

AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

3

AAS Council

Recognizes

Henrietta Leavitt

5

AAS Member

Anniversaries

6

Using the

Job Center at

AAS Meetings

9

What the Heck

is APSIT?

12

Honored

Elsewhere

Back page

Washington

News

Insert

NASA Federal

Credit Union

President's Column

John Huchra, president@as.org

As we prepare for Pasadena, I would like to touch on a topic of interest to many members of our Society. In my last column, I noted that at our January Council meeting we had agreed to work on an AAS ethics statement. No other comment of mine has sparked as much e-mail! Every note addressed the need for more guidelines for our Society and there are even Decadal Survey white papers on the subject. Although somewhat unexpected, on further thought this is not surprising—ethics in its various forms touches every member of our Society. Our statement is still under construction, but let me enumerate some of the ethical issues we face. I will also note that a large part of our problem lies in training. How many of you have had any training in the conduct of research or general professional conduct with respect to peers, students and employees? And if you did, do you remember it? There are five basic areas we need to worry about: research conduct, authorship (publications) and peer review, conflicts of interest, professional conduct with respect to people, and societal responsibility. I list these in approximate order of difficulty.

The conduct of research is perhaps the easiest. When I was a whippersnapper (read undergraduate) we were required as part of our undergraduate physics lab to read E. Bright Wilson's *An Introduction to Scientific Research*. This book told us a bit about keeping records, understanding the statistics of real measurements, and the need to keep in mind that our methods and results need to be described clearly enough so that (1) people understand what we did, (2) people know what the results are and what the limits of the results are, and (3) other people can reproduce our methods as a means to testing those results. As an experimentalist, I have always felt that the key to being a good observer is to be absolutely clear as to what my data can show and cannot, i.e. what are the uncertainties and what are the expected systematics. This holds for theory as well, with the need for stating assumptions, uncertainties and priors unwavering.

Publications are harder, as I can tell you from my stint as an editor. Authors have a strong tendency to under-attribute, that is not to properly cite both previous ideas and basic data. The phrases "data are available" or "it is known that" should never be used; someone had to work fairly hard to get that data or develop that idea and they deserve credit, even if they are your competitors. Also complicated is the use of master compilations, easy, but again not giving credit where credit is really due. Would you really cite NED for Sloan Digital Sky Survey redshift data? Credit NED as the compilation, but credit the basic sources whenever you can. I will not touch on plagiarism here but expect it in our final statement. Refereeing is part of the problem too. The health of our field depends on scrubbing results and doing so in a fair manner. An *ApJ* submission that could not be improved by a good referee's report is rare. It is important for us to take on these tasks when asked and do the best we can. This applies to refereeing or reviewing proposals as well. And if you have a conflict of interest, either recuse yourself or, if there is no other option, inform the editor or panel chair or program officer and be sure your review is or gets balanced. Last on this list is the proper acknowledgment of collaborators. There is no clear rule but common sense should apply. This is actually the question most asked of me by students. If someone has made a contribution, however small, including getting the support for the project or having the initial idea, they should be acknowledged and perhaps even asked to be co-authors if the contribution is substantial enough. My rule of thumb is to ask people.

Conflicts of interest are a difficult subject, fortunately for astronomy not as critical as those in the biomedical profession. Sometimes they can be subtle though, such as writing a tenure letter for someone who is your up and coming competitor. In such a case, generally, the same rules as above hold. Disclose, disclose disclose, so the readers know the background, or recuse with an explanation if that appears to be a better route. Financial (or as they are sometimes know, fiduciary) conflicts are simpler. Just do not do it.

continued page 4



AAS Officers and Councilors

John P. Huchra, President
J. Craig Wheeler, Past-President
Robert W. O'Connell, Vice-President
Lee W. Hartmann, Vice-President
Christine Jones, Vice-President
Hervey (Peter) Stockman, Treasurer
John A. Graham, Secretary
Richard F. Green, Publications Board Chair
Timothy F. Slater, Education Officer
Stephen P. Maran, Press Officer

Councilors

Megan Donahue
Margaret M. Hanson
Chryssa Kouveliotou
Felix J. Lockman
Nancy Morrison
Marc Postman
Nicholas B. Suntzeff
C. Megan Urry
Charles E. Woodward

Executive Office Staff

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer
Tracy Beale, Membership Services Administrator
Chris Biemesderfer, Director of Publishing
Laronda Boyce, Meetings & Exhibits Coordinator
Lisa Brown, Financial Assistant
Kelly E. Clark, Chief Financial Officer
Scott Garvey, Administrative Assistant
Kelli Gilmore, Director of Meeting Services
Scott Idem, Systems & Network Manager
Chris W. Irwin, Assistant Systems & Web Admin.
Judith M. Johnson, Managing Editor AER & BAAS
Faye C. Peterson, Manager, Membership Services
Crystal M. Tinch, Communications & Development

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

The \$141.00 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 Ave, 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@aas.org. Appropriate pictures are welcome. For information about deadlines and submitting articles, see www.aas.org/publications/newsletter.php. Items submitted to the *AAS Newsletter* are not automatically included in the AAS Electronic Announcements or vice versa. Submit electronic announcement items to crystal@aas.org.

Judith M. Johnson, Editor
Crystal M. Tinch, Associate Editor
Jeff Linsky, U. Colorado, Associate Editor, Letters

AAS Email Policy

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

For address changes, email address@aas.org

From the Executive Office

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer, marvel@aas.org

As promised, I am using this column to shine a little light on the nitty-gritty of Society operations, primarily to help members understand why certain ways of operation are required and why fees are set where they are.

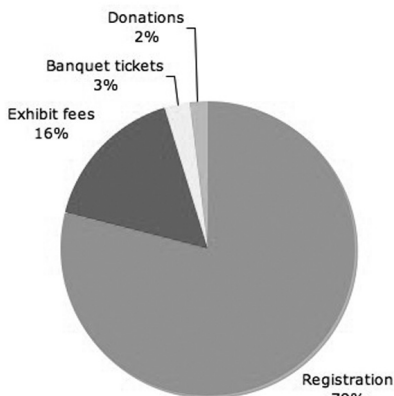
I want to lead off with Society meetings, which take much of my focus on a regular basis. First of all, Society meetings are large and complicated. We regularly receive more than 1500 contributed abstracts for our winter meeting, sometimes even more than 2500! These abstracts have to be sorted into sessions, which we accomplish with volunteers using a web-based database system. We used to (only six years ago) print them all out on paper and sort them by hand (!). We produce both the *BAAS*, where the abstracts appear in full and a program with titles and authors only indicating session time and location. The flexibility of the database system now allows us to make enhancements to our program book. We are still experimenting here to make the program highly useful to our meeting attendees. We are getting closer to a great product, but aren't quite there yet. Send us your ideas if you have something you'd like to see used to enhance the program.

