

# AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

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IOP to Publish  
AAS Journals

## President's Column

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

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Member Deaths

Whew! A lot has happened!

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Seattle Meeting  
Highlights

First, my congratulations to John Huchra who was elected to be the next President of the Society. John will formally become President-Elect at the meeting in Hawaii. He will then take over as President at the meeting in St. Louis in June of 2008 and I will serve as Past-President until the Pasadena meeting in June of 2009. We have hired a consultant to lead a one-day Council retreat before the Hawaii meeting to guide the Council toward a more strategic outlook for the Society. John has generously agreed to join that effort. I know he will put his energy, intellect, and experience behind the health and future of the Society.

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Award Winners  
in Seattle

We had a short, intense, and very professional process to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to publish the *Astrophysical Journal* and the *Astronomical Journal*, to evaluate the proposals, and to select a vendor. We are very pleased that the IOP Publishing will be the new publisher of our cherished and prestigious journals and are very optimistic that our new partnership will lead to a necessary and valuable evolution of what it means to publish science journals in the globally-connected electronic age.

11  
International  
Year of  
Astronomy

The complex RFP defining our journals and our aspirations for them was put together by a team consisting of AAS representatives and outside independent consultants. The proposals were then evaluated by another team (with some overlapping representation). The proposals were evaluated first for technical merit, completely independent of cost. Only then were costs evaluated. In the final stage, site visits with finalists were arranged. IOPP emerged as the choice in large part because of their current leadership in the modern era of electronic publishing and their palpable excitement to move forward toward greater enrichment of technical publishing with more connectedness among journal articles, cross-references, images, and other data bases. The global vision of IOP also emerged as a factor. All of this, and our expenses will go down substantially!

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Congressional  
Visits Day

Our Society owes a debt of gratitude, to which I certainly add my own personal thanks, to the people who accomplished this. Special commendation goes to our Executive Officer, Kevin Marvel, who oversaw the process in a highly professional way, and to our editors, Ethan Vishniac and Jay Gallagher, and Pub Board Chair Mike A'Hearn, who were deeply engaged in this effort. Appreciation also goes to our consultants, especially to Bob Milkey who set aside his well-deserved retirement as Executive Officer to provide his wisdom in publishing matters.

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Corporate  
Members

As part of this process, we have come to realize that we should have had an evaluation like this at regular intervals in the past. I certainly recommend that we do this again in about five years to ensure we are getting the best service for our membership at the most reasonable costs.

In the world beyond the Society, I am delighted to welcome Alan Stern as Associate Administrator (AA) for the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) that oversees Astrophysics, Solar Physics, Planetary Science and Earth Science. Alan has made rebalancing of R&A a top priority and appointed Yvonne Pendleton specifically to oversee that effort. He has convinced John Mather to take on the important post of Chief Scientist. He has appointed Jon Morse to be head of the Astrophysics Division. SMD will be a different organization with Alan as AA, but he will still have the problems of a constrained budget that face all of NASA. We need to work with him to ensure the very best



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*Items of general interest* to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to [crystal@aaas.org](mailto:crystal@aaas.org). Appropriate pictures are welcome. For information about deadlines and submitting articles, see [www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.html](http://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](mailto:crystal@aaas.org).

Judith M. Johnson, Editor  
Crystal M. Tinch, Associate Editor  
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## 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.

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[www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX/](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX/)

User Support: [aastex-help@aaas.org](mailto:aastex-help@aaas.org)

## Journal Homepages/Manuscript Submission:

*AJ*, *ApJ*, *ApJL*

[www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/ApJ/information.html)

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# Letters to the Editor

## Prejudice and Ignorance in Peer Reviews

It is worth reminding colleagues that far too many peer reviews are cursory and ignorant of the physics discussed, and that papers with fresh novel ideas are rejected without being sent out for review unless the author is attached to a famous institution.

In one case of mine long ago, the *ApJ* editor, Chandrasekhar, did send my paper out for review. It was rejected with a curt reply, 'did I not know that in astrophysics the magnetic field had always to be in equipartition!' The reviewer clearly did not understand physics. Actually "Equipartition applies only when the physics demands it does."

Enrico Fermi and Geoffrey Burbidge had carefully put in the caveat when introducing the concept to astrophysics, but later dozens of papers were published in *ApJ* over more than a decade with false claims about the magnitude of the magnetic field (unless one believes God has his fingers stirring up every quasar/galactic nucleus in the Universe)! Since my policy is not to waste time trying to educate ignorant reviewers, my paper on my "Strong" Magnetic Field" (SMF) model, was not published. Usually my SMF papers, which include some plasma physics, with physics differing from the current dogma, are rejected by young Ph.D. gate keepers without any outside review at all, because, fearing criticism, it is much safer that way than to permit an "odd" paper to appear.

Physicist Cornelius Lanczos was correct, commenting in his book "The Einstein Decade, 1905-1915," "How fortunate we were that someone of the calibre of Planck was editor of *Annalen der Physik* (then in 1905)—today none of these papers would see the light of day!

Howard D. Greyber,  
[hgreyber@yahoo.com](mailto:hgreyber@yahoo.com)

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](mailto: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)

## Change, Change, Change

### The Journals

On 16 April 2007, the AAS Council met by phone conference and selected the new publishing service provider for the AAS journals, the Institute of Physics (IOP), which runs a publishing services operation, IOP Publishing. I will leave it to our elected leadership to let you know about the selection process (note: a special insert will appear in the August *Newsletter* on the future of our journals, with columns from President J. Craig Wheeler and our journal Editors and Publications Board Chair). What this selection means to the AAS in the near term is a lot of change.

First and foremost, we will be hiring a Journals Manager, who will manage the journals in the future, freeing up some of my time to focus on society activities and overall management function. Having someone able to devote 100% of their time to managing our journals will enhance the quality of the journals and enable us to innovate more rapidly. I expect this person to be on board by the time you read this column. I hope you will get a chance to meet in person at our Hawaii meeting and read more about in the next *AAS Newsletter*. Check out the Executive Office Staff list on the AAS homepage for details.

Contractual details require the *Astronomical Journal (AJ)* to transition first to IOP and the first issue under the new publisher will be in January 2008. This does not give us a lot of time to set up the system, but the IOP team is working shoulder-to-shoulder with the *AJ* Editorial Office to make sure the process is as smooth as possible. We expect that manuscripts will be submitted to the new publisher beginning in September 2007. The *Astrophysical Journal Part I*, *Astrophysical Journal Part II Letters* and *Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series* will transition later, with the first issue to be published by IOP scheduled for 1 January 2009. Manuscripts will likely begin to be processed for the *ApJ* in mid-2008.

Moving to a new publisher means that standard systems of submission and refereeing will change. Authors will have to learn a new submission tool. Referees for our journals (not to mention the editors) will have to learn a new refereeing management system, one which we think adds a number of new features and enhances features currently available. Finally, our readers will have to get used to the new online platform, which will have several subtle changes that we think will enhance the journals.

We will do our utmost to make sure that these new systems are easy to understand and that support is there for questions and problems as they arise. We are already receiving strong support from our new publishing partner and are excited about the move, though dreading the inevitable problems that come with a transition of this magnitude.

Our overarching goal for our journals is to ensure their usability and value while moving them off of the shelf and into the center of the typical astronomer's research day. Just a few decades ago, the journals played a more central role in the day-to-day research activities of astronomers. We plan to enhance the journal through better accessibility to the underlying data, new and innovative tools for interacting with journal content, enhanced reader tools (search, citation management, RSS services and Web 2.0 technologies). Almost two decades ago, former Executive Officer Peter Boyce, had a vision for an integrated journal-data-reader-author-subscriber system that he dubbed "Urania." We hope to fulfill his vision in the coming years through cooperation with the Virtual Observatory initiative, gathering input and interacting with our library, institutional and personal subscribers and continued innovation and enhancement of the journals themselves.

Someone said that all change was bad. I disagree. Most change is good. What people don't like about change are the inevitable little problems and frustrations, the bumps in the road. Please bear with us as we make this transition and take the time to let the Journal Editors, your elected governance and the members of the Publications Board aware of your needs and vision for the journal. With enough input and advice, we can continue to maintain the high quality and value of our journals to our field and keep the speed-bumps as small as possible.

### Staff Change

Another change in the Executive Office is a change in our manager of Finance and Administration position. Laura Kay-Roth, who began work with the AAS in April of 2006, had to resign due to health reasons. We are all sorry to see her go, as her skills and dedication had been a big benefit to the AAS. We have hired Kelly Clark to replace Laura. Kelly comes to the AAS with more than a decade of experience in the financial management of small towns and a graduate degree in public administration (MPA). I hope you will get to meet her (and your other hardworking staff members) at the upcoming Hawaii meeting or another future AAS meeting.

# Secretary's Corner

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

## AAS Prizes

**Nominate someone for a prize this year!** To be considered for an AAS prize, a person must be formally nominated. However, the nomination procedure, which can be viewed at the AAS website, is not arduous.

In recent years, the AAS prize committees have often noted the small slate of worthy candidates from whom they may choose. This particularly applies to the junior prizes. Bear in mind that it is not only the monetary amount but also the honor and distinction that can mean so much to a young astronomer's career. The award of a prize also adds luster to her/his department or institution in the eyes of the academic community.

