dynamics**  
22-26 October 2007, Suzhou, China  
Contact: Ji-Lin Zhou  
(zhoujl@nju.edu.cn)

**\*A Population Explosion: New  
Results on the Nature and Evolution  
of X-ray Binaries**  
28 Oct-2 Nov 2007, St. Petersburg  
Beach, FL  
Contact: Reba Bandyopadhyay  
(reba@astro.ufl.edu)  
[www.astro.ufl.edu/~reba/pop\\_exp.  
ppt.htm](http://www.astro.ufl.edu/~reba/pop_exp.ppt.htm)

**12th Latin-American Regional IAU  
Meeting (LARIM-2007)**  
26-30 Nov 2007, Isla de Margarita,  
Venezuela  
Contact: Gustavo A. Bruzual  
(bruzual@cida.ve)

**\*The Evolving Interstellar Medium  
in the Milky Way and Nearby  
Galaxies**  
2-5 December 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: A. Noriega-Crespo & K.  
Sheth  
(kartik@astro.caltech.edu, alberto@  
ipac.caltech.edu)

**IAU Symposium No. 250  
Massive Stars as Cosmic Engines**  
10-14 December 2007, Kauai, HI  
Contact: Paul A. Crowther  
(Paul.Crowther@sheffield.ac.uk)  
<http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/iau250/>

\* New or revised listings

Note: Listed are meetings or other events that have come to our attention. Due to space limitations, 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@aas.org](mailto:crystal@aas.org). Meetings that fall within 30 days of publication are not listed.

A comprehensive list of world-wide astronomy meetings is maintained by Liz Bryson, Librarian C-F-H Telescope in collaboration with the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre, Victoria, BC. The list may be accessed and meeting information entered at [http://  
cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings](http://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings).



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## Washington News

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



What can I say? The FY 2007 appropriations process has been a unique and confusing undertaking. Congress, required by law to conclude its appropriations process at the end of September each year, has only now, on January 31, 2007 submitted legislation to complete the process. Luckily, there

are some bright points for science funding, but overall, the budget situation is not as grand as anticipated when the President submitted his budget to Congress back in February 2006.

The Republicans never got around to passing FY2007 budgets for most federal agencies as they should have. Electioneering took most of their time and effort and who would want to explain to voters that a poor budget was passed for most federal agencies right before the election? Certainly not members of Congress and so neither party worked hard to pass a budget by the end of September. With the change of control of Congress, the Democratic appropriations leadership (Senator Byrd from West Virginia and Representative Obey from Wisconsin) put forward a plan to excise all earmarks from the bills passed by the Senate and House (but not voted into law by both houses) and to hold the budget flat relative to FY 2006 for most programs, augmenting where they felt there was need for improvement.

The result is House Joint Resolution 20, "Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes." This 137 page bill sets out the continuing funding for all federal agencies whose appropriations bills were not passed into law (Homeland Security and Department of Defense).

Under this bill, NASA Science receives \$5.251B, NSF's Research and Related Activities receives \$4.666B and the Department of Energy Office of Science receives \$3.796B. These funding levels either match or are below the President's requested levels, with Department of Energy Office of Science originally proposed to receive \$4.102B, NSF's level matches the request and NASA's level originally slated to be \$5.330B. Additionally, with no earmarks allowed, both the NASA and DoE levels are actually better off; NASA's by about \$300M and DoE's by about \$128M. It should also be pointed out that the DoE Office of Science's funding level is \$200M more than its FY2006 funding level.

What does this really mean for science at the three agencies of importance to Astronomy? Realistically, it means hard times. With more or less flat budgets for the past several years and only small positives this year for two of the agencies, the

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