

December
2005
Issue 128

2005-2006 AAS Election

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

If you are eligible to vote, voting instructions are on the insert to this newsletter. Please read the candidate statements carefully and vote. Ballots must be received in the Office of the Secretary by **31 January 2006**.



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AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society



ETHAN VISHNIAC TO BE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *APJ*

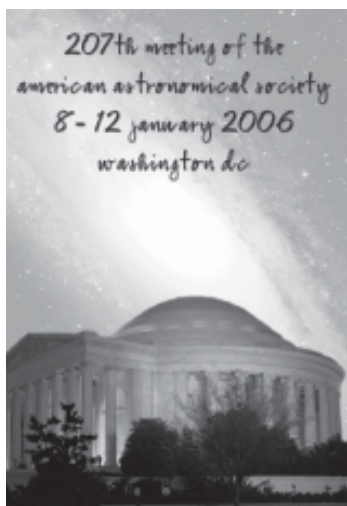
The Council of the American Astronomical Society, in a special meeting on 31 October, approved Professor Ethan T. Vishniac of Johns Hopkins University to succeed Professor Robert C. Kennicutt Jr. of The University of Cambridge as Editor-in-Chief of *The Astrophysical Journal* effective 1 January 2007. A phased transition of editorial responsibilities is currently being planned, but it is expected to take place sometime over the latter part of 2006. Dr. Vishniac's appointment was recommended by a search committee constituted of the Publications Board of the AAS. This search committee was chaired by Dr. Patrick S. Osmer of The Ohio State University.

Dr. Vishniac received his doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University in 1980. He was then a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton, on the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin and a visiting Professor at MIT before moving to The Johns Hopkins University in 1998 where he served as Director of the Center for Astronomical Sciences from 1999 to 2002. He was the 1990 recipient of the Helen B. Warner Prize of the AAS. He has been a Scientific Editor for the *ApJ* since 1997 and an Associate Editor of *ApJ* since 2004.

Further details of the editorial transition plan will be announced in *The Astrophysical Journal*, the March *AAS Newsletter*, in subsequent AAS electronic communications. In the interim, authors should continue to deal with Dr. Kennicutt, in the customary manner.

JANUARY AAS MEETING IN DC – THE LARGEST EVER?

The AAS meeting to be held at the Marriott Wardman Hotel in Washington – 8-12 January 2006 – is shaping up to be the largest and one of the most exciting ever held by the Society. We received 20% more abstracts by the deadline than we had for the San Diego meeting a year ago.



Some Highlights

- The meeting will open with the Russell Lecture by Dr. James E. Gunn of Princeton University.
- NASA administrator, Dr. Michael Griffin, will address the Society on Tuesday, 10 January.
- NSF's Assistant Director for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Dr. Michael Turner, will address the Society on Wednesday, 11 January.
- Prize lectures honoring the Heinemann, Warner, Doggett and Rossi awardees.
- A rich program of invited talks, special sessions and contributed papers.

Special rates have been negotiated for the hotel and these are actually BELOW the government rate for this period. Since access to meeting facilities is provided by the hotel in exchange for an expectation that meeting attendees will stay in the hotel, we ask that you please stay at the Marriott Wardman. The convenience of being in the same hotel where the meeting sessions are held will be considerable. Please note that this is NOT the same hotel where the 2002 Washington meeting was held. The facilities at the Marriott are considerably larger and will accommodate our needs much better.

AAS Executive Office Staff

Robert W. Milkey, Executive Officer
Kevin B. Marvel, Deputy Executive Officer
Susana E. Deustua, Director, Educational Activities
Eboni Bowman, Meetings Registrar/Assistant
Kelli Gilmore, Meetings Manager
Scott Idem, Systems & Network Administrator
Judith M. Johnson, Publications Manager
Shantice Jones, Membership Services Specialist
Debbie L. Kovalsky, Information Systems Manager
Natalie F. Patterson, Financial Assistant
Faye C. Peterson, Manager, Membership Services
Crystal M. Tinch, Publications Specialist

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The \$118.00 annual membership dues for the American Astronomical Society include \$3.00 that is applied toward a subscription to the *AAS Newsletter*. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC.

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

Items of general interest to be considered for publication in the *AAS Newsletter* should be sent to crystal@as.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 ela@as.org.

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

Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

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

AASTeX Homepage:

www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX

User Support: aastex-help@as.org

Journal Homepages/Manuscript

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

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

AAS Email Policy

To unsubscribe from AAS emails, contact address@as.org

For address changes email address@as.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerning the AAS Statement on Evolution

I applaud the excellent AAS statement on evolution and intelligent design (ID) as well as the shorter letter to President Bush. It is important that astronomers and geoscientists, as well as biologists, stand up for teaching real science in our schools. But the AAS statements could have been shorter and more focused if only they had omitted the word “theory.”

Opponents of evolution have framed this issue to our disadvantage by labeling evolution and the concepts of deep time as the “theory of evolution.” “Theory” is the wrong word for a public discussion. As scientists we have all learned that a theory is a systematic set of principles that has been shown to fit the facts, but this definition is no longer consistent with American usage. Today we all use the word “theory” to imply uncertainty and vagueness, a hunch or even a guess. It is therefore no surprise that polls have shown majorities agreeing that “evolution is commonly referred to as the theory of evolution because it has not yet been proven scientifically.”

Those who advocate adding “only a theory” disclaimers in textbooks know that calling evolution a theory undermines its acceptance. Scientists and educators should resist this framing and discuss evolution the same way we discuss plate tectonics or genetics or any other major branch of science, without the phrase “theory of.” I believe that a statement that must begin by defining “theory” in a way that is almost the opposite of common usage will be less effective than one that uses the language in a familiar way. In addition, if we avoided this semantic trap, we could oppose “only a theory” disclaimers honestly, without having to explain why we object to disclaimers that call evolution a theory when we have just stated that a theory is the highest level of scientific understanding.

David Morrison
Saratoga CA

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

WHO SERVED US WELL

Alastair G.W. (Graham Walter) Cameron, 80, one of the great astrophysicists of the 20th century, died of heart failure in Tucson, AZ, on 3 October 2005.

Cameron did fundamental research in astrophysics, planetary sciences, and meteoritics. He was among the first to develop the theory of nucleosynthesis—the production of the chemical elements in stars—and to advocate that the formation of the moon resulted from a giant impact on the early Earth by an object at least the size of Mars.

Among his many awards and medals of recognition for his contribution to the sciences was the R.M. Petrie Prize Lecture Award from the Canadian Astronomical Society in 1970, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, awarded in 1983, the J. Lawrence Smith Medal from the National Academy of Sciences in 1988, the Harry H. Hess Medal from the American Geophysical Union in 1989, the Leonard Medal from the Meteoritical Society for his outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics in 1994, and the Russell Lecturer prize from the AAS, awarded to him in 1997 for a lifetime of preeminence in astronomical research.

MEMBER DEATHS

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

Norman Baker
Barry LaBonte
Philip C. Stanger

Richard B. Dunn
Andy Lubenow

HONORED ELSEWHERE

AAS Members Among American Academy Inductees

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences officially welcomed its 225th class of Fellows in October.

The new Fellows who are astronomers include **David C. Jewitt**, professor of astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; **Frederick K. Lamb**, professor of physics and astronomy and Fortner Endowed Chair in Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **Andrew Evan Lange**, Goldberger Professor of Physics at the California Institute of Technology; **Michael Lester Norman**, professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego; and **Steven W. Squyres**, Goldwin Smith Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an independent research center that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. Current Academy research focuses on: science and global security; social policy; the humanities and culture; and education. With headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Academy's work is advanced by its 4,600 elected members, who are leaders in the academic disciplines, the arts, business and public affairs from around the world.

AAS Meeting - Calgary, Alberta

4-8 June 2006

**Deadlines for Special and Topical
Session Proposals have been extended
as follows:**

**Topical Session Proposals
7 December 2005**

**Special Session Proposals
15 December 2005**

COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

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

AASWOMEN Listserv Moves to the AAS

As noted in the last *AAS Newsletter*, the CSWA has moved its listserv from STScI to its new home at the AAS. We would once again like to thank STScI for its accommodation of the listserv for the past five years, and Susana Deustua for all her help in getting things set up at the AAS. The *new* instructions for submitting, subscribing, or unsubscribing to *AASWOMEN* are as follows:

To submit to AASWOMEN:

Send email to aaswomen@aaas.org

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

To subscribe to AASWOMEN:

Send email to majordomo@aaas.org with message in the BODY
subscribe aaswlist yourusername@youraddress

To unsubscribe to AASWOMEN:

Send email to majordomo@aaas.org with message in the BODY
unsubscribe aaswlist yourusername@youraddress

If you are accustomed to receiving our newsletters and find that you no longer are, please don't hesitate to email me at knezek@noao.edu and I'll work with you to find out what happened. Also, back issues of *AASWOMEN* (as well as our bi-annual magazine, *STATUS*), are available off of the CSWA web site, <http://www.aas.org/~cswa/>. Click on the link called "Committee Publications."