The society meetings have a large exhibit hall, which also hosts the poster presentations and usually has 75 or more exhibitors, each with their own needs and logistical requirements. On the nourishment front, we provide a coffee break with snacks each day of the meeting, have been able to add afternoon snacks as the budget allows and hold a large opening reception and banquet.

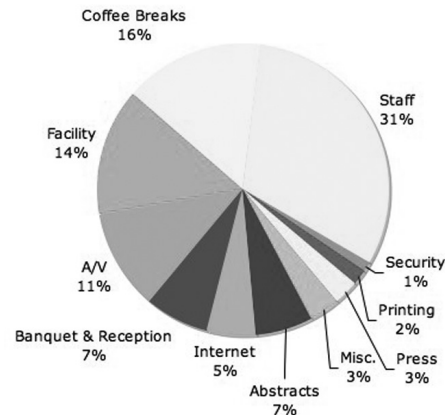
In addition to contributed sessions, we arrange logistics for weekend workshops, town hall events, receptions, press events, public events and many splinter meetings of all types. Our meetings boast a comprehensive press room, with press conferences and press releases and even web-based streaming of press conferences as necessary. All of this activity requires significant logistical preparation, planning and support from the AAS staff. It is a wonder we can accomplish all of this with the small staff and budget at our disposal.

Speaking of budget, I often overhear conversations at the meeting about the costs of our meetings. Obviously, the up-front cost for the meeting is substantial. When costs of registration approach the cost of the airline ticket to get to the meeting (or exceed it), people rightfully get concerned. Although I can not provide a full-up analysis of our meeting budgets in this column, let me give you two simple pie charts representing our meeting expenses and meeting revenues. These have caused gasps of amazement from some Council members when I showed them, so sit yourself down.

AAS Meeting Revenue



AAS Meeting Expenses



Looking at our revenue, you can see that our meetings are paid for primarily by our attendees. Because most of our exhibitors are either non-profits, small businesses or from government related missions or even agencies themselves, we keep our exhibit fees low. For those exhibitors who are large corporations, we seek donations, which help round out our meeting revenue aside from banquet tickets, which are set to offset the costs of the banquet.

On the expense side, we have a more complicated story. Our largest expense is paying for the staff necessary to carry out the meeting and to have them on-site. Next, we have coffee breaks, which represent 16% of our total meeting expense. This large expense is an outrage to me personally, but because we must typically use the food and beverage providers at the convention center or hotel where we meet, we are captive to the prices they choose to charge. \$75 for a gallon of coffee is not a high expense in the world of convention food and beverage! Be assured that we do everything possible to keep costs down. Also recognize that while wandering the exhibit hall after the first morning talk of the day you could be chomping on a \$5 muffin and a \$5 cup of coffee or tea. If you take a snack, please eat it. If you take a coffee or juice, please drink it. It costs a significant amount and we are often on a consumption basis, so wasted food and drink ultimately leads to higher meeting registration fees.

Next down the line we have the Facility rental charge and Audiovisual expenses (the LCD projectors, networked host computers, screens, laser pointers, and so on), which add up to 25% of the total. The rest of the costs are self evident, necessary and small. One subtlety is worth mentioning. Stopping printing of the abstracts saves only a percent or two of the Abstracts cost. The bulk of the cost is the online abstract submission and processing system.

Relative costs are all fine and good for understanding the big picture, but knowing actual costs is important too. For 2008, our total meeting budget (summer and winter meetings together) is just under \$1.2 million dollars. That is a lot of money when looked at as a lump sum, but taken as a fraction of the expense of the research effort in astronomy, it is a pretty low cost, especially when you factor in the benefit of our meeting to our field.

Next newsletter, I will give a similar analysis of our journals. They stand among the best in the world from both a content point of view and as a business model.

[Note added in proof]: In this issue we announce a new member benefit: access to the NASA Federal Credit Union for all AAS Members. Please review the insert and consider taking advantage of this attractive new member benefit.

Secretary's Corner

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 of institution in the eyes of the academic community.

Nominations and letters of support must be received in the Secretary's office by 1 October 2009. Shortly after that date, they are distributed to the several prize committees so that late submissions cannot be accommodated.

AAS Council Recognizes Henrietta Leavitt

At the 213th meeting of the AAS in Long Beach this past January, the AAS Council passed a resolution recognizing the importance of Henrietta Leavitt to the field of astronomy. The resolution passed unanimously and is included in its entirety below.

“The AAS Council recognizes the 100th anniversary of Henrietta Leavitt's first presentation of the Cepheid Period-Luminosity relation, a seminal discovery in astronomy that continues to have great significance. The Council was pleased to learn of a resolution adopted by the organizers of the Leavitt Symposium in which it was suggested that this important relation now be referred to as the “Leavitt Law.” Although we recognize that the AAS has no authority to define astronomical nomenclature, we would be very pleased if this designation were used widely.”



Conduct with regards to other people is also simple, but not easy. All members of society deserve to be treated with respect at all times. The Society already has an addition to the by-laws explicitly related to our work environment and in particular AAS meetings, but these same principles should hold across the board. Disagreements should be settled in the court of experiment or simulation or pure theory. If you disagree with someone, show why they are wrong via the scientific method and not by ad hominem arguments. Science overall has benefited tremendously by being impersonal. On the personal side, the same principle of respect holds, and holds especially with regard to your conduct towards the people you supervise.

Last but not least is the overall societal ethics issue. We are fortunate not to be clearly in the sights of most of the major societal issues of our time like climate change, the ethics of the financial industry, and the war in Iraq, but this might only be a passing phase. Astrophysics played indirectly in the development of atomic energy and atomic bombs, and we have had a long running synergy with the defense industry with respect to low flux level sensors. Early work on atmospheric transmission and the composition of the Earth's upper atmosphere lead to the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica, though, and gave clues as to its subsequent amelioration. I see no clear advice here except that hinted at above. Science should generally be impersonal. Until the system changes, as individuals we have the right to either do or not do research that impacts society—often we do not know the outcome or direction in advance, so let your conscience be your guide—but the results of that research should not be determined by personal views.

On a very different note, this is an extremely exciting month for Astronomy. As I write this, Kepler has launched and is about to take its first image on the road to finding transiting Earth-like planets. We have completed the IYA 100 hours of astronomy and the Galileoscope is now on sale (www.galileoscope.org)! Herschel-Planck is a few days from launch and the last HST servicing mission is less than a month away. If successful, SM4b will both install powerful new instruments on HST (COS, WFPC3, but will also restore the existing Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (STIS). I have my fingers crossed! The President's budget is out, although not in detail yet, and astronomy, while not slated for significant increases, in these stressed financial times is not being cut. We will need to see what the Congressional appropriators do, but our efforts so far have had a positive effect. We are trying hard to make the case that basic research and science education, including astronomy, are key to the Nations' future. Help us when you can.