**Nominations and letters of support must be received in the Secretary's office by 1 October 2007.** Shortly after that date, they are distributed to the several prize committees so that late submissions cannot be accommodated.

## 2007 Prize Winner



### Harvey Moseley

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

The Joseph Weber Award for Instrumentation is given to Dr. Harvey Moseley for his extraordinary contributions for over two decades to the development of astronomical detectors covering a huge wavelength range—from X-rays to the submillimeter. These detectors have been used in some of the most

successful of space missions from COBE to Spitzer that have profoundly changed our understanding of the universe. Dr. Moseley continues to focus his creative energies on future missions—most prominently to the development of Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems devices for use in James Webb Space Telescope spectrometers. This development holds the promise of revolutionizing IR instrumentation both on the ground and in space.

*Photo of Dr. Harvey Moseley with the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) showing on the computer screen. Credit: NASA*

President's Column continued from front page

budget that face all of NASA. We need to work with him to ensure the very best science for the available funds, and we need to work with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to increase the funds available to do the exciting science that awaits.

Finally, let me turn to another internal issue. Look at the person in the office on your left. Look at the person in the office on your right. One of your hard-working, inventive, stimulating colleagues deserves to be nominated for one of the many prizes awarded by the Society. We continue to award prizes to outstandingly deserving individuals, but also to skirt close to a paucity of candidates. The latter is not because good candidates are not there. Our active society is full of them. Someone has to take the trouble to nominate them.

There is a perception in some quarters that this is a time-consuming and cumbersome process. It does require a bit of effort, but we have tried to stream-line the process. It is certainly much less effort than constructing an observing or funding proposal, and we all do that all the time! Please take a moment to let your mind range over all your colleagues whom you know and admire, from junior to senior, and make the effort to nominate someone. We need to challenge the prize committees with a regular surfeit of excellent candidates.

I look forward to seeing you in Hawaii, and then in Austin, the live music capital of the world!

## Donate to the AAS Now and Help Astronomy Happen

By donating to the AAS, members of the public can help enable astronomers to make new discoveries, collaborate more effectively and share their results with the public through publication.

The AAS publishes the major research journals in the field, holds scientific conferences each year, carries out programs to help young astronomers pursue their career and has many programs to enhance astronomy education. In addition, the AAS is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and all donations are fully tax deductible.

Donate today, because one sky connects us all!

<https://members.aas.org/contributions/>

"Advocates for Astronomy since 1899"





### **Dorrit Hoffleit (1907-2007)**

The American Astronomical Society lost one of its most longstanding members when Ellen Dorrit Hoffleit passed away on 9 April 2007. A native of Florence, Alabama, she was born on 12 March 1907; she joined the Society in 1930.

Dorrit Hoffleit earned her Radcliffe PhD. (1938) with a dissertation under the direction of Harvard College Observatory Director Harlow Shapley. She became an expert in spectroscopic parallax determination. At Yale University Observatory (from 1956) Hoffleit helped

prepared the several editions of the *Yale Catalogue of Bright Stars* and the *General Catalogue of Trigonometric Stellar Parallaxes*.

During her twenty-one years as Director, Hoffleit turned the Maria Mitchell Observatory into a mentoring institution for young astronomers. The American Association of Variable Star Observers elected her president in 1961. She received our Society's George Van Biesbroeck Prize in 1988. Minor planet (3416) Dorrit is named for Hoffleit.

Hoffleit died in New Haven, Connecticut, from complications of cancer. She had recently attended her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

*Photo courtesy of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame*



### **Bohdan Paczynski (1940-2007)**

Princeton astrophysicist Bohdan Paczynski, whose insights into the nature of celestial phenomena guided many developments in his field, died 19 April after a three-year battle with brain cancer. He was 67.

Paczynski's pioneering efforts to develop the technique called gravitational lensing permitted the discovery of the first terrestrial planet found outside our solar system. Despite widespread skepticism from the astrophysics community, he also championed the idea that the still-mysterious events known as

gamma ray bursts originated billions of light years away rather than within our own Milky Way galaxy—a theory that was ultimately confirmed by observations.

Paczynski obtained his Ph.D. in astronomy from Warsaw University in his native Poland and spent 20 years at what is now Warsaw's Copernicus Astronomical Center, where he attained the rank of professor in 1979. He came to Princeton in 1982 and in 1989 was named the Lyman Spitzer Jr. Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics.

Paczynski received many honors, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Society's 2006 Henry Norris Russell Lectureship. He was a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

## **Member Deaths**

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

**Kenneth I. Greisen**  
**Dorrit Hoffleit**  
**Tor Hagfors**  
**Donald A. MacRae**  
**Bohdan Paczynski**

## **Corrections**

*AAS Newsletter*  
March/April 2007  
Issue 134)

AAS Member **Fred K. Y. Lo** was accidentally omitted from the list of elected AAAS Fellows.

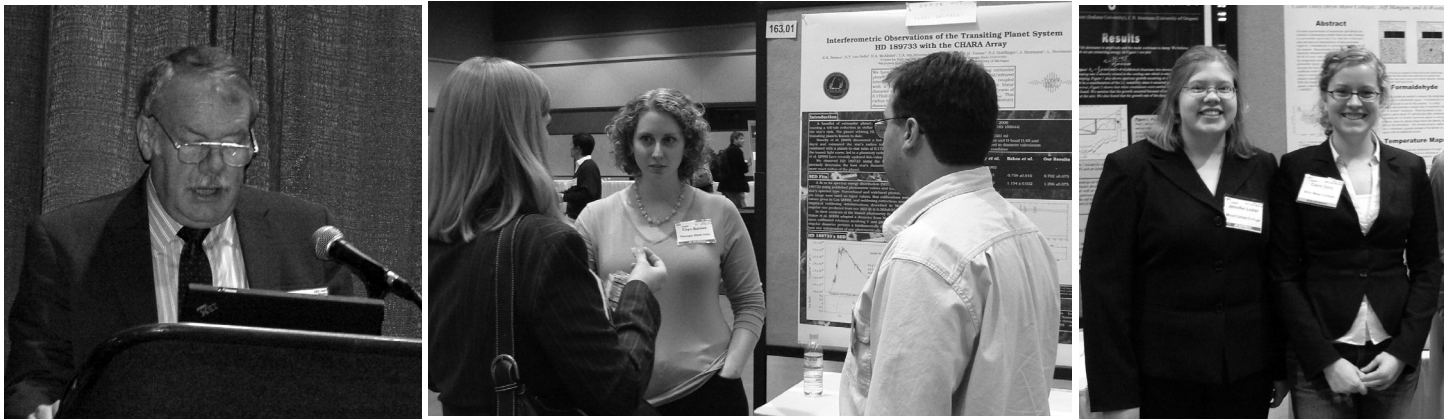
AAS member **Arti Garg** is a 6th year graduate student in the Department of Physics at Harvard University working in Observational Cosmology. The work she presented at the meeting, *Near-Explosion Lightcurves of SNe Ia from the SuperMACHO Survey*, was obtained for the SuperMACHO project which is conducted at CTIO. Additional spectroscopic observations for the results in the poster were made at the Las Campanas Observatory.

## **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).

# Scenes of the Seattle Meeting

There was much good science and serious public policy discussion and many innovative education programs on the agenda at the joint meeting of AAS and the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) on 6-10 January at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center. AAS registrants numbered 2248. Many of the conference goers made use of the souvenir umbrellas, provided courtesy of AAPT. All pictures are AAS Photos by Kelley Knight, © 2007 American Astronomical Society.



**Left:** Wayne Van Citters, Director of the NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences, discussed results of the Division's Senior Review. **Middle:** Elyn Baines (Georgia State U.) observed the transiting planet HD 189733 with CHARA, obtaining a direct measurement of its diameter. **Right:** Protostar investigators Jennifer Lozier (left, Mount Union College) and Claire Davy (Bryn Mawr College), presented results respectively on simulations of fission in rapid rotators and on formaldehyde observations with BIMA and IRAM.



**Left:** Nick Scoville, Richard Massey, Jason Rhodes, and Richard Ellis (l-to-r) presented the first direct maps of the 3-D, large-scale distribution of mass (including dark matter) from the COSMOS survey. Rhodes is from JPL; the others are with Caltech. **Right:** Panelists on The Future of Astronomy & Astrophysics at NASA were (l-to-r) Neil Tyson (American Museum of Natural History), Anneila Sargent, (Caltech), Garth Illingworth (UC Santa Cruz), NASA Advisory Committee Chair Harrison Schmitt, Moderator Jack Burns (U. Colorado), and Lennard Fisk (U. Michigan).