The January 2006 AAS Meeting

The CSWA will be holding a session on Wednesday, 11 January 2006 at the Washington D.C. AAS Meeting. The session is still being organized, but one focus will be the Second International Conference on Women in Physics that was held 23-26 May 2005 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We will also discuss the latest progress on the Pasadena Recommendations. Details will be provided in *AASWOMEN* Newsletters as the date approaches.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

VICE-PRESIDENT (vote for one)

Candidates:

Robert W. O'Connell

Faith Vilas

Duties of a Vice-President:

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

Term: three (3) years

Current Vice-Presidents:

Chris Impey*

Wallace L.W. Sargent

Paul A. Vanden Bout

**term expires 2006*

Robert W. O'Connell

Nominated Office: Vice President

Affiliation: University of Virginia

Position: John Downman Hamilton Professor of Astronomy

PhD: Caltech, 1970

Areas of scientific interest: Stellar populations, galaxy evolution, starbursts, cluster cooling flows, UV astronomy

AAS positions and dates: AAS Investments Advisory Committee 1994-1997

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: Chair, Astronomy Dept. 1979-85, 1988-1989, 1995-1999; KPNO Users Committee 1980-1983; NASA MOWGs 1981-1984, 1993-1997; Co-Chair, LOC, AAS Meeting June 1985; HST Users Committee 1990-91; Chair, AURA Observatories Visiting Committee 1990-2; NSF Astronomy Division Committee, 2003-present; Chair, Scientific Oversight Committee HST Wide Field Camera 3, 1998-present

Statement: Astronomy is approaching yet another interesting crossroads in public support. First, budgets for astronomy at both NSF and NASA are showing strain, and both agencies are hurriedly re-ordering their funding priorities. It is not clear that this will preserve the process by which we have constructed a carefully balanced set of consensus decadal priorities, a process which has been remarkably successful in marshaling public resources for astronomy.

Second, in an astonishing development for a time when a large fraction of the GDP of the country depends on applications of quantum physics, the very foundations of empirical science, including astronomy, are under attack by special interest groups. These groups have proved to be tenacious, politically clever, and well organized, and their influence now extends to the highest

political levels. The response of scientific societies like the AAS cannot be anything less than equally persistent and organized.

AAS meetings must continue to be excellent forums for stimulating and consolidating research, for fostering the careers of young scientists, and for public outreach. Over the next few years we must also be sure that they are arranged so that we can come to grips with these larger issues facing our community.

Faith Vilas

Nominated Office: Vice President

Affiliation: MMT Observatory

Position: Director

PhD: University of Arizona, 1984

Areas of scientific interest: solar system evolution from mineralogy and surface properties of planetary bodies; instrumentation

AAS positions and dates: Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference and Space Debris 1991-1997, Public Policy Committee 1998-2001, Division for Planetary Sciences: 1997-1998 Prize Committee Chair, 1996-1997 Chair, 1995-1996 Vice-Chair, 1992-1995 Secretary-Treasurer, 1988-1991 Nominating Subcommittee Member (1990-1991 Chair), Status 1993-1995 Editor

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: 2001-2002 NASA Headquarters Discovery Program Scientist, NEAR Data Analysis Program Discipline Scientist

Statement: Planetary science and astronomy increasingly overlap as the number of known extrasolar planets grows along with our ability to study them, as we extend our knowledge of the Solar System into the Kuiper Belt and find analogues around other stars, and as the characterization of interstellar dust extends from telescopic observations to meteorite studies and *in situ* observations. We have an opportunity to educate scientists across both fields. As AAS Vice-President, my primary responsibility is to plan the scientific content of the AAS meetings. In this role, I will ensure that our AAS meetings contain the latest in these exciting areas of overlap. Towards this end, I am able to offer my professional experience, ranging from observational astronomy to meteoritics and instrumentation, as well as a person broadly knowledgeable of the planetary community.

As astronomers, we provide important input to our governmental representatives on funding initiatives and the implementation of goals laid out in our decadal surveys. We must also be vigilant and strong advocates for our profession. I believe in the advocacy role of the AAS, and as Vice-President, I offer my experience as a planetary activist to the broader astronomical community as a member of the AAS Council.

EDUCATION OFFICER (vote for one)

Candidates:

Richard McCray

Timothy F. Slater

Duties of the Education Officer:

- Responsible, under the direction of Council, for the coordination and oversight of all educational activities of the Society;

- Serves on the Council; and
- Chairs the Council-appointed committee which will advise the Council regarding the education programs of the Society

Current Education Officer:

George D. Nelson

Term expires June 2006

Richard McCray

Nominated Office: AAS Education Officer

Affiliation: University of Colorado

Position: Professor Emeritus

PhD: UCLA, 1967

Areas of scientific interest: Supernova Theory and Observation

AAS positions and dates: Councilor 1980-83, Chairman, Head 1986-87, Heineman Prize Committee 1993-96, Tinsley Prize Committee 1994-97

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS:

National Academy of Sciences 1989 – Chair, NRC Committee on Undergraduate Science Education 2001-2003, National Science Foundation Distinguished Teaching Scholar 2002 -

Statement: Education is astronomy’s strong suit. Compared to physics, chemistry, or biology, the fruits of astronomical research are especially accessible to students and the general public. People are attracted to astronomy, not only by the splendid images that we gather from telescopes on the ground and in space, but also by the profound questions about cosmic structure and evolution that we can address. The fact that the public has provided us with support to build the splendid array of telescopes we enjoy is evidence that we have played these cards pretty well.

But of course, we should always try to do better. It’s an intriguing challenge to me to think of how I might help this process along as AAS Education Officer. During the past few years, I have spent a fair amount of my time learning about education issues. As a result, I know that we have no shortage of talented people who are dedicated to improving astronomy education. We do have a shortage of funds to support their work, however, and my first priority would be to try to increase the level of support for education through both public and private agencies.

Timothy F. Slater

Nominated Office: AAS Education Officer

Affiliation: University of Arizona, Steward Observatory, Department of Astronomy.

Position: Associate Professor of Astronomy.

Ph.D.: University of South Carolina, 1993.

Areas of scientific interest: research on teaching and learning of astronomy at K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and general public levels

AAS Positions and Dates: none

Other experiences and positions relevant to service in the AAS:

Astronomy Education Committee Chair (served two 2-year terms) for American Association of Physics Teachers, 1997-2001; elected board member of Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 2004-2006; elected President of the NSTA-affiliated Association of Astronomy Educators, 2001-2006; provide college-level teaching excellence

workshops at AAS meetings, 2001-present; provided K-12 teacher workshops at AAS meetings, 1998-2001; Program Chair for ASP 2005 meeting on Astronomy Education and Public Outreach, 2005.

Statement: The AAS plays a vital role in supporting and extending the education efforts of its members. As AAS Education Officer, I would be privileged to support these important efforts through a variety of avenues and policy work. Our society is deeply committed to teaching and mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and early career scientists pursuing professional careers in astronomy and I will work with the AEB to develop workshops at AAS meetings that support a comprehensive mentoring program.

Our members are uniquely qualified to provide support to K-12 teachers, introductory astronomy college and university faculty, museum and planetarium educators, and industry partners involved in education. As education officer, I can multiply these efforts by strengthening education sessions at AAS meetings that provide opportunities for our members to share successful approaches and lessons learned.

Similarly, we can develop grant-writing seminars to assist members secure grant funding for the education projects. Effective education projects help fill the needed pipeline of future scientists and improve the public’s understanding and perception of science. I will help foster partnerships with other professional societies to leverage their infrastructures to increase the quality and quantity of astronomy teaching and learning nationally, such as the 2007 winter AAS meeting convening with AAPT where AAS members can interact with hundreds of high school physics teachers who rarely attend AAS meetings.

COUNCILORS (vote for no more than 3)

Candidates:

Megan Donahue

Martin Elvis

Margaret M. Hanson

Karen J. Meech

John S. Mulchaey

Marc Postman

Duties of Councilors:

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

Current Councilors:

Todd A. Boroson*

Carol A. Christian*

Alycia J. Weinberger*

Jill Bechtold

Karen S. Bjorkman

Alan M. Title

Lee Hartmann

Suzanne L. Hawley

James S. Ulvestad

**term expires June 2006*

Megan Donahue

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: Michigan State University, Physics & Astronomy Department

Position: Associate Professor

PhD: University of Colorado 1990

Areas of scientific interest: Clusters of galaxies, cosmology, galaxy formation, multi-wavelength observations

AAS positions and dates: n/a

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS:

Co-author of a popular undergraduate textbook for non-majors (Cosmic Perspective and Essential Cosmic Perspective, Addison-Wesley); Spitzer Oversight Committee (2005-present); NOAO TAC, 2004-present; Chandra Review panel chair, including budget review 2000, 2002; Spitzer panel chair, 2004; Chandra Science Users' Committee (1998-2001); NVO Science Steering Committee (2004-present); XMM Users Committee (2003-present); Joint Dark Energy Mission Science Definition Team (2004-present); GSFC Space Science Directorate Visiting Committee on Data Analysis and Archiving (2002); High Energy Archive Users Group (1996-2000); ADF/ADC Scientific Steering Committee (1997-2002; chair 2001-2002); NASA Astrophysics Subcommittee (1991-1995); 5 NASA time allocation committees (ROSAT, ASCA, ASTRO-E); Hubble Fellow review (1998); Chandra Fellow review (2000); LTSA review (1996); director of the Women's Science Forum at Space Telescope (1993-2003).