Copyright Updates for AAS Journals

Chris Biemesderfer

The AAS requires that authors transfer copyright to the Society when articles are published in its journals. The transfer of copyright to the AAS is not intended to impede our authors' intellectual utilization of their own work. In fact, during an author's lifetime, the Society grants most of the rights and privileges associated with copyright back to the author (or the author's employer). The main benefit of these transfers to the community is the consistent management of permissions and derivative rights in the very long term, by which I mean after the author of the paper is deceased.

There are other potential benefits to the Society's holding copyright, but these don't arise very often in practical terms. The most obvious is that infringements can be pursued by the Society using its resources, rather than authors having to do this on their own.

Recently there has been a noticeable shift in the publishing environment brought about primarily by technological changes of the last three decades: the widespread appearance of computers as an everyday tool, and their interconnection on networks. Temperament about copyright and its use and applicability—even about its meaning (in the legal sense)—has changed substantially, especially in the last ten years.

Consequently, the AAS has undertaken the process of updating its copyright agreement. There are no changes in the Society's fundamental approach or policy: we continue to acknowledge our authors' primary roles and responsibilities for their work. Nonetheless, we feel that the copyright transfer agreement needs some modifications. There are a number of things we hope to achieve, the most important being: 1) to modernize and clarify the language associated with the transfer proper; 2) to more clearly enunciate authors' rights; and 3) to be clearer about our intentions about works made for hire.

The changes in the transfer language really are just updates for the times: recognizing that the terms apply worldwide, and that they apply to all formats. The modifications don't reflect any change in AAS policy. The main clarification in author rights is to state that posting articles on authors' personal web pages is a republication right explicitly granted back. In addition we have new language that recognizes that rights granted back to authors actually pertain to the author's employer when the article is considered a work made for hire. We have not finished this work. The Publications Board will review the new agreement at their meeting in June, and I expect we will make further alterations this summer. When the new agreement is put into use, there will be a notice to the community in the journals, probably in the form of an editorial, and an announcement to AAS members in the monthly email exploder. We will also update the copyright policy pages on the Society's web site.

Arthur Dodd Code (1923-2009)

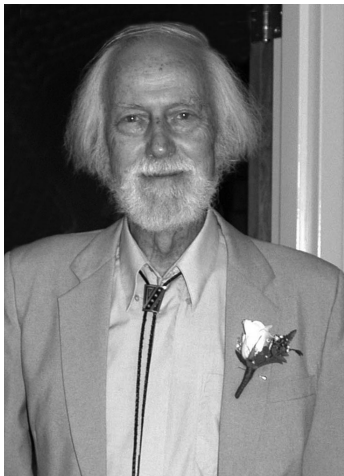


Photo credit: Svend Vermund

Former AAS president Arthur Dodd Code, age 85, passed away at Meriter Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin on 11 March 2009, from complications involving a long-standing pulmonary condition. Code was born at Brooklyn, New York on 13 August 1923, as the only child of Lorne Arthur Code and Jesse Mae (Dodd) Code. He entered the University of Chicago in 1940, but enlisted in the U.S. Navy (1943-45) and served as an instructor at the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. In 1945, he was admitted to the graduate school of the University of Chicago, without having received his bachelor's degree. In 1950, he was awarded his Ph.D. for a theoretical study of radiative transfer, directed by Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar. He held successive appointments at the University of Virginia (1950-51), the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1951-56), and the California Institute of Technology (1956-58), before

returning to Wisconsin in 1958 as chairman of the Department of Astronomy and director of the Washburn Observatory.

In 1959, Code founded the Space Astronomy Laboratory (SAL) where, along with other astronomers, he designed the Wisconsin Experiment Package (WEP), one of two suites of instruments launched on 7 December 1968 aboard the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO-2), which conducted UV observations on more than a thousand celestial objects over the next 50 months. Code and other SAL faculty likewise developed the Wisconsin Automatic Photoelectric Telescope (APT), the first computer-controlled (or "robotic") telescope. He was also principal investigator on the Wisconsin Ultraviolet Photo-Polarimeter Experiment (WUPPE), which was flown twice aboard the space shuttles in 1990 and 1995. Code served as the first acting director of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Code was the recipient of numerous awards, including NASA's Public Service Award (1970) and its highest honor, the Distinguished Public Service Medal (1992). He was chosen to be a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1971) and was elected AAS president (1982-84). Following his retirement in 1995, Code and his wife relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where he was an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona's Steward Observatory and served as a WIYN Observatory scientist. At the time of his death, he was the Joel Stebbins and Hildale Professor of Astronomy Emeritus at UW-Madison. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary Guild Code, their four children, Alan, Douglas, Edith, and David, and six grandchildren.

AAS Member Anniversaries

The AAS could not have done it without you. Thank you for your dedication and service.

25-34

Wendy Hagen
Bauer

Jeffrey Bloch

Dayton Jones

Denis Leahy

William McCutcheon

Robert McLaren

Bruce McCollum

Grace Wolf-Chase

Clyde Zaidins

35-44

Susan Ames

Christine Clement

Kyle Cudworth

Murray Dryer

Robert D. Gehrz

Naoki Itoh

John Lester

Robert McMillan

Patrick Palmer

Aage Sandqvist

Wesley A. Traub

Edwin L. Turner

Melville Ulmer

45-54

David Arnett

Clinton C. Brooks

Howard D. Greyber

Robert Koch

George Mumford

Member Deaths

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

Dave Cudaback

Sunner Davis

Fred Haddock

Clifford G. Toner

Tom Van Flandern

Chi Yuan

Letters to the Editor

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.

Opting In and 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 or log into your member record at as.org.

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

Using the Job Center at AAS Meetings

Grant M. Hill, W.M. Keck Observatory

Have you ever gone to an AAS meeting hoping to fill an open position, or looking for a job yourself? If so, you are certainly aware of the Job Center set up at every winter meeting. The people who staff the center are there to help place job-seekers and recruiters together. Like those old Reese's Peanut Butter Cup commercials, they are there to help "get chocolate in your peanut butter" and "peanut butter on your chocolate."

After recruiting at AAS meetings now for a number of years, I have learned a few tricks to make this task easier and to maximize the Job Center a great benefit for the members. Although I am writing from the perspective of a recruiter, those seeking employment may also find these tips helpful in landing a good job.

For those unfamiliar with how the job center works, it is pretty simple in principle. The AAS folks post all the openings currently in their Job Register. Recruiters can post interview sign-up sheets next to their ads. Job seekers will select a specific time for an interview. The AAS also provides standardized resume cover sheets for job seekers to complete and attach to their resume. These then get put in big binders that recruiters can leaf through looking for that perfect candidate.

So how can you improve your chances of making the system described above work for you?

1. Jazz Up Your Ad

The ads posted by the Job Center staff are printed out in black and white from the job register. Recruiters, you can take the same text and jazz it up by overlaying it on a cool shot of your observatory or campus and post that instead. Job-seekers, any recruiter that goes this extra mile to get your attention will likely be eager to talk to you. Track him or her down. Recruiters, post some extra copies of your cool ad for people to take with them.