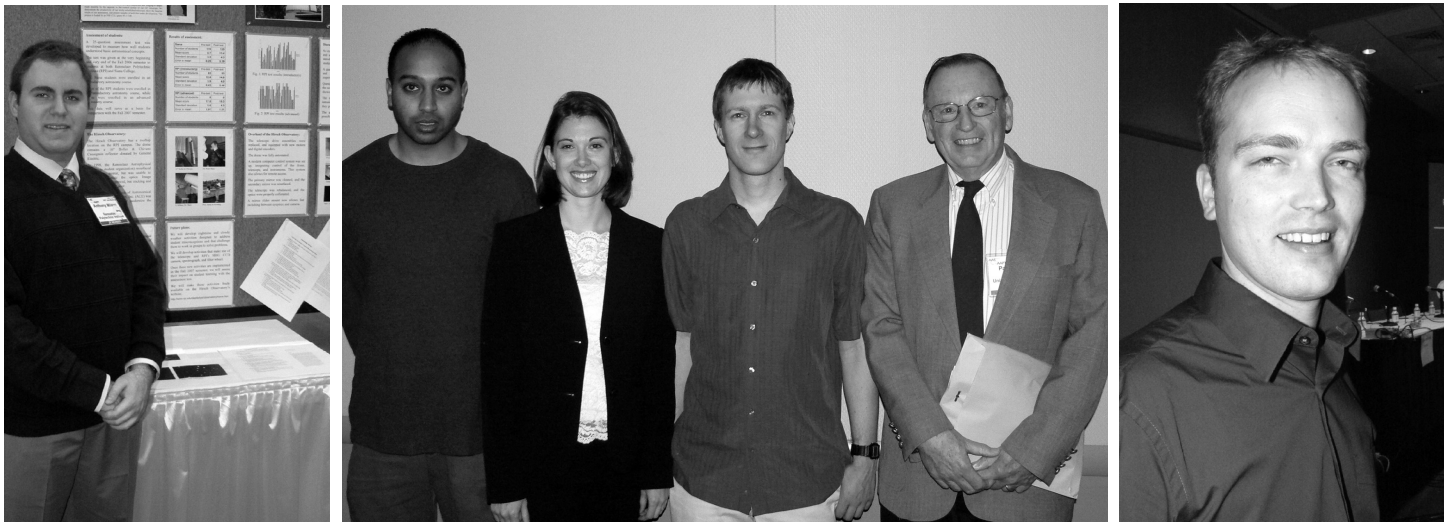


**Left:** James Graham (left) and Paul Kalas (both, UC Berkeley) found that particles in a disk around the red dwarf AU Mic resemble lint in a clothes dryer. **Middle:** Approaching her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (which occurred in March), Dorrit Hoffleit (Yale U.) was heard on a video shown at the meeting. She passed away on 9 April 2007. **Right:** Peter Backus (SETI Institute) reported high-spectral-resolution surveys of radio frequency interference at the Allen Telescope Array site.





**Left:** Melissa Enoch (Caltech) combined mm-wave and infrared observations to elucidate the processes that control star formation on molecular cloud scales. **Middle:** Educators addressing the meeting included Brad Carroll (left, Weber State U.), who teaches the scientific method with the aid of a strange tone generated in hot chocolate, John Fontanella (center, US Naval Academy), who wrote a book on basketball physics and presented a “hoopthesis” about the best way to make a basket, and Thomas Haff (Issaquah H.S., Issaquah, WA), who runs a Physics Treasure Hunt. **Right:** Michael Bode (Liverpool John Moores U., UK) told of Hubble images of the circumstellar environment of RS Ophiuchi following the star’s 2006 outburst.



**Left:** Anthony Milano (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) summarized plans to introduce studio-style, hands-on, inquiry-based astronomy laboratories at RPI and Siena College. **Middle:** Andromeda galaxy investigations were reported by (l-to-r) Jason Kalirai and Karoline Gilbert (both, UC Santa Cruz) and Mark Fardal (U. Massachusetts). Paul Hodge (far right, U. Washington) was independent commentator at their press conference. **Right:** Michael Ireland (Caltech) made Keck Telescope high-contrast infrared observations of Mira B which suggest that the object has accreted a disk from matter shed by Mira A, in which planets can form.



**Left:** The only US Senator to walk on the Moon, Harrison Schmitt (left) met AAS public policy intern Lawrence Staten (Vanderbilt U.). **Middle:** Daniel Zucker (U. Cambridge, UK) described little “Leo T,” which may represent a new class of so-called hobbit galaxies. Nitya Kallivayalil (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA) discussed evidence that the Magellanic Clouds might not be bound to the Milky Way. **Right:** Julianne Dalcanton (U. Washington) gave an invited talk on faint structures that are by-products of galaxy formation.

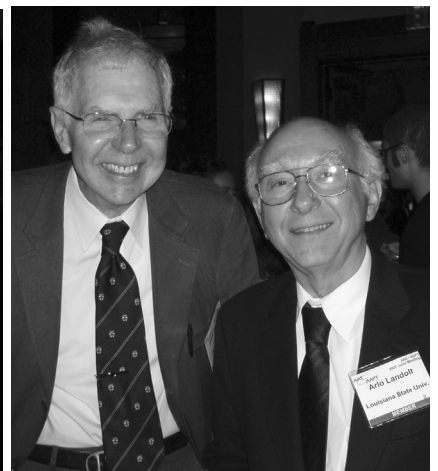
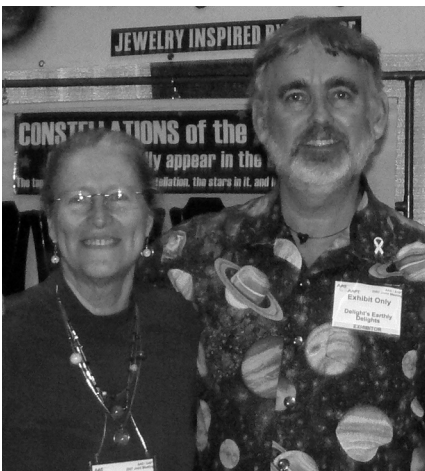




**Left:** Three astrophysicists who discussed the first physical triple-quasar system were (l-to-r) George Djorgovski (Caltech), Virginia Trimble (UC Irvine) and Fred Rasio (Northwestern U.). **Middle:** Nebulae researchers in attendance included Nicolas Flagey (left, Institut d’Astrophysique Spatiale, France), who found a possible supernova remnant in the Eagle Nebula, Nathan Smith (center, UC Berkeley) who reported on two ring nebulae that resemble those around SN1987A and Stephen Reynolds (North Carolina State U.), who unveiled a deep Chandra observation of the Kepler supernova remnant. **Right:** Michael Kuhn (Swarthmore College) discovered a Pre-Main Sequence companion to Beta Crucis with the Chandra X-ray Observatory.



**Left:** Deputy Press Officer Lynn Cominsky summarized the meeting for local TV. **Right:** Thomas Balonek (Colgate College) and Rebecca Koopmann (right, Union College) reported results from an extragalactic HI Arcicibo Legacy Survey.



**Left:** First-time AAS meeting vendors Delight and Pete Edgell (Benson, AZ), of “Delight’s Earthly Delights,” offered necklaces depicting the solar system, prominent constellations, and possible rock art records of the Crab Nebula supernova. **Middle:** Joe Redish (U. Maryland) and Beth Hufnagel (Anne Arundel Community College) had more than a “remote” interest in the session on Clickers in Astronomy Teaching. **Right:** AAS Secretary John Graham (left) enjoyed a light moment with his predecessor, Arlo Landolt (Louisiana State U.).





**Left:** Corby Bryan (left, Texas Tech. U.) told Peter Stockman (Space Telescope Science Institute) about his slip ring by-pass design for the 2.1-m reflector at McDonald Observatory. **Middle:** Andrew Westphal (left, UC Berkeley), here chatting with Paul Vandenberg (National Radio Astronomy Obs.), presented an update on the Stardust mission. **Right:** Samuel Rodarte (Gladys Porter H.S. of Technology, Brownsville, TX), explained a new method for characterizing the polarization profiles of radio pulsars.



**Left:** Laurence DeWarf and Jennifer Carton (both, Villanova U.) found an unusually low state of magnetic activity in alpha Centauri A with FUSE. **Right:** Antonella Nota (left, Space Telescope Science Institute) and Lynn Carlson (Johns Hopkins U.) studied star formation in a young cluster in the Small Magellanic Cloud.

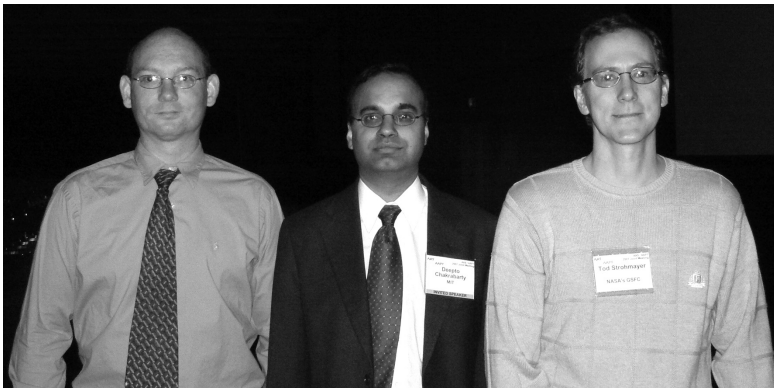


**Left:** Michael Muno (left, Caltech) detected an X-ray echo of a half-century-old flare near the central black hole of the Milky Way. Sangwook Park (Pennsylvania State U.) observed an oxygen-rich supernova remnant in the Large Magellanic Cloud. **Middle:** Terry Jones (left) and Roberta Humphreys (both, U. Minnesota), with George Wallerstein (U. Washington) presented a 3-D image of the circumstellar environment of the extreme red supergiant VY CMa, as indicated on George's shirt. **Right:** Former Hubble-servicing astronaut Kathryn Thornton (U. Virginia) gave an invited talk on human spaceflight and met Harvard student Jonathan Foster.