Statement: The AAS meetings, the Job Register, the email alerts and newsletters have affected the options and careers of all of us, but are of particular importance to the young astronomers. The policies adopted by the AAS have made a major and positive impact in the hiring of post-docs and faculty, in organizing the voice of astronomy in regards to budget, science, and education policies at the national level, and in supporting the needs of a diverse and demanding community. I will encourage the AAS to increase its engagement of its youngest members in its concerns and its activities.

A few of the challenges facing the AAS are the status of astronomy in federal budgets and policies, the increasingly shrill assault on science and how science is done, and the lack of minorities in science. The role of the AAS is critical: we must be clear, we must be vocal, we must be inclusive, and it helps to be right – our policy advice should be informed by both research and experience. The AAS will over this time increase its representation of women and minorities, and will steadfastly defend the foundation of science: free and effective scientific inquiry.

Martin Elvis

Nominated Office: Councilor

Affiliation: Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory)

Position: Senior Astrophysicist

PhD: University of Leicester (UK), 1978

Areas of scientific Interest: AGNs and quasars, esp. SEDs, obscuration and winds; the Intergalactic Medium; X-ray astronomy; multiwavelength astronomy.

AAS Positions and dates: High Energy Astrophysics Division Chair: 1994-1995; Heinemann Prize Committee: 2004-2006.

Other experience relevant to service in the AAS: Chair HEAD divisional meetings: 1994, 1996; Member, then Chair, Space Telescope Users Committee: 2002-2004, 2005-2006; AAS Special Session Organizer: 2004, 2005.

Statement: As an AAS Council member I'd intend to be active in promoting the Society as a whole: A surprising number of US astronomers are not AAS members; Why not? How do we encourage them to join? Do the summer AAS meetings give members value for money? They haven't been re-thought in 15 years, maybe it's time. How do we broaden US astronomy to include more minorities and women? Perhaps we should move from encouragement and good wishes to a detailed study of where the problem lies?

My track record as past Chair of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the AAS gives me the credentials for this position. During my chair-ship we: re-instituted Divisional meetings after a 20 year gap; doubled the Divisional membership, increased the value of the Rossi prize by 50%, enabled email voting, changed the bylaws to have 2-year terms for HEAD offices, and re-invigorated the dull business session by turning them into Town Hall meetings with key NASA HQ figures.

I've continued to be active in AAS matters, recently organizing two special sessions at AAS meetings one on the least dense and one on the most dense matter in the universe: "The Warm-Hot Intergalactic Medium" and "Extreme Physics from Compact Objects". I've observed with telescopes from 21cm to GeV; and I am Chair of the Space Telescope Users Committee, so I have a pretty broad view of our field and believe I can serve the whole AAS membership.

Margaret M. Hanson

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: University of Cincinnati, Department of Physics

Position: Associate Professor of Physics

PhD: University of Colorado, Boulder, 1995

Areas of scientific interest: Massive Stars and Clusters, Star Formation, Galactic Structure and Infrared Observations

AAS positions and dates: Nominating Committee, 2002-2004 (Chair 2004)

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: NSF Panels 2000, 2001, 2005 (Chair); NOAO Telescope Allocation Committee 2002-2004 (Chair 2004); Associate Editor, THE ASTRONOMICAL JOURNAL, 2005-2007

Statement: The role of the AAS councilors is to provide expertise for successful functioning of the Society and a broad voice to represent the Society as a whole. The Society's journals (*AJ* and *ApJ*) are its main source of income. With Chris Sneden moving off the council in 2005, I can provide expertise on the running of our Society's journals. I attend most editors' meetings and all Publication Board meetings. Through frequent meetings and teleconference calls with the other editors, Bob Milkey and the UC Press, I am aware of press industry innovations and global changes being considered by our journals. I am representative of the enormous fraction of active research astronomers working outside the large, well-represented astronomical institutions and

departments. The concerns and perspectives of these researchers are relevant to many Society issues that emerge at the council meetings. I have demonstrated responsibility chairing AAS sessions, NSF panels, the NOAO TAC and most recently the AAS Nomination Committee. I have attended past council meetings, so I am familiar with its duties. I have enjoyed serving the AAS and would be honored to serve the Society as a council member.

Karen J. Meech

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: Institute for Astronomy, Univ. of Hawaii

Position: Astronomer

PhD: MIT 1987

Areas of scientific interest: Comets, Outer Solar System, Astrobiology

AAS positions and dates: DPS Committee - 1996-19999, USNC for IAU – 1998-2001

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: IAU Commission 51 (Bioastronomy) VP 2000-2003, Pres. 2003-2005, AAVSO Council 2002-2007; ASP Board 2001-2004; Solar Sys. Explor Sci's Committee 2004-2006, Planetary Decadal Study (NAS) Mars Panel 2001-2003, Committee on Lunar & Planetary Exploration (COMPLEX) 1998-2003, Fed. Of Astrobiology Organizations (FAO) 2004-present; Annie Jump Cannon Prize Committee 1995-1997 (chair, 1997); IAU member of the Working Group on Extra Solar Planets (WGESP) 2001-pres NASAIRTF/Keck MOWG (1996-1998); Space Telescope User's Committee (2002-2004); HST Cycle 11, 12 planetary TAC chair

Statement: The AAS is a professional society which serves its constituents by promoting astronomy through input and influence in the arena of public policy, maintaining an active presence in the development and direction of space missions and the ground-based and earth-orbital observing infrastructure. Additionally, the society plays a strong role in promoting the future of our community by training the next generation of astronomers, by fostering and encouraging the development of a rich variety of education and public outreach programs, and by promoting participation by our younger members and helping to facilitate their employment. As a councilor, one serves as part of our society's governing board, with the responsibility to help direct the society and oversee its health, vitality and growth. The council must be proactive in addressing the needs of the membership as well as responsive to factors which affect us on short timescales (e.g. budget crises, grants program issues, space missions and orbital facilities). My experience with extensive E/PO, space missions, participation in numerous committees and boards and my recent involvement in interdisciplinary science as PI of one of the NASA Astrobiology Institute lead teams, gives me the perspective to make unique contributions to the council.

John S. Mulchaey

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: Carnegie Observatories

Position: Staff Astronomer

PhD: University of Maryland, College Park 1994

Areas of scientific interest: Groups and Clusters of Galaxies, AGN, Elliptical Galaxies, Quasar Absorption Lines

AAS positions and dates: *ApJ* Scientific Editor, 7/2005-present

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: Chair: NOAO TAC, 2003-present, Member: Chandra TAC, 2002 & 2004, Member: HST TAC, 1996 & 2003, Member: NSF Career Awards Selection Committee, 2003, Member: Magellan Scientific Advisory Committee, 2003-present, Member: NASA Medium-Class Explorer (MIDEX) peer review, 2002, Member: NOAO TAX, 1999-2002, Member: NSF peer review, 1998, Member: NASA Long Term Space Astrophysics (LTSA) peer review, 1997, Member: ASCA peer review, 1995 & 1998, Member: RXTE peer review, 1995

Statement: I believe my background has prepared me well for a position on the AAS Council. My research involves extensive use of both ground-based and space-based facilities from radio to X-ray wavelengths. I have worked extensively with both public and private facilities and understand the important role each play in astronomical research. Therefore, I am acutely aware of the needs of a significant fraction of our community. I also have a long history of dedicated service to our profession including many years as a member of the NOAO TAC and my current position as an *ApJ* scientific editor.

My priorities will include: 1) Lobbying to expand government funding for astronomical research. The current golden age of discovery has only been possible because sufficient resources have been dedicated to our field. 2) Sustaining a healthy job market for the next generation of astronomers. We must act now to ensure a strong job market after the end of the HST, Chandra and Spitzer missions. 3) Maintaining the integrity of our scientific journals. As we adapt to the new era of electronic publishing and the ability to easily distribute new information (e.g. astro-ph), the peer review process is more important than ever.

Marc Postman

Nominated Office: AAS Councilor

Affiliation: Space Telescope Science Institute

Position: Head, Community Missions Office; Full Astronomer

PhD: Harvard University, 1986

Areas of scientific interest: formation and evolution of galaxies and large-scale structure

AAS positions and dates: None to date

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: Member of AAS since 1983. Chair of LOC for IAU Symposium 179 in 1996, IAU Working Group on Sky Surveys (1998-99) Chair, Extragalactic Science Working Group for Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope (2000-2001), Chair of STScI Scientific Staff (2003-2004), Participant/Discussion Leader at 2004 NOAO "Building the System" Meeting

Statement: We are fortunate to live in a country that devotes substantial amounts of its national resources to scientific research. Everyone benefits from this investment in the long run. In our field, the past decade has seen the deployment of many technically amazing facilities, on the ground and in space, that our community has used so effectively to produce many breakthroughs in astrophysics. And yet we are entering a challenging period for U.S. astronomy. The NASA budget for space science and astronomy is under substantial stress. The NSF is conducting a careful review of its priorities. At the same time, there is a potential for greater inter-agency cooperation between NSF, NASA, and

DOE. The AAS has a responsibility to be a clear and strong voice for the community in informing the U.S. government of our collective priorities for astronomical research and new facilities in the coming decade. As your councilor, I will work with you through the AAS to make your priorities known to our government representatives and the public they serve. I will also work with the Society leadership to encourage improved cooperation between our government science agencies.