2. Post Your Contact Info

Don't make it hard for job-seekers to find you. Pin up some of your business cards next to your ad. Make sure your email address, cell phone number, hotel phone number, etc. are there. Make it clear you are happy to talk to candidates any time you can (leave such a note). Don't just pin up the interview sign up sheet and let the chips fall where they may. Check back from time to time to make sure the supply of cards is still there, look for notes, etc. Check the message board.

Don't make it hard for recruiters to find you at the AAS meeting. Make sure your resume or cover sheet have your cell phone number, email address, maybe even your hotel phone number. There have been a few occasions in the past where I had to go to extraordinary lengths

to contact someone. One time I phoned the person's number in the AAS directory, got their office mate, who then gave me their cell phone number. It should not be that hard. Check the message board in the Job Center. A recruiter might be looking for you.

3. Submit Your Resumes Prior to the Meeting

Get those resumes in the book early. By the end of a typical AAS meeting there are over a hundred resumes in the binders but they trickle in over the course of the meeting. When I recruit, I go through those binders looking at resumes. If one catches my eye, I look to see when that person is presenting their talk or poster. Sometimes, the resume appears after the talk or poster has been presented. That person has missed a chance for me to locate them.

4. Read the Resume Books Early On

If you are recruiting, start looking through the resumes the first chance you get. If you wait, you may miss an opportunity to hear a candidate's talk, see their poster, or even cross paths with them at all.

5. Fill Out the Cover Sheet Completely

Make sure you fill out the resume cover sheet as completely as possible. These cover sheets are a very efficient way for recruiters to quickly leaf through the binders looking for the right person. There are boxes you can check to indicate whether you are a theorist, what wavelength region you observe in, etc. When recruiting, these check boxes are the first places I look.

6. Have a Professional Resume

Make sure that resume looks good. There are lots of resume templates, advice, etc available free on the web. A unprofessional looking resume does not make anyone more eager to talk to you.

7. Wear Comfortable Shoes

If finding the right person is your number one priority for you at an AAS meeting, then be prepared to devote yourself to that task full time. Wear comfortable shoes. Those concrete conference hall floors are hard and you want to be comfortable while searching for Joe or Jane Perfect.

8. Attend all Employment Functions

Every year, it seems that AAS meetings have more and more functions specifically intended to get recruiters and job seekers together in one room or offer advice. Although not specifically part of the Job Center, this is another way to find someone or get that job.

9. Bring Your Recruiting Package

Prepare a recruiting package and take a bunch of them with you to the AAS meeting. Chances are your observatory or

university may already have a bunch of fancy brochures and/or annual reports made up. Take some. Remember that fancy version of your ad I advised you to make earlier? Print out extra copies to give away with your business card.

Use the resources available at the Job Center. If a resume catches your eye, they usually have a photocopier there you can use to make a copy. They have pins for posting stuff, blank sign up sheets, a message board, etc.

And finally, get to know the those who work the Job Center. They can be the difference between finding someone or not. I remember one AAS meeting where I remarked to Faye Peterson (Membership Manager) that so-and-so was the perfect candidate but I just could not find her. Faye, said she knew who I was talking about, described her appearance and where I could find her at that very moment!

Division News

Historical Astronomy Division (HAD)

Thomas Hockey, Chair

The 2009 HAD Meeting in Long Beach was one of the busiest. It included two well attended special sessions: “The History of the Telescope,” organized by Peter Abrahams and Sara Schechner, and “Astronomical Photometry,” organized by Gene Milone. There were both contributed oral and poster presentations, as well.

The HAD Booth attracted a steady stream of visitors on the exhibit floor. We now have a page-long list of potential new members. We appreciate HAD co-founder Ken Brecher and AAS Secretary John Graham stopping by, too.

The Donald Osterbrock Memorial Lecture, introduced by Sara Schechner and presented by Donald Olson (“Van Gogh’s Starry Nights, Lincoln’s Moon, Shakespeare’s Stars, and More: Tales of Astronomy in Art, History, and Literature”), was enjoyed by hundreds of attendees. The festivities continued afterward, at a HAD “mini-banquet” organized by HAD Secretary-Treasurer Joe Tenn. Nearly thirty HAD members gathered at a local Greek restaurant, in memory of former Chair Osterbrock and to toast speaker Olson.

At the HAD Business Meeting, Sara Schechner passed the plaque and gavel to the fifteenth HAD Chair, myself. Luckily for me, Sara remains on the HAD Committee as Past Chair. The Committee itself met the following day and appointed Joe Tenn to a full term as HAD Secretary-Treasurer. Joe has been doing exemplary work in the office already, while filling a vacated term. We thank Gene Milone and Jay Holberg for their service on the Committee, and welcome Jarita Holbrook (Vice-Chair), Jim Lattis, and Kevin Kriciunas to the Committee.

HAD members also were busy elsewhere at AAS Long Beach. Lattis chaired a meeting of the Working Group for the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage. At the AAS Banquet, HAD member Mary Kay Hemmenway was awarded the

Society’s Education Prize. Meanwhile, Holbrook used the day to do location filming for her upcoming documentary Hubble’s Diverse Universe. In addition to his oral HAD paper, Brad Schaefer presented a poster, “Comprehensive Photometric Histories of All Known Galactic Recurrent Novae.” Helmut Abt and Martin Harwit participated in scientific sessions as well as delivered HAD contributed papers. Owen Gingerich appeared in the film, Four Hundred Years of Galileo’s Telescope, which was premièred at the Long Beach “kick off” for the International Year of Astronomy USA.

HAD News, edited by Tenn, was published in April 2008 (available at aas.org/had/hadnews/HADN72.pdf) and October 2008 (available at aas.org/had/hadnews/HADN73.pdf). Tenn posted a list of online resources useful to historians of astronomy on the HAD website.

The Historical Astronomy Division is responsible for the preparation of the memorials to deceased members of the AAS that are published annually in the *BAAS*. Twenty-one obituaries were published in 2008. In this work, I was assisted by Virginia Trimble, appointed by the AAS Council as a member of the HAD Obituary Committee. The AAS has made all obituaries produced by HAD available online at the SAO/NASA ADS website; there are links to these on the HAD website.

This year the HAD endorsed the AAS’s statement on Community-based Priority Setting in the Astronomical Sciences. HAD chair Sara Schechner attended the AAS Council meeting in June 2008 (Saint Louis) and the AAS Executive Committee meeting, with other Division chairs, in October 2008 (AAS offices in Washington, D.C.). Schechner worked with the AAS Working Group for the Preservation of Astronomical Heritage and the Publications Board to redress the confidentiality agreements for editorial records of AAS journals.

News from NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences

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

New Guidelines on Postdoctoral Mentoring Requirements for Proposals

NSF has published a revised version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPP), NSF 09-29 (www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf0929) which will be effective for proposals received on or after 6 April 2009.