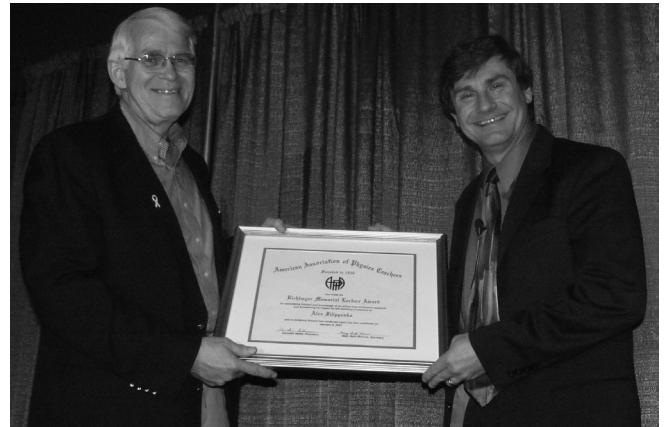


# Award Winners in Seattle

The Joint AAS-AAPT meeting in January was the scene of numerous award ceremonies and prize talks, including those pictured here. All pictures are AAS Photos by Kelley Knight, © 2007 American Astronomical Society.



The recipients of the Bruno Rossi Prize spoke on neutron stars. They are (l-to-r), Rudy Wijrnands (U. Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Deepto Chakrabarty (MIT), and Tod E. Strohmayer (NASA Goddard).



Alex Filippenko (right, UC Berkeley), received the \$7500 Richtmyer Memorial Award from AAPT Vice President Alexander Dickison and lectured on dark energy.



Marcia Bartusiak (MIT) received the 2006 Andrew Gemant Award from James Stith (American Institute of Physics). She wrote Thursday's Universe and Einstein's Unfinished Symphony, among other works.



Two Marcs who made their mark. Marc Brodsky (right), CEO of the American Institute of Physics, presented the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics to Marc Davis (UC Berkeley). Davis lectured on the DEEP2 Redshift Survey. Brodsky retired in March.



**Left photo:** Lisa Kewley (U. Hawaii), here with AAS President J. Craig Wheeler, presented the Cannon Prize Lecture, offering "insight into the cosmic evolution of metallicity for star-forming galaxies." **Middle photo:** Bryan Gaensler (U. Sydney, Australia) gave the Pierce Prize Lecture, on the interplay between neutron stars and their environments. **Right photo:** Re'em Sari (right) delivered the Warner Prize Lecture on formation of the solar system and posed with two of his collaborators on gamma ray bursts, Dale Frail (left, National Radio Astronomy Obs.) and Shrinivas Kulkarni. Sari and Kulkarni are Caltech professors.



## US Plans & Programs for the International Year of Astronomy

Susana Deustua and Doug Isbell Co-Chairs, US Program Committee

International Year of Astronomy 2009 was proposed by former IAU President, Franco Pacini to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo's first observations through a telescope. Of course, it is much larger than that, and represents a major opportunity for astronomy outreach and education. IYA2009 was approved at the IAU General Assembly held in Prague, Czech Republic in August 2006. UNESCO endorsed IYA2009 at its assembly in the fall of 2005. The IAU is currently working toward receiving full United Nations approval for the International Year and expects to present a resolution at the October 2007 General Assembly of the UN.

The IAU considers IYA2009 an opportunity to

1. Celebrate Galileo and the 400th anniversary of using the telescope for astronomy
2. Illustrate the amazing cultural influence astronomy over time, and better connect science with today's culture
3. Demonstrate that astronomy is one of most captivating branches of the natural sciences and an ideal inspiration for people of all ages, especially students
4. Remind humanity that we are responsible for the long-term future of our planet
5. Show astronomers as truly a global family of peaceful international collaborators
6. Encourage a stronger perspective of scientific/critical thinking in society

The IAU formed an IYA2009 Executive Working Group chaired by Catherine Cesarsky and whose members are, Lars Lindberg Christensen, Ian Corbett, Dennis Crabtree, Karel van der Hucht, Claus Madsen, Norio Kaifu, Ian Robson, Doug Isbell and Susana Deustua. At the first IYA2009 meeting held in Garching, Germany at ESO Headquarters in March 2006, representatives from approximately 40 countries (Single Points of Contact (SPoC)), and international organizations attended. Working groups to coordinate international-level

activities were formed. These groups will concentrate on opening events & ceremonies, designing and developing very inexpensive (less than USD \$1) Galilean telescopes, dark skies, cultural astronomy (e.g. archaeo-astronomy, and ethno astronomy). The IAU IYA2009 website is <http://astronomy2009.org>.

### *Likely International Events/Activities*

- \* Kick-off events around the world Jan. 1
  - o Started by cosmic signal?
- \* Major exhibits of large astronomy images
- \* Daily quiz/riddle/cartoon/misconception at Web site
- \* 24-hour Webcast from observatories around the world
- \* GLOBE at Night (March)
- \* Solar eclipse live from China (July)
- \* Extended observing of e.g. Jupiter (spring/fall)
- \* Events keyed to August 2009 IAU assembly in Brazil
- \* Closing event – Italy? Time capsule? Tie to Galileo observations of Jupiter?

United States IYA2009 coordination is primarily via the American Astronomical Society (AAS), which established a Program Committee and a Development Committee in 2006. The Program Committee is charged with developing national themes and activities to support IYA2009 goals, its members were selected to represent the broad astronomical community. As of April 2007 its members are Susana Deustua (AAS) and Douglas Isbell (NOAO), co-chairs, and Michael Bennett (ASP), Doris Daou (NASA-HQ), Craig DeForest (Southwest Research Institute), Chris DePree (Agnes Scott College), Mary Dussault (CfA), Jon Elvert (International Planetarium Society), Richard Fienberg (Sky Publishing), David Finley (NRAO), Ed Guinan (Villanova U, USNC-IAU), Hashima Hasan (NASA-HQ), Jim Hesser (National Research Council, Canada),

[continued on page 12](#)



## International Year of Astronomy continued

Omar Lopez-Cruz (INAOE, Puebla, Mexico), Terry Mann (Astronomical League), Franco Pacini (Arecibo Observatory, Italy), Aaron Price (AAVSO), and Denise Smith (STScI)

The Development Committee is charged with securing funding and resources to implement IYA2009 activities and consists of ten members drawn from academia, industry, and other organizations. Its members are Peter Stockman (STScI), Chair, Mark Adams (NRAO), Kelly Beatty (Night Sky Magazine), Michael Bennett (ASP), Rolf Danner (NGC), Susana Deustua (AAS), Jay Frogel (AURA), Debbie Goodwin (Keck), Jon Malay (Lockheed Martin), and Terry Mann (Astronomical League).

### US Goal for IYA 2009

**To offer an engaging astronomy experience to every person in the country, and build new partnerships to sustain public interest.**

In support of this goal, the Program Committee has six major themes: Looking Through a Telescope, Dark Skies Are a Universal Resource, Astronomy in Arts, Entertainment and Storytelling, Research Experience for Students, Teachers, and Citizen-Scientists, Telescope Building and Optics Challenges, Sharing the Universe Through New Technology. Each US Theme is supported by working groups, each of which are composed of six to eight people (professional and amateur) and are charged with developing one national activity for IYA2009.



Chairs of the working groups are drawn from the larger community. Members of the working groups include people from the larger astronomical community, as well as Program Committee members. The US effort will be supported by a web portal at the American Astronomical Society (currently under construction), <http://astronomy2009.us>. At the present time the following

have agreed to chair a working group:  
Pamela Gay (SIU Edwardsville): New Media,  
Rick Fienberg (Sky and Telescope): Telescope Kits,  
Peter Michaud (GEMINI)  
Stephen Pompea (NOAO): Optical Challenges,  
Connie Walker (NOAO): Globe at Night.

Possible activities for each theme:

#### *Looking Through a Telescope*

- \* Star parties
- \* Sidewalk astronomy
- \* Mobile telescope vans
- \* Binocular experiences
- \* Accessing Remote telescopes (north + south)
- \* Observing with spacecraft?
- \* Reach100 million first-time viewers worldwide?

#### *Dark Skies Are a Universal Resource*

- \* GLOBE at Night 2009 - “classic” star counting and digital sky-quality meters
- \* Coordination with Earth-orbiting satellites
- \* Related issues: energy use, health, etc.
- \* Efforts in individual cities (i.e.: Sydney, Australia, “lights out”)

#### *Arts, Entertainment and Storytelling*

- \* Documentaries
- \* Hollywood productions (TV, movies)
- \* Native cultures
- \* Public lectures
- \* Galileo impersonators!

#### *Research Experiences for Students, Teachers, and Citizen-Scientists*

- \* Observing at telescopes
- \* Remote observing and image processing
- \* Data mining
- \* Work with members of NASA/ESA science teams (Spitzer under way)
- \* Coordinated ground-space-amateur observing?

#### *Telescope Building and Optics Challenges*

- \* “Telescope amnesty” for dusty closets
- \* Galileo’s Telescope (kit) (less than USD \$5 each x 1 million copies?)
- \* Hands-On Optics
- \* Optics challenges, Contests & Science Festivals
- \* Internships with giant telescope projects?