Promoting science in K-12 is essential to producing future generations of U.S. citizens that are prepared to make informed decisions about complex societal and political issues. There are increasing pressures against the full dissemination of modern scientific knowledge in many public schools. I believe the AAS has a duty to promote those components of this knowledge that deal with astronomy and space science. If elected, I will strive to ensure the AAS continues its good work in supporting education and public outreach in astronomy. It is an essential part of what we do as scientists.

USNC-IAU, CATEGORY I (vote for one)

Candidates:

Lynne Hillenbrand
James W. Truran

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

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

Term: three (3) years

Lynne Hillenbrand

Nominated Office: USNC-IAU

Affiliation: Caltech

Position: Professor of Astronomy (Assistant)

PhD: University of Massachusetts, 1995

Areas of scientific Interest: Young stellar populations, star and planet formation

AAS Positions and dates: none

Other experience relevant to service in the AAS: Numerous NRC, NASA, and NSF Advisory Committees as well as various science steering committees, users groups, telescope allocation committees, scientific organizing committees, funding peer reviews, etc.

Statement: The fostering of worldwide cooperation in astronomy is a defining tenet of the IAU. The USNC promotes the activities of the IAU within the United States and represents US astronomy and astronomers to the IAU. In these times of great, and greatly expensive, astronomical ambition, both cognizance of and presence on the world scene are more important than ever to achieving our collective science goals. Astronomy – above all other sciences it can be argued – knows no international boundaries. The IAU as our governing body provides the medium

for important international dialogs in research, education, and diversity. If elected I will strive to fulfill these duties.

James W. Truran

Nominated Office: USNC-IAU

Affiliation: University of Chicago

Position: Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics

PhD: Yale University, Physics 1965

Areas of scientific Interest: Nucleosynthesis, Supernovae and Novae, Chemical Evolution

AAS Positions and dates: none

Other experience relevant to service in the AAS: Attendance at five IAU General Assemblies, from Brighton (1970) to Manchester (2003), Co-organizer of IAU Symposium 186, on Cosmic Chemical Evolution, Organizer of AAS Workshop on Type Ia Supernovae at the Spring 2005 Minneapolis Meeting

Statement: The IAU plays an important role in the organization of international meetings, which provide broad opportunities for communications and interactions of astronomers and astrophysicists on a global scale. I have profited considerably from my attendance at a number of IAU Symposia and IAU General Assemblies, and I have served as organizer of or on the advisory committees of IAU symposia. Contacts and interactions at IAU sponsored events have led as well to many fruitful scientific interactions and collaborations. I would be pleased to assist the IAU in the continuation of their programs, in the organization of symposia, and in such other activities as might arise, and to represent the interests of the membership of the American Astronomical Society as participants in IAU events.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (vote for no more than two)

Candidates:

Christine M. Clement

Nancy R. Evans

Angela V. Olinto

Robert E. Williams

Duties of Nominating Committee:

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

Current Members:

David S. De Young, Chair*

John Bally

Andrea K. Dupree*

Melissa McGrath

Lee G. Mundy

Term: three (3) years; *term expires 2006

Christine Clement

Nominated Office: AAS Nominating Committee

Affiliation: Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Toronto

Position: Associate Professor

PhD: University of Toronto 1967

Areas of scientific interest: Variable Stars in Globular Clusters and Related Systems

AAS positions and dates:

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS:

Statement: Throughout the last decade, I have taught introductory astronomy courses with enrolments as high as 400 per semester. For assistance in organizing these courses, I have found the AAS meetings to be a valuable resource. At the scientific sessions, I have the opportunity to get the latest information from experts on a wide variety of topics, from Caroline Herschel to type Ia supernovae, while the special sessions on education provide fresh ideas on how to motivate students in large classes.

If I am elected to the nominating committee, I will endeavor to nominate candidates who value this tradition of high scientific quality at AAS meetings.

Nancy Ramage Evans

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: SAO

Position: Astrophysicist (Chandra X-ray Center)

PhD: 1974, University of Toronto

Areas of scientific interest: Cepheids, binarics, massive stars, star clusters

AAS Positions and dates: none

Other experience relevant to service in the AAS: Board of Directors, Canadian Astronomical Society (2002-2005); Subcommittee on Space Astronomy, Canadian Astronomical Society (1990-1993); IUE Users' Committee (1989-1992); IUE Reprocessing Committee (1987-1992)

Statement: As a professional society, the AAS plays an important role in focusing the efforts of astronomers in interactions with government, in developing national and international projects, in conveying the thrill of new advances to the public and in coordinating information for students on training and opportunities. It has been my personal pleasure to participate in the opening of new wavelengths using satellites and the parallel opportunities for related careers. In recent years this has included extensive involvement with proposal reviews both from the inside in the organization of Chandra peer reviews and as a participant in numerous panels (HST, IUE, EUVE, NSF, and NASA). In addition, running the Chandra Postdoctoral Fellowship program has provided continuing admiration for the exciting work of young scientists.

Identifying scientists to lead the AAS in its many diverse activities is an important step in meeting the challenges in the coming years, and also in bringing superb new projects to fruition.

Angela V. Olinto

Nominated Office: Nominating Committee

Affiliation: The University of Chicago

Position: Chair of Astronomy & Astrophysics, & Associate Professor

PhD: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1987

Areas of scientific interest: Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology

AAS Positions and dates: 2001-2003 Member of Tinsley Prize Committee, 2003-2004 Chair of the Tinsley Prize Committee

Other experience relevant to service in the AAS: 2003-present: member of the Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee; 2002-present: trustee of the Aspen Center for Physics, 2001: fellow of the APS, 1992-1994: Secretary Treasurer of the Division of Astrophysics, APS

Statement: The American Astronomical Society plays a fundamental role in organizing our community to ensure the advancement of astronomy and closely related fields. In addition to fomenting scientific exchange through the AAS meetings and journals, the AAS has taken on the challenge of educating the public and the political leadership of the country on the priorities of the field and concern of the astronomical community. Given the present challenges facing the scientific endeavor as a whole, the role of a strong voice for astronomy has become even more vital.

As a member of the nominating committee, I will help identify and recruit the best leadership for the society. A visionary and committed AAS leadership is key in securing the broad participation of the astronomical community and a continued commitment to building the best future for astronomy worldwide.

Robert Williams

Nominated Office: AAS Nominating Committee

Affiliation: STSci

Position: Distinguished Research Scholar

PhD: University of Wisconsin 1965

Areas of scientific interest: Spectroscopy; Novae; Atomic Processes; Nebulae

AAS positions and dates: AAS Vice-President 2001-04; CAPP 1994-2005

Other experience and positions relevant to service in the AAS: IAU Vice-President 2000-06, AUI Board of Directors 1997-2003

Statement: In recent years the AAS has had very good success in fulfilling its mission to facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster communication and collaborations among the community. It has also done an excellent job in working to educate the public about astronomy and it has been effective in the political area. It is important that the Society maintain its efforts in all these areas, and an essential element of its success must be continually bringing new people into the process. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I would be pleased to contribute to recruiting members from across the spectrum of the Society who have the ability and are willing to serve in its various offices and committees.

DIVISION NEWS

HISTORICAL ASTRONOMY DIVISION (HAD)

Don Yeomans, Chair, hadchair@aas.org

The 32nd History of Astronomy Division (HAD) meeting took place in Cambridge, England in conjunction with our colleagues from the Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS). Each of four plenary DPS sessions began with a special introductory address by a notable historian. The Cassini/Huygens mission science session began with a talk by Albert van Helden of Utrecht University, The Netherlands, entitled “Saturn through the Telescope: the First Century.” The DPS session on Mars began with an address by BAA historian and planetary observer Richard McKim on the “History of the Martian Dust Storms” and the DPS session on the SMART 1 lunar mission began with a talk entitled “Shooting the Moon: A Personal Look at Hypotheses on the Origin of Lunar Craters” by Deep Impact scientist and historian Peter Schultz. The Deep Impact mission results session began with a paper entitled “Caroline Herschel as an Observer” by the fourth HAD Doggett prize winner, Michael Hoskins of Churchill College, Cambridge University.

Speaking of Doggett prize winners, an announcement was made during the HAD/DPS meeting that Steven Dick, the NASA Chief Historian, will be the fifth Leroy E. Doggett Prize awardee. Steve is being honored for his distinguished career and a publication record that has significantly influenced the field of the history of astronomy. The HAD will present Dr. Dick with the Doggett Prize, and he will deliver the Doggett Prize Address, at the January 2006 HAD meeting in Washington, DC.