The PAPP and the Grant Proposal Guide have been revised to update NSF's implementation of the mentoring requirement contained in the America COMPETES Act. Beginning 6 April 2009, each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a supplementary document, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. In no more than one page, the mentoring plan must describe the mentoring that will be provided to all postdoctoral researchers supported by the project, irrespective of whether they reside at the submitting organization, any sub-awardee organization, or at any organization participating in a simultaneously submitted collaborative project. Any proposals that do not include the mentoring plan in the Special Information and Supplementary Documentation section will be returned without review.

Recovery Act Funding Update

Please check NSF's web site at www.nsf.gov/recovery/ for news on NSF's plans and activities under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A Fact Sheet posted by the NSF Director outlines NSF's priorities for awarding the \$3 billion in funding to NSF as part of ARRA. Frequently Asked Questions, found at www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09038/nsf09038.jsp, are being updated regularly.

NSF intends to award grants under ARRA quickly, once its plan is approved by the Administration and Congress. All ARRA awards will be made as new standard grants of two to five years duration. NSF does not intend to provide any supplements to existing grants under ARRA. New solicitations for the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program and the Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) program will be issued as soon as NSF's spending plan has been approved. Please check the NSF and AST web sites for these announcements.

Upcoming Deadlines for FY2009 funding:

23 July 2009: CAREER (MPS) Faculty Early Career Development Program – see NSF 08-557.

3 August 2009: Partnerships in Astronomy and Astrophysics Research and Education (PAARE) – see the program solicitation NSF 08-562.

18 August 2009: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites – A new program announcement is under

development at NSF, but major program changes are not expected. See the current solicitation NSF 07-569 or contact Dr. Brian Patten (bpatten@nsf.gov) for more information.

14 October 2009: NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships Program (AAPF) (NSF 07-572)

1 November 2009: Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation (ATI)

15 November 2009: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG) (NSF 05-608) provides individual investigator and collaborative research grants for observational, theoretical, laboratory and archival data studies in all areas of astronomy and astrophysics.

AAAC Report Posted

The Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC) plays the unique role of jointly advising the NSF, NASA, and the Department of Energy on issues of mutual interest to the agencies, particularly on the coordination of programs and activities. As legislated, the AAAC produces an annual report due 15 March to Congressional committees as well as the agency heads. The report receives wide distribution within the Administration and among Congressional staff. The committee's 2009 report is now available at www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac/reports/annual/aaac_2009_report.pdf. Information on the committee and its activities, including membership, minutes from its meetings, and reports from its task forces are available at: www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp.

2009 Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellows

The Division of Astronomical Sciences is pleased to announce the 2009 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.

- Cullen Blake - Princeton University, "Ultracool Dwarfs and Their Companions: A Census of Binaries and a Search for Planets"
- Benjamin Brown - University of Wisconsin, Madison, "Magnetism in the Habitable Zone: Simulations of Dynamo Activity in Lower-Mass Stars"
- Catherine Espaillat - Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, "Peering at the First Stages of Planet Formation: Getting a Clearer View of Grain Growth, Settling, and Clearing in Dusty Disks"

- Eilat Glikman - Yale University, “Dust Obscured Quasars: A Missing Link in the Formation and Evolution of Galaxies and Quasars”
- Sarah Hansen - University of California, Santa Cruz, “Clusters of Galaxies: Key to Galaxy Evolution and Cosmological Physics”
- Heather Jacobson - Michigan State University, “Open Cluster s- and r-process Abundances and the Evolution of the Milky Way Disk”
- Ilya Mandel - Northwestern University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Gravitational Wave Astronomy: A New Window on the Universe”
- Michael McElwain - Princeton University, “Exoplanetary Science with High Contrast Imaging”
- Stella Offner - Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, “The Formation of Stars: From Clouds to Protostars”
- Aaron Parsons - University of California-Berkeley, “Detecting Cosmic Reionization via Low-Frequency Interferometry”
- Matthew Povich - Pennsylvania State University, “Exploring Large-Scale Star-Forming Structures in the Milky Way”
- Nicholas Sterling - Michigan State University, “Exploring the Nucleosynthesis of Neutron-Capture Elements Through Nebular Spectroscopy”
- Molly Swanson - Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, “Investigating Dark Energy and Neutrino Mass with Pan-STARRS and LSST”

Member Benefit Focus: What the Heck is APSIT?

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer

Each year AAS members receive a letter from APSIT, the American Physical Society Insurance Trust, offering a range of insurance products. Many members probably have no idea why they get this letter nor what APSIT is. The AAS belongs to the APSIT through our relationship with the American Institute of Physics. In fact, AAS members who belong to more than one AIP member society likely receive multiple letters about APSIT. To help AAS members understand a bit more about this benefit of membership, I want to explain a bit about APSIT and its insurance products.

The American Physical Society Insurance Trust was established in 1969 by the American Physical Society to provide members with a convenient source for quality insurance coverage at an affordable cost. The trust has offered Group Term Life insurance to APSIT member society members since February of 1970. Since then, they have expanded their product range and the number of member societies participating. The insurance plans are underwritten by the New York Life Insurance Company, established in 1845 and still a market leader today. New York Life regularly earns the highest ratings for its financial strength from leading rating services and even through the recent economic crisis remained in excellent fiscal health.

The plan is administered by a contracted administration company, Herbert V. Friedman, Inc., based in New York City. They maintain a website about APSIT at www.hvfinc.com. All of the AIP member societies are APSIT participating organizations and any member of an AIP member society may purchase the insurance products provided by APSIT.

The APSIT offers six insurance products: term life, 10 year level term life, disability income, personal accident,

hospital indemnity and long term care. Of course, the particular products offered by APSIT may not meet your own personal needs, but their products are at least worth a look. The premiums are usually very affordable and the coverage provided is quite competitive with other providers. Additionally, because the members of AIP member societies, as a group, typically have a higher education, live conservative lifestyles and so on, the group rate provided can be far better than other group plans.

An additional benefit of APSIT is that the member societies themselves sit on the governing board and make decisions about the types of plans provided and other matters. In fact, this year I am serving as the board chair for APSIT. One issue brought up at a prior board meeting was the naming of the trust, based on the American Physical Society, who founded the trust. Some board members felt the name discouraged members of other societies from considering purchasing products from APSIT and this issue is one item we will discuss at the board meeting this summer.

So, if you get a letter or informational pamphlet from the APSIT, you now know where it came from and why you received it. It remains your decision as to whether any of the insurance products provided suit your own financial needs. The AAS feels that our participation in the APSIT is of benefit to our members and encourage everyone to take advantage of the offered products that are right for you. To learn more about other benefits of membership, please see our benefits of membership website: aas.org/membership/benefits.php, which is updated as new benefits are added.

Committee on Employment

Joshua Roth, Winchester (MA) High School (jrothastro@yahoo.com)

Back to School: A Ph.D. Enters the Classroom

“Isn’t that a waste of your education?” So spoke a few when I contemplated becoming a high-school physics teacher. The education in question: a bachelor’s at U. C. Berkeley and an M. S. and a Ph.D. at Caltech (all in astronomy). But I can’t honestly think of a better way to use my training and subsequent work experience.