#### *Sharing the Universe Through New Technology*

- \* At/with Planetaria



- \* At/with Science Centers
- \* Blogging and Podcasting
- \* *YouTube*-type portals for self-made videos (contests?)
- \* Videoconferencing
- \* RSS news feeds
- \* Real-time Web counter of IYA participation

If you are interested in serving on a working group, or even better, chairing one, please contact the Program Committee co-chairs. IYA2009 promises to be a great year for Astronomy!!

#### CONTACTS

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 American Astronomical Society, Washington, DC  
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## Education News

### Girl Scout Day at the National Air and Space Museum

On a cold and icy Saturday on 17 March, seven intrepid DC-area astronomers and one AAS Education Assistant turned out to share the excitement of astronomy at Girl Scout Day at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Dulles, VA. The museum reported over 12,000 visitors that day; and considering every one of them walked by our AAS booth, we were very busy.

We had two activities: guessing which rocks are meteorites and a spectroscopy activity. The girls got to keep the diffraction gratings. We handed out the new and very cool AAS stickers, as well as posters, lithographs, bookmarks and other material provided by the Kepler and New Horizons Missions, the Chandra X-ray Observatory Center, Spitzer Science Center, the Space Telescope Science Institute, NASA, and Lockheed Martin.

The National Capital Astronomers were next door showing a Night Sky Network Program on the Fabric of Space. Because of the snow and clouds outside, rather than observing the sun, they showed the girls how to use a telescope by pointing to one of the clocks. The Westminster Astronomical Society showed the famous North American Open Cluster through its small refractor, and also did a couple of Night Sky Network Program activities.

A good time was had by all! The girls had a great time doing activities and asking questions.

Here are some comments from the volunteers:

*Thanks again for letting me participate in the event, I had a really great time evidenced by my sheer exhaustion by the end.*

*As a woman, I especially enjoyed talking with young girls about astronomy it was lots of fun and I didn't expect so many girls to come by our booth! But, that's a wonderful sign. A few of the older ones seemed excited to see the link between the neon lamp and astronomy as they had done a spectroscopy activity in their science classes before.*

THANKS to Lynnae Quick, Misty Lavigne, Emile Drobnes, Sherri Stephan, Kristen Hendershot, Hasima Hasan, Roopesh Ojha and Wayne Bird for helping spark young girls' imaginations and maybe, just maybe, starting them down the Astronomy Road.

# Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy

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

## The June 2007 AAS Meeting

The CSWA is sponsoring a special session Thursday, 31 May 2007 at the Honolulu AAS Meeting. The session is entitled “Women of Solar Physics: Status and Science,” and takes advantage of the consecutive Solar Physics Division (SPD) and AAS meetings to review the achievements of women in the field of solar physicists and highlight the current research of three solar physicists. Joan Schmelz will chair the session.

The session will open with a talk by Andrea Dupree (Center for Astrophysics, Harvard) entitled “Women of the Solar Physics Division,” focusing on the historical contributions of women to solar physics. This will be followed by three science talks, providing the broader AAS community the opportunity to hear from scientists that would normally attend SPD, but not AAS meetings. Those talks will be “Following the Trail of Heavy Ions through the Solar Corona and into the Solar Wind,” by Shadia Rifai Habbal (Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii), “Are inputs to standard solar models correct?” by Sarbani Basu (Yale University), and “A Solar Cycle Prediction Puzzle’s Possible Explanation?” by Janet Luhmann (SSL, UC Berkeley). Each talk will be 20 minutes, with time for questions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## CSWA web site news

The CSWA web site has a new look and a new location! With the migration of AAS web servers, the link to the CSWA web pages is now [www.aas.org/cswa/](http://www.aas.org/cswa/). In addition, CSWA members Amy Simon-Miller and John Feldmeier have been working hard to reorganize and update our web site so that it is easier for everyone to use. Please take a look.

## Update on the Pasadena Recommendations

The CSWA has received comments from the AAS President that it is incorporating in order to finalize the letter to be sent to the departmental chairs and division heads of colleges, universities, and institutions encouraging them to publicly endorse the Recommendations, as well as implement appropriate recommendations. We anticipate that the letter will be ready for distribution by the May 2007 AAS meeting. Further information will be included in the next *AAS Newsletter*.

In addition, as a part of its effort to reorganize the CSWA web pages, we now have links from each of the main focus areas (Tenure Track Hiring, Career Advancement and Recognition, Institutional Policies, Varied Career Paths, Cultural Issues, and Statistical Information) to additional pages. These additional pages will be populated with ancillary information as the CSWA gathers it to help individuals and institutions promote and implement the Recommendations.

## AASWOMEN Electronic Newsletter Update

I have stepped down as an editor of AASWOMEN, but my co-editors Joan Schmelz, Geoff Clayton, and Hannah Jang-Condell continue to do an exemplary job. Please note that as a part of the AAS web server migration, there are new instructions for submitting something to AASWOMEN for publication, as well as for subscribing and unsubscribing.

To submit to AASWOMEN send email to:  
[aaswomen@as.org](mailto:aaswomen@as.org)

All material sent to that address will be posted unless you tell us otherwise (including your email address).

To subscribe or unsubscribe to AASWOMEN go to:  
<http://lists.aas.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/aaswlist>

and follow the instructions for subscribing to AASWList.

AASWList is the mailing list for the weekly electronic newsletter, AASWOMEN.

<http://lists.aas.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/aaswomen>

If you experience any problems, please email [itdept@as.org](mailto:itdept@as.org).

## The June 2007 issue of STATUS

The June 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 the recent report “Women in Canadian Astronomy: Fifteen Years of Hard Data,” by Michael A. Reid and Brenda C. Matthews, the Center for Astrophysics Gender Equity Report, an article on CSWP Site Visits by Meg Urry, and “Teaching as Hypatia of Alexandria,” by Fran Bagenal, among other items. If you would like a paper version of STATUS, please email [membership@as.org](mailto:membership@as.org).

# Committee on Employment

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

## Book Review: Survival Skills for Scientists

“Survival Skills for Scientists” by Federico Rosei and Tudor Johnston is the best career guide to be published since Peter Feibelman’s “A Ph.D. Is Not Enough!” Because the authors work in an academic environment, as opposed to a government laboratory, they offer a different perspective of the optimal career path. By co-authoring the work, they combine the time-tested wisdom of a senior researcher (Johnston) with the more recent experience of a junior faculty member (Rosei) who has direct knowledge of the current job climate. Drawing from their own interactions in Europe, North America, and Asia, they also provide a more international outlook.

The authors begin with the First Law of Scientific Survival, which is “Know thyself.” Their simple recommendation is that you figure out what kind of scientist you want to be by carefully considering the kind of person you actually are. Obviously this includes an assessment of your strengths and weaknesses, but it also means understanding what role you want to play in research, and how you want to spend your time on a day to day basis. They don’t try to conceal their preference for an academic career, and this could slightly alienate the reader who prefers another path. But everyone can benefit from the self-reflection that the authors promote by asking the right questions.

The bulk of the book is devoted to the Second Law: “Know your tradecraft.” This begins with a very honest and pragmatic critique of postdoctoral experience, and outlines the essential factors to consider when choosing a position at various stages of your career. While admitting that intelligence and hard work are the foundation of a successful career in science, they go on to summarize other advantageous character traits that anyone can develop over time. They continue with a broad overview of the landscape of the science profession,

and the metrics that will be used throughout your career to judge your productivity. Among the many unique themes that emerge from the text is the concept of being your own “agent,” boosting your prospects for a successful career. The authors point out that publications in scholarly journals are the primary way other scientists learn about your research, and

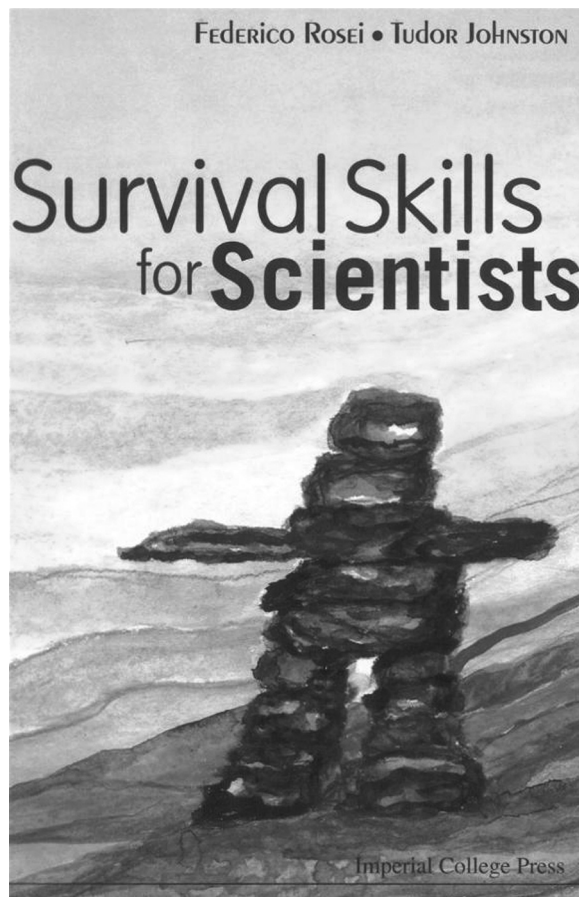
that generously citing the work of others will help get their attention. They finish by detailing all of the ways you communicate your work to others, including specific advice about journal papers, your thesis and curriculum vitae, as well as conference talks and posters.