Steve Dick’s career as a historian of astronomy spans more than twenty-five years during which he has become one of the most respected scholars in the field. He established his reputation with his tremendously productive research in the history of ideas of extraterrestrial life. This has resulted in the publication of three books on the subject, all by Cambridge University Press: *Plurality of Worlds: The Origins of the Extraterrestrial Life Debate from Democritus to Kant* (1983), *The Biological Universe, the Twentieth Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate, and the Limits of Science* (1996), and *Life on Other Worlds: The Twentieth Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate* (1998). His other major career work has been his history of the United States Naval Observatory, *Sky and Ocean Joined* (Cambridge, 2003), an exceptional book that is essential reading for all historians of astronomy. His many other co-edited volumes and historical papers stand as a testament to his important contributions to our discipline.

At the Cambridge meeting, the HAD sessions were well attended with roughly half the audience being made up of interested DPS members (future HAD members??); DPS member Dale Cruickshank delivered an historical talk on G.P. Kuiper, Phil Nicholson did some applied historical astronomy for his “Ring Plane Crossing and Saturn’s Pole Precession,” and Jay Holberg presented “The Discovery of the First White Dwarf: Sirius B.” The many other contributed papers ran the gamut from Historical Supernovae (F.R. Richardson), Origins of the Greek constellations (B. Schaefer), “Credentialing Kepler: Transits in the Seventeenth Century” (O. Gingerich), Nick Kollerstrom’s talk on the “Post Discovery Neptune debates” – including the theft of John Adams’ papers by a prominent astronomer, and early radio astronomy at Cambridge and Jodrell Bank (G.P. Smith, J.E. Baldwin, S. Mitton, R. Davies, A. Gunn, W. Sullivan). An invited lecture by Professor Helge Kragh, of Aarhus University, Denmark, discussed the development of ideas on cosmology and whether the universe has always existed or had a creation time.

Kindly arranged by Simon Mitton, the HAD group and a few DPS guests went on an afternoon excursion to visit the historic optical and radio observatories of Cambridge and the Cavendish laboratory, including the apparatus used to discover the electron and neutron.

Photo 1: Professor Helge Kragh, of Aarhus University, Denmark discusses the development of cosmological ideas, including the steady state and big bang theories. **Photo 2:** Peter Abrahams gave a talk on “The Early Observatory Telescopes of Carl Zeiss” and he is shown here in front of some of the historic radio telescopes at Cambridge near Lord’s Bridge. **Photo 3:** Phil Nicholson delivers an interesting talk on the use of historic observations of Saturn’s ring plane crossings to determine a precession rate



for the ring plane of $-0.5''$ per year. **Photo 4:** Recent Doggett Prize awardee, Steven Dick, presented an historical talk entitled "NASA and the Search for Planetary Systems." He is seen here next to the wooden tube of the Northumberland Equatorial telescope at Cambridge – perhaps best known for its use by Challis is observing (but not recognizing) Neptune before it was discovered a few days later by D'Arrest and Galle in Germany (based on Leverrier's predictions). **Photo 5:** Re-enacting the falling of an apple upon Newton's head at Cambridge and his resulting inspiration for the law of gravitational attraction, Woody Sullivan is seen here about to get bonked by a ripe red apple at Cambridge's Institute for Astronomy. There has been no word yet on any resulting brilliant inspirations.

DIVISION ON DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY (DDA)

Marc Murison

Secretary, DDA, ddasec@aaas.org

2006 Meeting of the Division on Dynamical Astronomy

The DDA will hold its annual Meeting at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mark your calendars for 25-29 June 2006 and plan to visit this wonderful destination in Atlantic Canada. All astronomers and planetary scientists who use dynamical data, or modeling, in their research will find the annual DDA Meeting a stimulating and rewarding experience. The DDA exists to advance all aspects of dynamical astronomy, which includes: celestial mechanics and planetary dynamics (e.g., comets and asteroids, planetary rings and satellites, extrasolar planets, etc.), star and planet formation, star clusters and stellar dynamics, the interstellar medium, galactic dynamics, cosmology, as well as coordinate systems and astrometry.

The Meeting will feature invited review talks on a range of topics in dynamical astronomy, contributed oral papers (no parallel sessions), and poster papers which are displayed through the entire meeting.

Halifax is readily accessible by air from many major cities, including Boston, New York, Detroit, Toronto, Montreal, and cities in Europe. We have arranged for affordable and convenient local accommodation. For information on the DDA Meeting, and links to Halifax local and travel information, please see:
<http://dda.harvard.edu/meetings/2006/>

Meeting organizers are Joe Hahn, jhahn@ap.smu.ca, and Matt Holman, mholman@cfa.harvard.edu, (LOC), Stephen Unwin, stephen.unwin@jpl.nasa.gov, and Marc Murison, murison@usno.navy.mil, (SOC).

Call for Brouwer Award Nominations

The Brouwer Award Selection Committee (BASC) of the DDA invites nominations from any member of the AAS for an annual award competition. The Brouwer Award recognizes outstanding

contributions to the field of dynamical astronomy, including celestial mechanics, astrometry, stellar systems, galactic and extragalactic dynamics. It is open to candidates of any age or nationality, occupation, or specific field of interest. The Award consists of an honorarium of \$2000 plus an appropriate certificate.

Letters of nomination should cite the achievements in or contributions to dynamical astronomy that might appropriately be recognized by the Award. Nominations should be supported by copies of the vitae and bibliography of the nominee and by letters of recommendation from three knowledgeable people testifying to the long-term impact of the nominee's contributions to dynamical astronomy. Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to the BASC Chair (from whom further information may be obtained) so as to be received not later than 31 December 2005: Dr. Robin M. Canup, Southwest Research Institute, 1050 Walnut St., Suite 426, Boulder, CO 80302-5143, robin@boulder.swri.edu. Additional information regarding the Brouwer Award may also be found at the DDA web site.

DDA Student Stipend Program

For the twelfth consecutive year, the Division is making available two student stipends to encourage student participation at the annual meetings held each spring. The stipends are \$550 each, and meeting registration and abstract fees are waived. Any full or part-time student presently enrolled in an academic program at a college or university is eligible and encouraged to apply. For the 2006 meeting, submit an abstract of a paper for presentation, along with a letter of recommendation from an adviser, to: Dr. David Merritt, Department of Physics, Rochester Institute of Technology, 54 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-5603, merritt@astro.rit.edu.

NEWS FROM...

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Eileen D. Friel, efriel@nsf.gov
Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences

Upcoming Deadlines for FY2006 funding:

6 January 2006: NSF/DOE Partnership in Basic Plasma Science and Engineering - See program solicitation NSF 05-619 and contact Nigel Sharp (nsharp@nsf.gov) for more information.

20 January 2006: Program for Research and Education with Small Telescopes (PREST) - See program solicitation NSF 04-557.

26 January 2006: Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) - See program solicitation NSF 05-515. Please note that cost sharing is no longer required for the MRI program.

Town meetings for Senior Review at the AAS Meeting

In addition to the regularly scheduled NSF town meeting at the January AAS meeting in Washington, we will be holding an evening session devoted entirely to the Senior Review. We expect many of the members of the review committee to be in attendance at the AAS, and we encourage you to attend the town meeting to share your views with them and with us. Please check the AAS program for time and location of the evening session. Contact Eileen Friel at efriel@nsf.gov for more information.

NSF Senior Review Update

Dear Colleagues,

At the time of writing, we have held our first two senior review town meetings in Boston and Minneapolis, and are looking forward to those upcoming in DC, Clemson, Boulder, and Berkeley. These meetings have led to some thoughts that I would like to share with you. The first is to express thanks and satisfaction at the interest shown in the process by those of you who attended, and the thoughtful conversations we have been able to have with you. Seemingly in contradiction to this, we were at first a bit puzzled by the lack of input to the e-mail box on our web page and the sentiment expressed, in various ways, that broad community input would not make its way into the committee's deliberations.

As concrete assurance that this is not the case, let me repeat an observation I made at the close of the morning session in Minneapolis, in the form of a question to the participants. Could anyone recall a time in the past 25 years when three or four NSF program officers (including the Division Director and Executive Officer) spent a full day or more each week for at least seven weeks, sitting with you, explaining a process and listening to your concerns and opinions?

We at NSF, and the members of the committee, are committed to a process with as much community input and discussion as is possible. We are interested; we are concerned; we are listening. While our current schedule of town meetings goes only through the Berkeley meeting on 15 December, we are already thinking about more - including one at the January AAS and afterwards into January and February. We would welcome expressions of interest to host these, whether in areas of the country not yet covered or regions where renewed interest would make another meeting useful.

Please participate - this is the community's review about the community's future.

Wayne Van Citters
Director, Division of Astronomical Sciences

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

Mike Bennett, mbennett@astrosociety.org
Executive Director

PASP Editorial Office Changes

Beginning 1 January 2006 the editorial offices of the PASP will move from ASU/U of Victoria to the University of Washington as the editorship changes from Anne Cowley/David Hartwick to Paula Szkody. Associate Editors for Instrumentation Daniel Fabricant and Harland Epps will remain in place and Toby Smith will join Paula in handling papers at UW.