Still, no one should enter the K-12 classroom out of a sense of obligation. My motivations were more modest: With two kids of my own, I wanted to see public schools from the inside. I wanted to see if my real or imagined gifts for communicating science—honed during 11 years at *Sky & Telescope Magazine*—could be channeled into coherent lesson plans and engaging activities. Last but not least, I wanted to spend time in the company of people who are, for the most part, refreshingly honest and idealistic.

With rare exceptions, those terms describe my students and colleagues both. What’s more, schoolteachers are, if possible, even more generous than research astronomers, freely sharing lesson plans or entire online courses that took them hundreds of hours to create. They are articulate, engaging, quirky, intellectually rigorous, and resourceful. And they are, for the most part, well respected in the communities they live in and serve (my opening quote notwithstanding). What a great crowd to rub elbows with at one’s workplace!

That said, your fate as a new K-12 teacher depends very much on where you will put in that all-important first year. Some districts leave newbies to fend for themselves, while others generously mentor them. And demands on a K-12 teacher are intense even in the best-run, most resource-rich districts. If you are not already close to someone who does this for a living, read *Teachers Have It Easy: The Big Sacrifices and Small Salaries of America’s Teachers*. There you can read about educators who (like me) get out of bed at 5:30 a.m. and (like me) fall asleep at 10 p.m. beside piles of paperwork, making hundreds of high-stakes, on-the-fly decisions in the interim—all under stringent legal and ethical constraints and the glare of a hypercritical public with outsized expectations.

Like research astronomy, K-12 teaching is a relatively illiquid labor market. Most jobs start with the new school year (though hiring may begin the previous spring). You generally need a teaching license to enter the classroom (though exceptions often are made for math and science teachers, especially in underserved districts; and some states grant temporary licenses to those capable of passing certain tests). And pay and job security are primarily based upon seniority (though charter schools and “independent,” or private, schools, break this mold to varying degrees).

To earn the equivalent of tenure in public schools, you will almost certainly have to take graduate-level education courses and possibly even earn another advanced degree—all to earn about as much as a postdoc as long as you remain in the classroom (the real money is in administration or consulting). At least astronomers can take advantage of the fact that physics, chemistry, and math positions are among the hardest to fill (opportunities to actually teach astronomy, alas, are relatively rare, though you may be able to start up a club or independent-study program).

Many first teach as students in “ed schools,” under supervision. But I got my feet wet flying solo, covering for a physics teacher on maternity leave. Such “long-term-subbing” is a great low-stakes way to see what it is like being in front of a captive teenage audience without making a long-term commitment.

Opportunities often appear on craigslist or school-district Web sites; but I think it best knock on doors and introduce yourself to superintendents, principals, and above all department heads (often called “curriculum coordinators”). You will almost certainly get an appointment—folks with Ph.D.’s and published research don’t walk into their offices every day!

I could say lots more about what has turned out to be the most challenging and the most rewarding work I’ve yet done, but I’ve already exceeded my ostensible 600-word limit. Any AAS member seriously contemplating a career in K-12 education can drop me an e-mail at rooneyroth@yahoo.com; I’ll reply with a list of my favorite teaching-related books and Web resources.

AAS on Facebook

The AAS is now on Facebook! You can become a “fan” of the AAS and receive occasional updates and news via our Facebook page. In just a few weeks, we’ve reached 500 fans. You can find us by simply searching for the American Astronomical Society. Post feedback via our Wall on what sort of content and news would be useful on our Facebook page.

News from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP)

James Manning, Executive Director

Looking Up in 2009

Great indeed are the things which in this brief treatise I propose for observation and consideration by all students of nature. I say great, because of the excellence of the subject itself, the entirely unexpected and novel character of these things, and finally because of the instrument by means of which they have been revealed to our senses.

Galileo Galilei
The Starry Messenger, 1610

With this opening salvo, one Signore Galileo Galilei, a clever and ambitious professor of mathematics at the University of Padua in Italy, introduced *Siderius Nuncius—The Starry Messenger*—to the world, and set that world on its ear (which is in fact a little better position from which to look up at the sky).

He found things that no one had seen before, and we have been looking (and seeing anew) ever since. And that is what we celebrate—and encourage—in 2009, the International Year of Astronomy.

The 400th anniversary of Galileo's initial telescopic observations provides an opportunity to help the world rediscover the sky—a sky increasingly lost to light pollution, removed from everyday experience, taken for granted, ignored, misunderstood, not understood. It is a chance for us to help people look up again, reconnect with the universe, comprehend better what they see, and in the process, spark a greater appreciation for our place therein, the process (and value) of scientific investigation and discovery, and perhaps inspire new degrees of science literacy and new graduating classes of scientists and educators.

It is a tall order, taken in total. But our task is quite simple, to start. We need people to look up. Just look up. And, with a little guidance from intermediaries like us, to let the universe do the rest.

The ASP, with support from NASA's Science Mission Directorate and its Origins Forum, as well as support through a grant from the National Science Foundation, is providing some of that guidance in the form of "IYA Discovery Guides" designed to help amateur astronomers—that wonderful grass-roots army of astronomy intermediaries—to help people look up with greater understanding and appreciation.

The Guides are the centerpiece of an effort to coordinate education tools and resources in support of NASA's IYA calendar of monthly astronomy themes and featured objects. Each month has its own packet of education activities, instructional videos, PowerPoint presentations, and other

education resources designed to help amateurs present astronomical concepts effectively and enhance the experiences of their audiences during public events. Each month's packet keys on that month's NASA theme and featured object, adapting exercises and materials from the arsenal of resources developed for the Night Sky Network (NSN) of amateur astronomy clubs through the support of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and a variety of NASA missions. In addition, NSN club members will be able to attend a monthly series of telecons featuring NASA scientists providing more in-depth explorations of the monthly themes.

The materials are freely downloadable to amateurs and professionals alike for use in their IYA outreach efforts. The ASP is also adapting these coordination tools for informal educators at science museums and other venues using the professional development model created for its NSF-funded "Astronomy from the Ground Up" program—again, thanks to support from NASA's Science Mission Directorate. We have already had many thousands of downloads from the U.S. and around the world since the Guides went online and during the early months of IYA; check them out if you haven't already, to see what may be useful to you in your own outreach efforts.

To learn more about and to access the "IYA Discovery Guides," and to learn more about the ASP's signature IYA efforts, go to www.astrosociety.org/iya/index.html and explore.

To paraphrase an old Chinese proverb, "a journey of a billion light years begins with the first peep." This is the year to help turn millions of eyes to the sky, and let wonder happen. Be sure to use all of the tools at your disposal—including those you can find at the ASP. Good luck!

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.