The book closes with the Third Law: “Know thy neighbor.” Unlike Feibelman’s book, which begins with a series of anecdotes to illustrate how a scientific career can be derailed, Rosei and Johnston place this section in the back of their book. The authors also try to keep it positive by including success stories in addition to the failures.

Overall, this book fills a niche that nicely complements the material contained in other popular career guides. It is logically organized, and is filled to the brim with candid advice that you are unlikely to find anywhere else. Some readers may be frustrated by the many parenthetical remarks, footnotes, and clearly labeled “diversions”

that make the text less concise than it could be. To others, these features will simply add humor, depth, and humanity to an otherwise serious discussion. “Survival Skills for Scientists” may not replace your copy of Feibelman’s “A Ph.D. Is Not Enough!” but it certainly deserves to sit alongside it on your bookshelf.

*The AAS Committee on Employment is pleased to highlight useful resources for astronomers. Please check out our website ([www.aas.org/career/](http://www.aas.org/career/)) for additional resources and contact information for the committee members.*



# News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences

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

## Upcoming Program Deadlines

AST announces the following deadlines for research and instrumentation grant opportunities in FY2008.

19 July 2007: CAREER (MPS) - Faculty Early Career Development Program – (NSF 05-579). See [www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5262&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5262&from=fund)

mid-August 2007: REU Sites - Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites – A new solicitation will be issued shortly to establish the deadline for FY2008. In the meantime, see NSF 05-592, [www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05592/nsf05592.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05592/nsf05592.htm).

11 September 2007: International Research Fellowship Program - (NSF 05-599). See [www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05599/nsf05599.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05599/nsf05599.htm)

10 October 2007: NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (AAPF). An updated program solicitation will be issued in July. The program will continue to support integrated programs of independent research and education and will consider projects in astronomy and astrophysics of observational, theoretical, instrumentation or laboratory nature. We encourage applicants to read the new solicitation carefully for application instructions. A general program description can be found in the current program announcement NSF 03-578 ([www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03578/nsf03578.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03578/nsf03578.htm))

1 November 2007: Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI)

15 November 2007: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG) in all areas, including the Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program. See program announcement NSF 05-608 for the AAG ([www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf05608](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf05608)) and NSF 00-144 for RUI proposals ([www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf00144](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf00144)).

Anytime: Research Opportunity Awards and REU supplements and Meeting or Conference support proposals.

## Instrumentation Programs in AST

The Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI) program entertains instrumentation proposals that cover all wavelength ranges, as well as advanced computational hardware, and software projects that support astronomical instrumentation. There is no specific solicitation for the ATI program; instead, proposals are submitted in response to

NSF's Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) (NSF 04-023; [www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg)). As with all NSF proposals, please follow the rules set out in the GPG carefully, paying particular attention to the requirements to address both intellectual merit and broader impacts in your proposal summary. The ATI program discourages the inclusion of general letters of support for your project unless they offer specific commitments of resources necessary for the project.

The next Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program deadline is expected to be 24 January 2008. Please check the NSF web site for the appropriate solicitation later this year. Please note that the MRI program limits the number of proposals that a given institution may submit, across all fields. This includes participation as the proposing institution, or as an awardee institution through sub-awards or other collaborations. Because of this, most institutions hold their own pre-competitions to determine which MRI proposals may be submitted. Your institution may require a long lead time ahead of the January 2008 deadline in which to consider your proposal. The MRI program considers proposals from both research intensive institutions and educational institutions that do not grant PhD degrees or are deemed to be minority-serving. There may be changes in the requirements for the MRI program in FY2008; please see the new solicitation which will be announced in the fall.

Potential PIs of ATI or astronomy-related MRI proposals are urged to contact AST's ATI/MRI program officers as you begin preparing your proposal: Julian Christou ([jchristo@nsf.gov](mailto:jchristo@nsf.gov)) for optical/IR proposals; Andrew Clegg ([aclegg@nsf.gov](mailto:aclegg@nsf.gov)) for radio or computer proposals.

## A New Funding Opportunity - PAARE

AST will be offering a new program solicitation in the summer of 2007. *Partnerships in Astronomy & Astrophysics Research and Education* (PAARE) is intended to enhance the quantity and quality of astronomy and astrophysics research opportunities for students and faculty members at participating minority-serving colleges and universities (MSCU). The objective of PAARE is to stimulate the development of formal, potentially long-term, collaborative research and education relationships between MSCUs and the NSF-supported observatories, projects, or faculty members at research institutions (including private observatories).

PAARE awards are expected to achieve significant increases in the number and quality of interactions between participants from MSCUs and NSF-sponsored research oriented institutions and result in increased graduate astronomy and astrophysics degrees for underrepresented minorities.



Funded activities might include, but not be limited to, the development of collaborative and mutually beneficial astronomy-related research and education projects, support for graduate and undergraduate students and exchanges of faculty and students. Proposals must be submitted by an MSCU, and the PI must hold a faculty appointment at the proposing institution. Partnering institutions or organizations may be any institution or organization eligible for NSF funding that supports a research program in astronomy and astrophysics, including AST-funded facilities or private observatories. Up to \$2 million may be awarded for PAARE awards in FY2008.

The deadline for PAARE is tentatively scheduled for 3 August 2007, but please look for the solicitation on the AST web site at: [www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/deadlines.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/deadlines.jsp). For more information about the program please contact Dana Lehr ([dlehr@nsf.gov](mailto:dlehr@nsf.gov)) or Brian Patten ([bpatten@nsf.gov](mailto:bpatten@nsf.gov)).

## 2007 NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows

The Division of Astronomical Sciences is pleased to announce the 2007 class of NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows. Fellows engage in a program of research of an observational, instrumental, or theoretical nature, in combination with a coherent educational plan for the three-year duration of the fellowship. The program is intended to recognize young investigators of significant potential, and provide them with experience in research and education that will establish them in positions of distinction and leadership in the community.

- Gaspar Bakos – Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, “Discovering Further Transiting Extrasolar Planets with HATNet”
- Rachel deNaray – University of California, Irvine, “Towards Resolving the Small Scale Problems with Cold Dark Matter: An Observational and Theoretical Collaborative Effort”
- Joseph Gelfand – University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “The Supernova-Neutron Star Connection”
- Eric Hallman – University of Colorado, Boulder, “Simulating the Universe: Large Area Galaxy Cluster Surveys and Synthetic Observing Tools”
- Joseph Hennawi – University of California, Berkeley, “Cosmology with Close Quasar Pairs”
- John Johnson – University of Hawaii/ Institute for Astronomy, “Exploring the Relationship Between Stellar Mass and Planet Occurrence”
- Karen Kneiman – University of Virginia, “Tidal Tales of Minor Mergers and Beyond Pretty Pictures”
- Marshall Perrin – University of California, Los Angeles, “The Birthplace of Planets: High Contrast Imaging of Circumstellar Disks”
- Scott Sheppard – Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, “Completing the Inventory of the Solar System”

## FY2007 CAREER Awardees

The Division of Astronomical Sciences is pleased to announce the FY 2007 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program recipients. This NSF-wide program is the Foundation’s most prestigious award for support of the early career-development activities of junior faculty members. The intent of the program is to provide stable support at a sufficient level and duration to enable awardees to develop careers as outstanding teacher-scholars in the context of the mission of their organization. The FY 2007 CAREER recipients are:

- Eric Agol, University of Washington, “CAREER: Prospecting for Planets”
- Asantha Cooray, University of California – Irvine, “CAREER: Near- and Far-Infrared Background Light and the Astrophysical and Cosmological Implications”
- Angela K. Speck, University of Missouri – Columbia, “CAREER: A Multi-faceted Investigation of the Astromineralogy and Evolution of Dust around Low- and Intermediate Mass Evolved Stars”
- Jonathan C. Tan, University of Florida, “CAREER: Massive Star and Star Cluster Formation - the Key to Our Origins”
- Tommaso Treu, University of California – Santa Barbara, “CAREER: Dark Matter and Black Holes over Cosmic Time”

# Astronomical Society of the Pacific

Michael Bennett, Executive Director

[mbennett@astrosociety.org](mailto:mbennett@astrosociety.org)

## ASP Appoints Executive Director

The ASP is very pleased to announce that James Manning, currently Head of the Office of Public Outreach of the Space Telescope Science Institute, has been appointed to the position of ASP Executive Director. Mr. Manning will take up his new duties in San Francisco in early July.

Prior to becoming Head of Public Outreach at STScI, Mr. Manning had worked in the planetarium field for many years, as Director of the Taylor Planetarium (Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT), Director of the Staerkel Planetarium (Parkland College, Champaign, IL), and Assistant Director of the Morehead Planetarium (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC). He holds a BS degree in Mathematics and Astronomy from the University of Wisconsin and an MA in Physics and Astronomy from the University of North Carolina. He is a member of many planetarium and education organizations, and served as President of the International Planetarium Society from 1995-96.

Manning becomes the seventh Executive Director of the ASP, replacing Michael Bennett, who has served since 2001. Mr. Bennett will continue to serve the ASP on a part-time basis as Senior Educator following Mr. Manning's arrival.

## ASP National Conference in Chicago

Join us in Chicago from 5-7 September with co-host Adler Planetarium for the ASP 2007 Annual Conference: "EPO and a Changing World: Creating Linkages and Expanding Partnerships."