As of 1 January, authors will submit papers using the Web-based Peer Review system at the University of Chicago Press, in the same manner as for ApJ and AJ (please check the PASP web page at the University of Chicago Press for further info and updates: www.journals.uchicago.edu). The new editorial staff desires to continue the high standards and service shown by Anne and David throughout the past 8 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAS HQ Available for Hosting Meetings

The AAS Headquarters at 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC, is available for small (~10-15) person meetings. We have a small conference room, which can be reserved for use at least two weeks in advance with our meeting assistant, Eboni Bowman (bowman@as.org).

In addition to a conference table, wireless internet, overhead projector and a standard white board, we can provide an LCD projector upon request. Additional computing services and possibilities for conference calls are also available, but must be arranged well in advance.

If the meeting is directly related to society or division business, we can provide most services at no charge. Other meetings may be assessed a small fee to cover staff support and provision of other services (e.g. catering).

Assessment of Best Practices and Guiding Principles for the Future

In response to a request from NASA, the Space Studies Board of the National Research Council is conducting a study on NASA Astronomy Science Centers: An Assessment of Best Practices and Guiding Principles for the Future. The study charge focuses on identifying best practices and lessons learned from experience to date with NASA astronomy science centers and assessing whether there are optimum sizes or approaches and rational break points in levels of service in science centers.

The study committee is interested in obtaining perspectives from science center users across the astronomy and astrophysics community, and other interested individuals. In particular, we would be interested in your views on the following:

- How is the future of astronomy likely to evolve and how do you envision astronomy science centers playing a role?
- What do you consider the essential capabilities of an astronomy science center, from a user's perspective?
- What capabilities will astronomy science centers need to offer as the field of astronomy changes over the future?
- Other input you would like to provide on astronomy science centers?

Please email your comments to Pam Whitney, study director, at pwhitney@nas.edu by 10 January 2006. Additional information on the astronomy science center study and committee is available at http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/SSB_currentstudies.html.

APS Fellowship Program

The American Physical Society is currently accepting applications for the Congressional Science Fellowship Program. Fellows serve one year on the staff of a senator, representative or congressional committee. They are afforded an opportunity to learn the legislative process and explore science policy issues from the lawmakers' perspective. In turn, Fellows have the opportunity to lend scientific and technical expertise to public policy issues. Qualifications include a PhD or equivalent in physics or a closely related field, a strong interest in science and technology policy and, ideally, some experience in applying scientific knowledge toward the solution of societal problems. Fellows are required to be U.S. citizens and members of the APS.

The application should consist of a letter of intent of approximately 2-pages, a list of key publications, a 2-page resume and three letters of reference. Please see the APS website (http://www.aps.org/public_affairs/fellows.html) for detailed information on materials required for applying and other information on the program.

All application materials must be postmarked by 15 January 2006 and should be sent to the following address:

APS Congressional Science
Fellowship Program
c/o Jackie Beamon-Kiene
APS Executive Office
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3843

Call for NRAO Observing Proposals

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

Instrument	Deadline	Observing Period	Note
GBT	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	
	2006 Jun 1	2006 Oct - 2007 Jan	
VLA	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	*
	2006 Jun 1	2006 Oct - 2007 Jan	+
VLBA	2006 Feb 1	2006 Jun - 2006 Sep	
	2006 Jun 1	2006 Oct - 2007 Jan	

Notes: (*) B configuration with a maximum baseline of 11 km.
(+) 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 GBT research by students at U.S. universities covers student stipends, computer hardware purchases, and student travel to meetings to present GBT results. Applications to this program are tied to GBT observing proposals. Awards of up to \$35,000 are possible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

The NRAO and the European VLBI Network jointly handle proposals for observing time on the Global VLBI Network at centimeter wavelengths; the deadline is 2006 Feb 1 for the session in 2006 Jun. Also, the NRAO and a set of European observatories jointly handle proposals for VLBI observing time at a wavelength of 3mm; the deadline is 2006 Feb 1 for the session in 2006 Oct. The NRAO also handles proposals for the High Sensitivity Array for VLBI at the same deadlines as for the VLBA; this Array includes the VLBA, VLA, GBT, and Arecibo in the U.S., plus Effelsberg in Germany.

Further information on NRAO instruments, proposal submission routes, and user support is available from the NRAO home page at www.nrao.edu.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 February 2006 for the second quarter of 2006. 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://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.

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

Hubble Space Telescope Cycle 15 Call for Proposals

Release Date: 5 October 2005
Proposal Deadline: 27 January 2006

NASA and The Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) are pleased to announce the Cycle 15 Call for Proposals for Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Observations and funding for Archival Research and Theoretical Research programs. Participation in this program is open to all categories of organizations, both domestic and foreign, including educational institutions, profit and nonprofit organizations, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies.

This solicitation for proposals will be open through 27 January 2006 8:00 pm EST. The Astronomer's Proposal Tools (APT), which is required for Phase I Proposal Submission will be made available/

released for Cycle 15 Phase I use during the 1st week of December 2005. Results of the selection will be announced in early April 2006.

All programmatic and technical information, as well as specific guidelines for proposal preparation, are available electronically from the STScI World-Wide Web site at the Announcement Web Page with URL: <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/proposing/docs/cycle15announce>

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

2006 Symposium of the NSF Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows

The 2006 Symposium of the NSF Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows will be held on January 7-8, just before the AAS meeting in Washington, DC. The symposium will consist of (1) a keynote talk by Chris Mihos; (2) talks by AAPFs on their research and education projects; (3) discussion panels on how to be a good research advisor, exploring non-traditional outreach methods, and improving diversity in astronomy; and (4) an invited talk by Lillian McDermott on publishing educational and public outreach research results in educational journals and other media. Prospective fellowship applicants and other members of the astronomy and astrophysics community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships provide opportunities for highly qualified investigators within three years of obtaining their PhD to carry out an integrated program of independent research and education. The program is intended to recognize early-career investigators of significant potential and to provide them with experience in research and education that will establish them in positions of distinction and leadership in the community.

Spitzer Space Telescope Cycle-3 Call for Proposals

Release Date: 1 November 2005
Proposal Deadline: February 16, 2006

On behalf of NASA and the Spitzer Space Telescope Project, the Spitzer Science Center (SSC) at Caltech is pleased to announce the release of the Cycle-3 Call for Proposals (CP) for Spitzer Space Telescope Observations and funding for Archival and Theoretical Research programs. Investigators worldwide from all types of institutions are eligible to submit proposals in response to this CP.

There are several new features in the Cycle-3 CP and investigators are urged to consult section 3 of the document early in their proposal planning process for a summary of major changes from Cycle-2. Cycle-3 is 13 months long and will run from June 2006 through June 2007.

Proposals must be submitted electronically using Spot, the SSC proposal planning and submission software, and received no later than Thursday, 16 February 2006, 01:00pm PST. The S13 version of Spot is scheduled for release in mid-November 2005 and proposers must use this version of the software to submit their proposals. **Proposal PDF files MUST be prepared with the Cycle-3 templates available at the Proposal Kit website.**

All programmatic and technical information for Cycle-3 is available electronically from the Proposal Kit section of the Spitzer Science Center website. The URL is <http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/proplit/currenttcp.html>

Any questions should be addressed to the Spitzer Helpdesk at help@spitzer.caltech.edu.

APS Congressional Science Fellowship Program

The American Physical Society is currently accepting applications for the Congressional Science Fellowship Program. Fellows serve one year on the staff of a senator, representative or congressional committee. They are afforded an opportunity to learn the legislative process and explore science policy issues from the lawmakers' perspective. In turn, Fellows have the opportunity to lend scientific and technical expertise to public policy issues.

Qualifications include a PhD or equivalent in physics or a closely related field, a strong interest in science and technology policy and, ideally, some experience in applying scientific knowledge toward the solution of societal problems. Fellows are required to be U.S. citizens and members of the APS.

The Term of Appointment is one year, beginning in September of 2006 with participation in a two-week orientation sponsored by AAAS. Fellows have considerable choice in congressional assignments. A stipend of \$50,000 is offered in addition to allowances for relocation, in-service travel, and health insurance premiums.

The application should consist of a letter of intent of approximately 2-pages, a list of key publications, a 2-page resume and three letters of reference. Please see the APS website (http://www.aps.org/public_affairs/fellows.html) for detailed information on materials required for applying and other information on the program.

All application materials must be postmarked by 15 January 2006 and should be sent to the following address:

APS Congressional Science
Fellowship Program
c/o Jackie Beamon-Kiene
APS Executive Office
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3843

JWST Program Update

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) program is now in the detailed design phase. NASA is working with the mission's prime

contractor, Northrop-Grumman Space Technologies and the scientists involved in the development of the instruments to produce a final design and to complete maturation of the advanced technologies required by the mission. Earlier this year NASA learned of cost growth on the program. The major elements of this approximately 30% increase in the forecast life-cycle cost for the program were: a cost increase associated with the delay in launch by about 22 months, cost increases at the prime contractor and its subcontractors, and cost increases within instruments and associated hardware. In order to contain mission costs and reduce the likelihood of any future cost growth NASA initiated a number of reviews to determine if savings can be realized by descoping the mission or by improving and streamlining current plans for manufacturing and integration and test of the observatory.