Honored Elsewhere

Hans A. Bethe Prize Awarded to Arnett

The 2009 Hans A. Bethe Prize was awarded to David Arnett (University of Arizona). The citation reads “For his outstanding and fundamental work on how nuclear reactions shape multi-dimensional and partly out-of-equilibrium evolution of stars and supernova explosions and their yields of new isotopes.”

The central theme of Arnett’s research is supernovae. He performed the first radiation hydrodynamic simulations of gravitational collapse, which produced both black holes and neutron stars, and showed the importance of neutrino flavors, as well as the first simulations of thermonuclear supernovae.

Charbonneau Receives Waterman Award

David Charbonneau, currently the Thomas D. Cabot Associate Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University, received the 2009 Alan T. Waterman Award. *Discover* magazine’s 2007 Scientist of the Year, Charbonneau’s research focuses on the development of novel techniques for the detection and characterization of planets orbiting nearby Sun-like stars—extra-solar planets, also known as exoplanets.

He is a member of the NASA Kepler Team and is currently leading the NSF-funded MEarth Project. Each of these projects aims to detect Earth-like planets that might be suitable abodes for life beyond the solar system.

The annual Waterman award recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering supported by NSF.

Lange Wins 2009 Dan David Prize

Andrew E. Lange (Goldberger Professor of Physics at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA) is known for the discovery of the large-scale spatial geometry of the universe being spatially flat, of its total mass-energy density having a “critical” value and for major by-products of this discovery. He confirmed the existence of a negative-pressure dark energy pervading the universe; provided evidence for an inflationary epoch at the beginning of the universe, and measured the Universe’s mean density, matter density and other cosmological parameters.

Together with Paolo De Bernardis, (and parallel with Paul Richards’ MAXIMA-1 experiment) Lange led the BOOMERanG experiment which measured the angular sizes and amplitudes of the first few acoustic peaks in the cosmic microwave background radiation. These results led Lange and colleagues to deduct the Universe’s geometry and to make their by-product discoveries.

The Dan David Prize is a joint international enterprise, endowed by the Dan David Foundation and headquartered at Tel Aviv University.

2009 Grote Reber Medal Awarded to Clark

The 2009 Grote Reber Gold Medal for lifetime innovative contributions to radio astronomy has been awarded to Barry Clark, who is an Emeritus Scientist at the U.S. National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Socorro, NM. Clark is being honored for his many pioneering developments to radio interferometry and synthesis imaging, over a career spanning more than half a century.

After receiving his PhD in 1964 Clark went to NRAO where he has remained until the present. After arriving at NRAO, he led the development of the world’s first digital recording, software correlator Very Long Baseline Interferometer system and the subsequent enhancements to its sensitivity. He is probably best known, however, as the intellectual power behind the Very Large Array. Later, he led the design of the Very Long Baseline Array, an array of ten radio telescopes spread across the U.S. which provided unprecedented angular resolution.

The 2009 Reber Medal will be presented on 5 August at the IAU meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during at a session of the Working Group on the History of Radio Astronomy. The Reber Medal was established by the Trustees of the Grote Reber Foundation to honor the achievements of Grote Reber and is administered by the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston, Tasmania.

Ostriker Named 2009 Guggenheim Fellow

Eve C. Ostriker (Professor of Astronomy, University of Maryland) has been named a 2009 Guggenheim Fellow for her work in the Large-scale regulation of star formation. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Jayawardhana Awarded NSERC Steacie Fellowship

Ray Jayawardhana (Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics at the University of Toronto) has been awarded two of six 2009 E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships. The highly competitive fellowships are awarded annually by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) to enhance the career development of outstanding and highly promising scientists and engineers. Fellows are relieved of teaching and administrative duties for two years so that they can devote all their time and energy to research.

Jayawardhana is interested in the origin and diversity of planetary systems and the formation of stars and brown dwarfs. His work recently made media headlines when his research group captured the first direct image of what is likely a giant planet revolving around a young sun-like star. He holds the Canada Research Chair in observational astrophysics.

committee report language which effectively directed NASA to define “conference” in such a way that NASA employees should no longer face severe limitations traveling to scientific conferences.

One budget may be done, but another remains—President Obama released a very broad outline of his budget in February. The full details will be released in late April, but as it stands the National Science Foundation’s request is \$7 billion, and NASA’s is \$18.7 billion. However, on the NASA side it is impossible to tell from the current release exactly how much the Science Mission Directorate will increase. The Senate and House have both passed their initial budget resolutions, which sets the framework for the upcoming appropriations and tax process. Those two resolutions must be reconciled, before Congress can proceed on the appropriations cycle. How science will fare among the much larger and more contentious budget fight remains to be seen.

Local Visits

Last year, we tried our first Local Congressional Visits Day during the summer recess. It was actually more than just a single day, with the “district work period” almost a month in length. This year the summer recess runs 3 August-4 September, there will be opportunities to visit local offices and perhaps meet your local member of Congress—either in the district where you work or where you live.

Like last year, we will have one or more conference calls to go over the aims of the visits, and I will prepare some briefing materials that AAS members can use. The primary purpose of a local visit will be to tell your story of yourself and astronomy in the district. You can let the office know you are a resource if they ever have questions, inform them about the scientific and outreach events your department or institution sponsors, and how these enhance the community and state.

If you would like to participate in making a local visit, please contact me at huerta@aaas.org. A key lesson learned from last year is to make the appointments earlier, so if you are interested please contact me. I hope to try to start encouraging June calls to make appointments for the August recess. We will also have the web site for the visits day updated soon at aaas.org/policy/.

CNSF Hill Day

The AAS participated in the 14th Annual Coalition for National Science Funding Hill Exhibit day. The event features NSF-funded projects, research, and initiatives. This year, we sponsored the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope at our booth, which was chosen in consultation with the NSF Astronomy Division. Other NSF facilities or projects interested in being featured at future events can contact the AAS.



House Science Committee Chair Bart Gordon (D-TN), CNSF Chair Sam Rankin, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and NSF Director Dr. Arnold Bement pose outside the CNSF exhibit room.



Chairman Gordon (Left) and NSF Director Arnold Bement amidst the crowds at the 14th Annual CNSF Hill Exhibit Day.



LSST Project Director Don Sweeney, and LSST Systems Engineer Chuck Claver, in front of their AAS sponsored booth at CNSF Hill Exhibit Day.

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. For only \$2000, your institution or department can show support for the whole astronomical community and be featured prominently in astronomers' offices across the country. Sponsorship space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups interested in sponsoring a month may contact Crystal Tinch (crystal@ aas.org) for more information and pricing details for the 2010 calendar. Deadline for sponsorship is 1 September 2009.

NSO Observing Proposal Deadline

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 May 2009 for the third quarter of 2009. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nsokp@nso.edu). Instructions may be found at <http://www.nso.edu/general/observe/>. A web-based observing-request form is at <http://www2.nso.edu/cgi-bin/nsoforms/obsreq/obsreq.cgi>. Users' Manuals are available at <http://nosp.nso.edu/dst/> for the SP facilities and <http://nsokp.nso.edu/> for the KP facilities. An observing-run evaluation form can be obtained at ftp://ftp.nso.edu/observing_templates/evaluation.form.txt.