We are now accepting abstract proposals for workshops and poster papers online as well as registration for the conference and all special events. New this year, the conference fee includes a full conference proceedings volume (hard copy and e-access). The 2007 Awards Banquet and 119th Annual Member's Meeting will once again be held at the conference. The Early Bird registration deadline is 16 July. For complete information and registration instructions, go to [www.astrosociety.org/events.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/events.html)

## Symposium on Teaching Introductory Astronomy

"Cosmos in the Classroom 2007," a three-day, hands-on symposium on teaching astronomy to non-science majors, will be held from 3-5 August 2007 at Pomona College in Southern California. The meeting is sponsored by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, with co-sponsorship by a range of astronomical and educational organizations.

For more details, and for information on registration and scholarships, please go to: [www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.html)

# Honored Elsewhere

## André Heck Awarded Stroobant Prize

AAS Member **André Heck**, astronomer at Strasbourg Observatory (France), has been awarded the Paul and Marie Stroobant Prize 2007 by the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium.

Created in 1950, the Stroobant prize is awarded every other year to a Belgian or French citizen who has authored the most remarkable astronomy-related work. The 2007 Academy's Stroobant Prize has been awarded to Heck for his impressive professional production and in particular for his pioneering series of volumes entitled "Organizations and Strategies in Astronomy (OSA)," initiated in Year 2000.

Over his career, Heck moved successfully from field to field, both in observational and theoretical astronomy. He became a skilled observer with Schmidt telescopes (discovering a comet in 1973), spent innumerable nights carrying out photometric measurements (mainly in Chile) and pioneered new techniques of UV spectroscopy while being in charge of scientific operations on the IUE spacecraft (leading to a substantial increase of the satellite's useful life).

## Edmund Bertschinger Named Guggenheim Fellow

**Edmund Bertschinger** (Professor of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has been named a 2007 Guggenheim Fellow for his work in physics of the cosmic microwave background. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

# Division News

## Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA)

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

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of the Division on Dynamical Astronomy, whose terms begin 1 July. The new Chair will be William R. Ward (SwRI, Boulder), and the new Vice-Chair will be Michael Efroimsky (U.S. Naval Observatory). The three new Committee Officers will be Matija Cuk (University of British Columbia), Stacy McGaugh (University of Maryland), and Peter Teuben (University of Maryland). Current and past Officers, as well as other information regarding the DDA, are available at the DDA web site, <http://dda.harvard.edu>.

The sum of these shortfalls for 2007 will likely be spread among the different directorates, including science, implying that science might possibly see more cuts than noted above. We await the operating plan, which will show the real impact on the science budget, probably available by the time you read this.

The Innovation Agenda, which is a priority of Speaker Pelosi, promises to draw attention to and provide more funds for scientific research and education. Thus, it seems likely that the proposed dramatic increases at NSF, Department of Energy's Office of Science, and NIST will be realized for FY 2008.

Whether you talk about competitiveness or innovation, it's clear that there is broad bipartisan support for science. Some of us find ourselves scratching our heads, however, wondering why NASA Science doesn't appear to be included in the innovation agenda. Probably this has to do with the initiatives being focused on agencies that have traditionally been underfunded. Still, for the community, cuts at NASA potentially threaten to overwhelm gains at NSF. We believe, as do many members of Congress, that NASA is being asked to accomplish too much with too few resources.

Part of our legislative agenda for the Spring will be to take this message to Congress. NASA is actively engaged in innovation and education as part of its research and development programs. NASA programs have fundamentally changed our view of the Universe and continue to inspire generations of new students to pursue careers in science and technology. Any effort to improve American innovation in science and technology should include NASA.

### Congressional Visits Day

Speaking of our legislative agenda, we are currently in the midst of planning for the 12th Annual Science, Engineering, and Technology Congressional Visits Day ([www.setcvd.org](http://www.setcvd.org)), which will take place on May 1 and 2 here in Washington. This yearly event brings together organizations from a broad range of scientific and engineering disciplines to highlight the importance of federal money for R&D.

The AAS will have 15 participants this year, including President J. Craig Wheeler. Some will represent the AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) and others are early career types. We even have two Ph.D. candidates and an undergraduate this year!

CVD is a great way to get a glimpse of how policy is made in Washington. While some of you may be comparing the making of laws to the making of sausage (i.e., the result is good, but you don't really want to see the process of how it's made), it's important to remember that it's up to us to inform the public—which includes members of Congress—about why our work is important.

Make it a point this spring to write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to support NASA science by providing sufficient funds for NASA to accomplish all of its missions. See [www.aip.org/gov/commcong.html](http://www.aip.org/gov/commcong.html) for tips on writing to Congress. We will keep you updated on important issues as needed over the coming months through email Action Alerts.



*Top: Rotunda in Senate Dirksen Office Building, just before awards ceremony and reception. From left to right, Dennis Ebbets, Lawrence Staten, Anne Verbiscer, Kevin Covey, Jade Bond. Middle: Participant Amy Lovell with her Congressman, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA). Rep. Lewis met with six AAS participants. Bottom: Left to Right: Jade Bond, Kevin Covey, J. Craig Wheeler, Avi Mandell, Melissa McGrath, Amy Lovell, Andrew Baker, and Anne Verbiscer pose in front of the fountain at Union Station to celebrate a job well done!*



# Announcements

## AAS Membership Calendar

As a membership benefit, the AAS Membership Calendar includes important dates, such as proposal and grant deadlines and AAS sponsored meetings. Sponsors receive selection of a photo layout page and 250 words of text. For only \$1800, your institution or department can show support for the whole astronomical community and be featured prominently in astronomers' offices across the country. Sponsors are reminded that space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups interested in sponsoring a month may contact Crystal Tinch ([crystal@as.org](mailto:crystal@as.org)) for more information and pricing details for the 2008 calendar. Deadline for sponsorship is 1 September 2007.

## Opting Out of AAS Publications

If you would no longer like to receive paper copies of the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Membership Directory*, or the *AAS Calendar*, please send an email to [address@as.org](mailto:address@as.org).

To unsubscribe from AAS emails, contact [address@as.org](mailto:address@as.org)

## NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 August 2007 for the fourth 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](mailto:sp@nso.edu)) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities ([nsokp@nso.edu](mailto:nsokp@nso.edu)).

Instructions may be found at [www.nso.edu/general/observe/](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://nsosp.nso.edu/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at [ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing\\_templates/evaluation.form.txt](ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt).

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

## 2MASS Extended Mission Databases and Atlas Images Available

The Two Micron All Sky Survey announces the release of the 2MASS Extended Mission Ancillary Data Products. The Ancillary Products consist of source tables and images from Survey data processing that were not released as part of the 2MASS All-Sky Catalogs and Image Atlas (March

2003) including calibration and special "long-exposure" observations. These Ancillary Products complement the highly uniform and reliable All-Sky Release PSC, XSC and Image Atlas by providing multi-epoch images and measurements of sources when available as well as faint source extractions not reliable enough to meet the selection requirements for the All-Sky catalogs. Calibration fields observed thousands of times provide unique deep (Ks~19) and time-series coverage of several square degrees. "Long exposure" images and source lists provide coverage of several galaxy clusters, star forming regions, and other areas of interest that are about one magnitude deeper than the original 2MASS coverage.

A description of the Extended Mission Ancillary Products and supporting documentation is available at: [www.ipac.caltech.edu/2mass/releases/allsky/index\\_extmis.html](http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/2mass/releases/allsky/index_extmis.html)

2MASS data products may be accessed via the NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive (IRSA) at: <http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu>

## New NRC Report on Decadal Surveys

A public workshop on decadal science strategy surveys was held under the auspices of the Space Studies Board (SSB) 14-16 November 2006. The objectives of the workshop were: (a) to promote discussions of the use of NRC decadal surveys, (b) to review lessons learned from the most recent surveys, and (c) to identify potential approaches for future surveys that can enhance their realism, utility, and endurance. The workshop involved approximately 60 participants from academia, industry, government, and the NRC. The workshop report, *Decadal Science Strategy Surveys: Report of a Workshop*, summarizes the meeting presentations and discussions on the use of decadal surveys for developing and implementing scientific priorities in astronomy and astrophysics, planetary science, solar and space physics, and Earth science. The report is available in hard copy in limited quantities from the SSB (202-334-3477) and as a PDF file via [http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/SSB\\_reports\\_by\\_year.html](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/SSB_reports_by_year.html).

## Herschel Space Observatory Key Program

### Open Time Key Program Announcement of Opportunity:

The NASA Herschel Science Center (NHSC) is pleased to draw attention to a European Space Agency (ESA) Announcement of Opportunity for Open Time Key Programs for the Herschel Space Observatory. The Key Program Open Time Announcement of Opportunity is being administered by the ESA Herschel Science Centre. Full details and instructions for the AO can be found at following link: [http://herschel.esac.esa.int/ao\\_kp\\_howto.shtml](http://herschel.esac.esa.int/ao_kp_howto.shtml). Due date for proposals is 25 October 2007 12:00 UT.