Two of the reviews closely involving scientists have concluded. The first review performed by the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) JWST project team and the JWST Science Working Group examined a descoped mission consisting of a 4m diameter primary mirror telescope with wavelength coverage from 1 to 5 microns. This mission was found to be incapable of performing the National Academy of Sciences decadal survey endorsed science and would only save about 20% of the cost increase. A science assessment team (SAT) comprised of astronomers from the U.S. and abroad and not associated with the JWST GSFC project office performed the second review. NASA asked this group to assess the unique capabilities of JWST in light of likely facilities at the community's disposal in 2015. They recommended retaining all JWST capabilities at wavelengths greater than 1.7 microns, where competition from even future large ground-based observatories will not significantly erode JWST's ability to make unique contributions to astronomy. They suggested that requirements for instrument and observatory modes below that wavelength be relaxed to save on manufacturing and integration and test costs. The project has embraced the SAT recommendations and will be implementing them over the next several months. The SAT reports are available online (<http://www.stsci.edu/jwst>). Finally, NASA's Independent Program Analysis Office (IPAO) has begun conducting an engineering and management review of the JWST program. The IPAO found the progress to-date on JWST technologies good (e.g., mirrors and detectors) and the plan to develop them further to be sound. This review is ongoing and will conclude in April 2006 after the project has completed its replanning based upon SAT recommended priorities.

NASA remains firmly committed to the JWST program. The coming year's effort will be focused on finishing the technology development elements of the project. The JWST observatory that is emerging from this replanning is progressing towards its confirmation review in early 2007 for a June 2013 launch. This facility will be capable of the science sought by the community when it deemed JWST the top investment priority for NASA in this decade. With its 6.5m diameter primary mirror telescope and three main cameras and spectrographs covering the 0.6 to 27 microns wavelength range JWST will be the next great observatory to revolutionize astronomy and astrophysics.

**AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM**
(including the IAU XXVIth General Assembly)

Full Name _____ Year PhD Received _____

Institution _____ Current Position _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Please check all the boxes below where the associated statements apply:

Employer (usually the entity listed on your paystub): _____

^ Applicant is a Federal Employee. Indicate below to whom the grant check should be made out:
(Employees of the Federal Government [other than NSF] may be compensated for their travel expenses to attend a conference/workshop provided that prior written approval is obtained from their agency, including a statement that the travel is not expected to contribute directly to the mission of their agency. Under no circumstances may NSF employees be compensated under the AAS International Travel Grant Program.)

^ Applicant is a graduate student. Provide advisor's name, contact information and expected degree completion date. Attach recommendation letter from advisor to this application.

_____ Anticipated Degree Date _____

^ Application is for IAU XXVIth General Assembly in Prague

Indicate on the line below all meeting information (title, date and location); please use a separate application form for each meeting (do not complete for IAU General Application Assembly):

Please **justify need to attend** and **describe the activities** in which applicant will participate (e.g. invited speaker, Commission member, contributing paper, etc.). Attach additional pages.

Estimated air fare _____ Anticipated carrier _____

NB: Maximum allowable fare, economy rate round trip from nearest large airport. If not a US flag carrier, please explain below why not.

^ Applicant sought funding from other sources. Explain why funds could not be obtained from applicant's grant or institution (attach additional pages, if necessary):

Please sign indicating agreement with the following statement: If I receive this travel grant, I will comply with all reporting requirements, acknowledge the grant in any related publication (i.e., conference proceedings), and return my report in a timely manner.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

DEADLINES:

3 January 2006, for meetings between 25 February 2006 and 31 July 2006

23 June 2006, for meetings between 1 August 2006 and 28 February 2007 (Application deadline for XXVIth General Assembly)

MAIL OR FAX APPLICATION TO:

Travel Grant Selection Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2000 Florida Ave., NW, # 400, Washington, DC 20009-1231

Fax: 202-234-2560

agency would have received additional resources for its ambitious plans to finish construction of the International Space Station and develop the technologies needed for future moon and Mars missions, but there would also have been steep cuts in NASA's aeronautics research portfolio, the earth sciences portfolio, and biological and physical research. Those cuts could become even steeper in the final NASA appropriation.

The NSF budget, after declining in 2005, would barely increase by 1.1 percent to \$5.5 billion next year in the latest Senate plan, falling short of the \$5.6 billion in the House and Administration proposals and even falling short of the \$5.6 billion NSF had last year. NSF's total R&D funding would increase just 1.6 percent to \$4.1 billion (falling short of the 2.0 percent expected inflation rate, while the House would go just above it with a 2.6 percent boost (most NSF research directorates would receive increases between 1 and 3 percent in 2006, which would barely bring their budgets back to last year's levels).

The frustrating aspect of the current state of affairs is that there is very little that can be done to help the situation for astronomy. Macro issues are governing the process and the decisions. Astronomers can still help by communicating regularly with their members of Congress and building relationships with key players on the Hill, at the agencies and with OMB. The overall fiscal climate is only going to become more challenging in the coming years. Relationships with members of Congress will be especially important for astronomy to continue to be one of the least impacted sciences in the coming bad times.

The NSF Senior Review

The NSF-AST Senior Review is in full swing, with eight town halls being carried out by AST staff to ensure our community is informed about the process and the committee meeting for the first time in late October. Roger Blandford of the Kavli Institute is the chair of this important committee and has already shown a willingness to seek community input. In an email sent to US AAS members in late October, he expressed his desire to receive input and provided an email address (astsenior-review@nsf.gov) for the submission of thoughts and comments on the process. Before sending an email, it is highly recommended that AAS members read the charge to the committee and the various background documents available on the Senior Review web page (http://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/ast_senior_review.jsp).

This review process is being actively followed by the OMB, key staff on the Hill and the senior management of the NSF itself. It is highly important that our community be involved in the process. The challenges facing the AST Division in the coming years are significant. Ongoing facilities operations and improvements, new facilities, the expanding pressure on the grants program and the new challenges laid out in the most recent Decadal Review. We

have asked much of NSF and now NSF is asking us to help it accomplish an important review of its activities.

Look for future communications from the AAS on this issue as well as sessions at the AAS meeting in January right here in Washington, DC. Michael Turner, the outgoing assistant director of MPS will also be addressing the Society in a public policy talk.

MICHAEL GRIFFIN TO ADDRESS AAS AT DC MEETING

To get the latest on NASA issues, be sure to attend the January AAS meeting. Dr. Michael Griffin, the NASA administrator will be addressing our Society. Although his exact title is yet to be determined, we anticipate he will touch on the role of astronomy and astrophysics at NASA in coming years and the challenges faced by NASA in accomplishing the President's Vision for Space Exploration without damaging the dynamic science programs.

As usual, NASA and NSF will host town halls at the meeting and a number of mission-specific and facility-specific town hall sessions will be taking place as well. Plan on grabbing a to-go lunch each day and participating in the science policy process by attending the town hall of your choice.

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS DIVISION MEETINGS

207th Meeting - Washington, DC

8-12 January 2006

Contact AAS Executive Office
gilmore@as.org

208th Meeting - Calgary, Alberta

4-8 June 2006

Contact Russ Taylor
russ@ras.ucalgary.ca

Division on Dynamical Astronomy

25-29 June 2006 — Halifax, Nova Scotia

Contact: Joe Hahn (jhahn@ap.smu.ca)
http://dda.harvard.edu

High Energy Astrophysics Division

4-7 October 2006 — San Francisco, CA

Contact: Dr. John Vallerga
(head2006@earthlink.net)

209th Meeting - Seattle, WA

(Joint with AAPT)

7-11 January 2007

Contact AAS Executive Office
gilmore@as.org

OTHER EVENTS

From Z-Machines to ALMA: (Sub)millimeter Spectroscopy of Galaxies

13-14 January 2006 — Charlottesville, VA

http://www.cv.nrao.edu/naasc/zmachines/

*Cosmological Probes of Baryons and Dark Matter

22-28 January 2006 — Aspen, CO

Contact: Rennan Barkana
(barkana@wise.tau.ac.il)
http://wise-obs.tau.ac.il/~barkana/
aspen.html

Supernova and Gamma Ray Burst Remnants

6-10 February 2006 — Santa Barbara, CA

Contact: Martin Laming
(laming@nrl.navy.mil)
http://www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/grb_c06/
?id=340

*The 6th International Conference on High Energy Density Laboratory Astrophysics

11-14 March 2006 Houston, TX

Contact: Umbe Cantu (umbe@rice.edu)
www.hedla.org

Physics of the Inner Heliosheath: Voyager Observations, Theory, and Future Prospects

3-9 March 2006 — Oahu, HI

Contact: Jacob Heerikhuisen
(Jacob.Heerikhuisen@ucr.edu)
http://www.igpp.ucr.edu/
Conferences_Astro_2006.htm

*Annual Meeting of the International Dark-Sky Association

15-18 March — Tucson AZ

Contact: Scott Davis (scott@darksky.org)
www.darksky.org

*Numerical Modeling of Space Plasma Flows

27-30 March 2006 — Palm Springs, CA

Contact: Nikolai Pogorelov
(nikolaip@ucr.edu)
www.igpp.ucr.edu/
Conferences_Astronumerics_2006.htm

IAU Symposium No. 233

Solar Activity and its Magnetic Origin

31 March-3 April 2006 — Cairo, Egypt

Contact: Ahmed Abdel Hady
(aahady@yahoo.com)
http://www.iaus233.edu.eg/

IAU Symposium No. 234

Planetary Nebulae in our Galaxy and
Beyond

3-7 April 2006 — Waikoloa Beach, HI

Contact: Michael J. Barlow
(mjb@star.ucl.ac.uk)
http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/iau234/

*The Fourth Harvard-Smithsonian Conference on Theoretical Astrophysics

15-18 May 2006 — Cambridge, MA

Contact: Lisa Rowan
(lrowan@cfa.harvard.edu)
http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/bh2006/

*Small Ionized and Neutral Structures in the diffuse ISM

22-25 May 2006 — Socorro, NM

Contact: Snezana Stanimirovic
(sstanimi@astro.berkeley.edu)
http://astron.berkeley.edu/~sstanimi/Tiny/
tiny_page.html

The Red Rectangle

23-25 May 2006 — Charlottesville, VA

Contact: Ciska Markwick-Kemper

(ciska@virginia.edu)

http://www.theredrectangle.net

*Cosmic Voids

28 May-17 June — Aspen, CO

Contact: Michael Vogeley

(vogeley@drexel.edu)

http://www.aspenphys.org/documents/
program/summerworkshops.html

2006 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Societe Canadienne D'Astronomie (CASCA)

1-4 June 2006 — Calgary, Alberta

Contact: Rene Plume

(plume@ism.ucalgary.ca)

http://www.ism.ucalgary.ca/meetings/
casca06

Bethe Centennial Symposium on Astrophysics

2-3 June 2006 — Ithaca, NY

Contact: Dong Lai

(dong@astro.cornell.edu)

http://astro.cornell.edu/~dong/bethe.htm

*Summer School in Statistics for Astronomers & Physicists II

5-9 June 2006 — State College PA

Contact: Eric Feigelson

(edf@astro.psu.edu)

http://astrostatistics.psu.edu/scma4/
program.html#Summer_School

*Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy IV

12-15 June 2006 — State College, PA

Contact: Eric Feigelson

(edf@astro.psu.edu)

http://astrostatistics.psu.edu/scma4

*Tenth Synthesis Imaging Summer School

13-20 June 2006 — Albuquerque, NM

Contact Kristy Dyer kristy

(dyer@gmail.com)

http://www.phys.unm.edu/~kdyer/2006

6th INTEGRAL (International Gamma- Ray Astrophysics Laboratory)

workshop "The Obscured Universe"

2-8 July 2006 — St. Petersburg, Russia

http://www.rssd.esa.int/Integral/

integ_workshops.html

***IAU Special Session 2**

Innovation in Teaching/Learning
Astronomy

17-18 August 2006 — Prague, Czech
Republic

Contact: Jay Pasachoff

(jay.m.pasachoff@williams.edu) or Rosa
Maria Ros (ros@mat.upc.es)

[http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/
innovation2006/](http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/innovation2006/)

***IAU Special Session 5**

Astronomy for the Developing World
21-22 August 2006 — Prague, Czech
Republic

Contact: John Hearnshaw

(john.hearnshaw@canterbury.ac.nz)
<http://www.astronomyeducation.org>

IAU Symposium No. 238

Black Holes: from Stars to Galaxies -
across the Range of Masses

21-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech
Republic

Contact: Vladimir Karas

(vladimir.karas@cuni.cz)
<http://astro.cas.cz/iaus23>

IAU Symposium No. 239

Convection in Astrophysics

21-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech
Republic

Contact: Ian W. Roxburgh

(i.w.roxburgh@qmul.ac.uk)

<http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/iaus239/>

IAU Symposium No. 240

Binary Stars as Critical Tools and Tests
in Modern Astrophysics

22-25 August 2006 — Prague, Czech
Republic

Contact: William I. Hartkopf

(wih@usno.navy.mil)
<http://ad.usno.navy.mil/iaus240>

From Cosmic Static to Cosmic Evolution

15-19 Oct 2006 — Charlottesville, VA

Contact: Ken Kellerman

(kkellerm@nrao.edu)

Cool Stars 14

6-10 November 2006 — Pasadena, CA

Contact: John Stauffer

(stauffer@ipac.caltech.edu)

<http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/mtgs/cs14/>

IAU Symposium No. 241

Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of
Galaxies

10-14 December 2006 — La Palma,
Canary Islands, Spain

Contact: Alexandre Vazdekis

(vazdekis@ll.iac.es)
[http://www.astro.rug.nl/~peletier/
IAUS241.html](http://www.astro.rug.nl/~peletier/IAUS241.html)

Living with a Star 1: A new era in understanding our space environment

26-29 March 2007 — Boulder, CO

Contact: Karel Schrijver

(schryver@lmsal.com)
<http://www.lws1.org>

Note: Listed are meetings or other
events that have come to our attention
(new or revised listings noted with an
asterisk). Due to space limitations, 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://
cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings](http://cadcwww.hia.nrc.ca/meetings).

IUPAP Young Scientist's Prize in Astrophysics

The Commission on Astrophysics of the
International Union of Pure and Applied
Physics expects to present a prize to an
outstanding young astrophysicist in
December, 2006 at the 23rd Texas
Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics
in Melbourne, Australia. Candidates for
the prize must not have completed more
than eight years of post-PhD research and
related activities at the time the prize is
awarded. The prize will consist of a IUPAP
Medal, travel expenses to the meeting
where the prize is presented, and possibly
a small cash award. The winner will
probably be asked to give a short talk
about the work for which the prize is
awarded.

Nominations can come from any
astrophysicist who knows the nominee's
work well. A nomination should consist of
a letter explaining the nominee's
qualifications, a complete CV and list of
publications, and two letters of support,
at least one of which must come from
someone who is not at the nominee's
institution, is not a past mentor, and is not
a frequent co-author or other close
collaborator. Materials must arrive by
1 June 2006 for full consideration.
Nominations should be sent to the chair
and the secretary of the Commission and
to the chair of the selection committee:

Commission Chair:

Alexei M. Fridman (Inst. of Astronomy,
Pyatnitskaya Ul. 48, 109017 Moscow,
Russia, flaxa@online.ru)

Commission Secretary:

Patricia A. Whitelock (SAAO, PO Box 9,
7935 Observatory, South Africa,
paw@sao.ac.za)

Selection Committee Chair:

Virginia Trimble (Physics Dept, Univ of
California, Irvine CA 92697 USA,
vtrimble@uci.edu)



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

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WASHINGTON NEWS

Kevin B. Marvel, Deputy Executive Officer
 marvel@aaas.org



The Budget

A new trend has developed in Washington. The budget is never passed by the end of the fiscal year, which began for 2006 on 1 October. Whether this trend indicates Congress' preoccupation with other issues (as this year with two supreme court slots to fill, an ongoing war in Iraq and

three hurricanes causing damage to several states) or a sheer lack of will to make the hard decisions necessary to pass the budget, is not clear.

What is clear is that all government activities are currently being funded under their FY 2005 budget for the foreseeable future, with absolutely no motion on the appropriations bills expected by anyone in Washington until we actually enter the new year. This approach to funding the government's activities does significant harm to programs from all agencies, even NASA and NSF, which fund most of astronomy research in the US. If you applied for a grant, you may not hear for a while whether your project has been funded. If you have a project ongoing, you may not receive your renewal letter. New starts at the agencies are on hold in large part and everyone is simply waiting to see what will happen.

What is clear is that the funding outlook for science in general is bleak, although astronomy may fare better than most disciplines. Even though NASA was the unambiguous winner so far in the appropriations process, it is now likely to see flat or declining funding for its R&D programs because of troubles with the recent Space Shuttle launch. Both the House and the Senate drafted increases greater than 7 percent for NASA R&D before the Shuttle's 26 July return to flight, but NASA's scrubbing of future launches until at least May 2006 to correct safety problems discovered during the launch and also the costs of repairing hurricane-damaged NASA facilities threaten to once again divert R&D money to the non-R&D Space Shuttle program in 2006, just as in previous years.

[next 2 paragraphs excerpted from AAAS R&D Funding update by Kei Koizumi]

NASA's R&D funding would have climbed 7.1 percent in FY 2006 as an expected decline in Shuttle costs freed up money for NASA's R&D programs. But the need to keep spending money on Shuttle safety well into 2006 could result in a repeat of this year's budget, when NASA transferred money from R&D accounts to the Space Shuttle and even imposed mid-year cuts. The large House and Senate increases are threatened and could be threatened even more depending on whether NASA receives emergency funds for hurricane recovery or whether repair costs will come out of the regular budget. Under the earlier Senate and House plans, the