**NASA Funding Opportunities for US Participation in Herschel Science:** The NASA Herschel Science Center is pleased to announce funding opportunities for US-based investigators in two categories:



1) Funding of US participation in Open Time Key Programs: Key Program Data Analysis (DA/KP) with deadline for proposal submission of 26 October 2007 at 5:00 pm PDT and

2) Theoretical Research (TR) and Laboratory Astrophysics (LA) proposals with deadline of 1 August 2007, 5:00 pm PDT

Full details about how to apply for funding under both the above programs can be found at the following link: [www.ipac.caltech.edu/Herschel/propinfo.shtml](http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/Herschel/propinfo.shtml)

In support of the Key Program Announcement of Opportunity, the NHSC will be holding a Herschel Observation Planning Workshop starting on 18 July 2007. For more information and registration details, please see: [www.ipac.caltech.edu/Herschel/nhsc.shtml](http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/Herschel/nhsc.shtml)

## An Advantageous Way to Donate to the AAS in 2007

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 may help your charitable gift-giving practices in 2007 if you are 75 ½ years old and withdrawing from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Under this new Act, donors will be able to make tax-free withdrawals directly from their IRAs for charitable contributions.

The amendment permits tax-free charitable IRA contributions not exceeding a total of \$100,000 annually per individual or \$200,000 per couple if both hold separate IRA accounts. Donors who have benefited from the un-taxed growth of their IRA now will benefit when making charitable contributions with those funds. Because the donor will not have to recognize income from the withdrawals, their adjusted gross income will be lower, so self-employment and social security taxes will be lower. Other benefits may include elimination of the 3% phase-out of charitable deductions, possible avoidance of the alternative minimum tax, and reduced paper work for those donors who no longer need to itemize their deductions.

### Strategy for Donors

Retirees face significant penalties unless they meet required minimum IRA withdrawals. Charitable contributions made through their IRA in 2007 can be used to satisfy these minimum requirements. Donors may consider using permissible IRA withdrawals for charitable purposes first before making donations with other taxable income.

Financial institutions administering the IRA will be able to process the donation and resulting paperwork so the donation process should be easy. If you have questions about the IRA charitable giving, please e-mail or call the AAS Executive Office.

## Corporate Members Spotlight

Other than our individual membership classes, we have corporate membership classes open to all organizations whose products and services are critical to the advancement of science. We are spotlighting all of our Corporate and Publisher Affiliate members.

### Sustaining Corporate Members

The Boeing Company  
Springer

### Corporate Members

The Aerospace Corporation  
Apogee Instruments, Inc.  
Associated Universities, Inc.  
Astrophysical Research Consortium  
AURA  
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.  
Computer Sciences Corporation  
DFM Engineering, Inc.  
Equinox Interscience  
Eureka Scientific, Inc.  
Gemini Observatory  
Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company  
McDonald Observatory  
NAIC-Arecibo Observatory  
Northrop Grumman  
Optical Structures  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

### Publisher Affiliate Members

Addison-Wesley  
Annual Reviews  
Ansible Technologies, Ltd.  
Astronomical Consultants & Equipment, Inc.  
Astronomical Society of the Pacific  
Astronomy Magazine  
Cambridge University Press  
Elsevier  
L. Davis Press  
Mid-Atlantic Region Space Science Broker  
Nature  
New Track Media LLC  
Princeton University Press  
Stanly E. Black, AIA, Architects  
StarDate  
University of Arizona Press  
University Science Books

Thank you for your contributions to the American Astronomical Society and all disciplines of science.

# Calendar

## AAS & AAS Division Meetings

**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)

**AAS 211 Meeting**  
8-12 January 2008, Austin, TX  
Contact: Kelli Gilmore (gilmore@aas.org)  
[www.aas.org](http://www.aas.org)

**HEAD 2008 Meeting**  
30 Mar-3 April 2008, Los Angeles, CA  
[www.aas.org/head/](http://www.aas.org/head/)

## Other Events

**Workshop on the Science Opportunities for the Warm Spitzer Mission**  
4-5 June 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Lisa Storrie-Lombardi  
(sscwarm@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>

**\*Searching for Strong Lenses in Large Imaging Surveys**  
14-15 June 2007, Batavia, IL  
Contact: Douglas L. Tucker  
(dtucker@fnal.gov)  
<http://ppd.fnal.gov/conferences/stronglensing/Index.htm>

**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/>

**\*The Neutron Star Crust and Surface: Observations and Models**  
25-29 June 2007, Seattle, WA  
Contact: Dany Page  
(page@astroscu.unam.mx)  
[www.int.washington.edu/PROGRAMS/Workshop.html](http://www.int.washington.edu/PROGRAMS/Workshop.html)

**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/>

**\*Origins of Solar Systems**  
8-13 July 2007, South Hadley, MA  
Contact: Lee Hartmann  
(lhartm@umich.edu)  
<http://grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2007&program=origins>

**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)  
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/)

**\*Science in the Era of TMT**  
23-25 July 2007 Irvine, CA  
Contact: Elizabeth Barton  
(ebarton@uci.edu)  
[www.physics.uci.edu/TMT-Workshop](http://www.physics.uci.edu/TMT-Workshop)

**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/>



**Nuclear Astrophysics: Beyond the First 50 Years**

24-28 July 2007, Pasadena, CA  
Contact: Stan Woosley  
(woosley@ucolick.org)  
www.na2007.caltech.edu/

**\*SLAC Summer Institute 2007:  
Dark Matter From Cosmos to the Laboratory**

30 July-10 Aug 2007, Menlo Park, CA  
Contact: Tuncyoshi Kamae  
(kamae@slac.stanford.edu)  
www-conf.slac.stanford.edu/ssi/  
upcomingConferences.htm

**Cosmos in the Classroom 2007**

3-5 August 2007, Claremont, CA  
Contact: Andrew Fraknoi  
(fraknoiandrew@fhda.edu)  
www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.html

**\*5th International X-ray Astronomy School**

6-10 August 2007, Washington, DC  
Contact: Ilana Harrus  
(xrayschool@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov)  
http://xrayschool.gsfc.nasa.gov

**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

**\*70th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society**

13-17 August 2007, Tucson, AZ  
http://metsoc2007.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

**New Perspective on the Interstellar Medium: Summer School 2007**

26-30 Aug 2007, Naramata, Canada  
Contact: Dr. Tom Landecker  
(Tom.Landecker@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)  
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/

**\*Massive Star Formation:  
Observations confront Theory**

10-14 Sept 2007, Heidelberg, Germany  
Contact: Henrik Beuther  
(beuther@mpia.de)  
www.mpia.de/MSF07

**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)

**\*Chandra Fellows Symposium**

10 October 2007, Cambridge, MA  
Contact: Dr. Nancy Ramage Evans  
(nevans@cfa.harvard.edu)  
http://cxc.harvard.edu/fellows/

**\*New Horizons in Astronomy:  
Frank N. Bash Symposium 2007**

14-16 October 2007, Austin, TX  
Contacts: Kurtis Williams  
(kurtis@astro.as.utexas.edu)  
Justyn Maund  
(jrm@astro.as.utexas.edu)  
www.as.utexas.edu/new\_horizons/

**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)

**\*Eight Years of Science with Chandra**

23-25 October 2007, Huntsville, AL  
Contact: Steve O'Dell  
(chandra8@head.cfa.harvard.edu)  
http://cxc.harvard.edu/symposium\_2007

**\*A Population Explosion: The Nature and Evolution of X-ray Binaries in Diverse Environments**

28 Oct-2 Nov 2007, St. Petersburg Beach, FL  
Contact: Reba Bandyopadhyay  
(xraybinary@astro.ufl.edu)  
http://conference.astro.ufl.edu/XRAYBIN/

**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. 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>.



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

Periodical  
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Washington DC

Newsletter 134 May/June 2007

## Washington News

L. Jeremy Richardson, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow  
[richardsonlj@aas.org](mailto:richardsonlj@aas.org)



The cherry blossoms are out, and although the cold weather has made a (hopefully) brief return in April, spring is on the way. With it, thoughts in Washington turn to the federal budget cycle for FY 2008.

Actually, work on the current budget cycle has only recently been completed.

On 15 February 2007, the President signed Public Law 110-005, which provided funding for most federal agencies for FY 2007, over five months after the start of FY 2007. Most agencies were held at FY 2006 levels, but thanks to our advocates on the Hill, science was able to secure significant gains.

Most notably, NSF's Astronomical Sciences Division received the full \$215 million in the President's FY 2007 request (which was 7.5% over the actual FY 2006 budget). Under the President's FY 2008 budget request, AST is slated to increase another 8.3% to \$233 million.

It's worth stressing that these percentages are huge, given the current budget climate: federal discretionary, non-security spending is actually declining by about 1%. In addition to

these increases at NSF, the Department of Energy's Office of Science would see an increase of 15.4% in FY 2008 (compared to the final FY 2007 level), and NIST would increase 21%. These increases are the result of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative, which seeks to double the total budget of these three agencies by 2012.

The picture for NASA and the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) in particular, on the other hand, is murky. The budget for NASA is particularly complicated by two factors. First, NASA has (once again) changed its method of full cost accounting, making it difficult to compare the FY 2007 budget numbers to those for FY 2008.

P.L. 110-005 funded NASA/SMD at \$78.8 million below the President's request for FY 2007. Worse still, the budget for Exploration Capabilities, which supports the Shuttle, International Space Station, and Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle, suffered more than \$500 million in shortfalls for FY 2007. Administrator Mike Griffin testified before Congress in February that this would cause a slip in the first flight of Orion from late 2014 to early 2015.

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