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.

Arecibo Call for Proposals

1 June 2009 is the next deadline for submitting proposals for Arecibo. Proposals submitted at this deadline are for using the 305 m telescope in the eight months beginning 1 October 2009 (ie valid for two trimesters).

We draw attention to the 1.1-10 GHz continuous frequency coverage on offer. This capacity was recently used to detect numerous molecular and hydrogen recombination lines from Arp 220 and other ULIRGS, using our WAPP spectrometers that offer a single pixel 640 MHz bandwidth facility (Salter et al AJ 136, 389). We anticipate a 1 GHz bandwidth capacity being available by June. In addition we commissioned a cryogenic 327 MHz receiver in 2008.

The transition from analog to digital TV changes the use of spectrum in the 705 - 820 MHz band. The Observatory is commissioning a receiver to use in this band on a trial basis, and will consider proposals on a shared risk basis in this band. Its availability may be ephemeral.

Proposal submission details, and a web-based cover sheet, can be found at www.naic.edu/~astro/proposals. A guide for new-users to the telescope is at www.naic.edu/~astro/guide. Other user-related information is at www.naic.edu/~astro/astronomy.htm.

Radio sources with declinations between about -1 and +37.5 deg are visible from Arecibo, and can be tracked over the range of zenith angles between ~1.1 and 19.7 deg. Arecibo deadlines are at the first of February, June and October.

National Air and Space Museum's Exploring Space Lecture Series

In observance of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA), the National Air and Space Museum is devoting its 2009 Exploring Space Lecture Series to IYA themes. Both of the award-winning lecturers will provide personal and historical preambles, reflecting on how their own particular set of questions was treated in Galileo's time and later in the "telescopic age."

Our Sun: Is it a Steady Performer?

Thursday, June 18

Dr. Alan M. Title, senior fellow at the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Advanced Technology Center, will help us get to know the Sun better, if only to appreciate that it is more violent, and largely unpredictable, than imagined.

All lectures are free and take place in the National Mall building at 6th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Educational activities begin at 6 p.m. Lectures begin at 7:30. You must reserve tickets in advance at www.nasm.si.edu.

The 2009 Exploring Space lectures are available on webcast (www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/webcast/).

History of Physicists in Industry

The final report of the Center for History of Physics's five-year study of the history of physicists in industry is available online, http://www.aip.org/history/pubs/HOPI_Final_report.pdf. Using a cross section of America's largest high-tech companies, it is the first systematic study of the work that physicists do and how that work is organized and documented. Findings are based on interviews with more than 130 staff—science managers, bench physicists, and information specialists—at 15 companies, comparative surveys of industrial archives in Germany and the UK, and other research. Among the major findings described in the report:

- * The funding and organizational structures of R&D have undergone radical changes since the 1980s.

- * Companies have not achieved a consensus on how to conduct research. They are struggling to find the best mix of longer-term research, to develop new technologies, and to establish shorter-term programs tied to product improvements.

- * Many of the companies rely on external sources, especially physicist entrepreneurs and physics start-ups, for innovative technology.

- * No standard arrangement exists for preserving the records of corporate R&D, and historically valuable records are being lost as a result.

Calendar

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

DPS Meeting

4-9 Oct 2009, Fajardo, Puerto Rico
<http://dps.aas.org/meetings/>

AAS 215th Meeting

3-7 January 2010, Washington, DC
Contact: Kelli Gilmore
(gilmore@aaas.org)
<http://aas.org/meetings>

HEAD Meeting

1-4 March 2010, Big Island, HI
Contact: John Vallerga
(info@eurekasci.com)
www.confcon.com
www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/

Other Events

2009 IAU Symposia, Special Sessions and Joint Discussions
www.astronomy2009.com.br/

*Santa Fe Cosmology Summer Workshop

6-24 July 2009, Santa Fe, NM
Contact: Salman Habib (habib@lanl.gov)
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/cosmology/sf09/index.html>

Supernova Remnants and Pulsar Wind Nebulae in the Chandra Era

8-17 July 2009, Cambridge, MA
Contact: Paul Green
(snr09@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/cdo/snr09/>

The Fifth NAIC-NRAO Single-Dish Summer School

12-18 July 2009, Arecibo, Puerto Rico
Contact: Chris Salter (sdss5@naic.edu)
<http://www.naic.edu/~astro/sdss5/>

*Computational Astrophysics

13-24 July 2009, Princeton, NJ
Contact: Susan Higgins
(shiggins@ias.edu)
<http://www.ias.edu/pitp>

Galaxy Wars: Stellar Populations and Star Formation in Interacting Galaxies

19-22 July 2009, Johnson City, TN
Contact: Beverly Smith
(smithbj@etsu.edu)
etsu.edu/physics/wars/wars.html

New Technologies for Probing the Diversity of Brown Dwarfs and Exoplanets

19-24 July 2009, Shanghai, China
SOC contact: Eduardo Martin (ege@physics.ucf.edu) and Jian Ge (jge@astro.uf.edu)
LOC contact: Michele Montgomery
(montgomery@physics.ucf.edu)
http://www.shao.ac.cn/bdep_meeting/Regab.html

*2009 Sagan Summer Workshop on Exoplanetary Atmospheres

20-24 July 2009, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Dawn Gelino (sagan_workshop@ipac.caltech.edu)
<http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2009/index.shtml>

Particle Acceleration in Astrophysical Plasmas

27 July-2 Oct 2009, Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Don Ellison
(don_ellison@ncsu.edu)
www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=963

Optical Engineering + Applications 2009 - Part of SPIE Optics + Photonics

2-6 August 2009, San Diego, CA
customerservice@spie.org
http://spie.org/Optical-Engineering.xml?WT.mc_id=RCALENDARW

*Stellar Death and Supernovae

17-21 August 2009, Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Jocelyn Quick
(jocelyn@kitp.ucsb.edu)
www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=977

*A Festival of Cosmic Explosions: Celebrating the Contributions and Accomplishments of Roger Chevalier

21-23 August 2009, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Alicia Soderberg
(asoderberg@cfa.harvard.edu)
www.astro.caltech.edu/RogerFest

*CALCON Technical Conference (Annual Conference on Characterization and Radiometric Calibration for Remote Sensing)

24-27 August 2009, Logan, UT
Contact: Stephanie Halton (stephanie.halton@usurf.usu.edu)
www.spacedynamics.org/conferences/calcon/

*Cool Stars 16

28 Aug-2 Sept 2009, Seattle, WA
Contact: John Vallerga
(info@eurekasci.com)
www.confcon.com

*Solar Analogs II

20-23 Sept 2009, Flagstaff, AZ
Contact: Jeffrey Hall (jch@lowell.edu)
<http://www.lowell.edu/workshops/SolarAnalogII/index.php>

*Assembly and Star Formation History of Galaxies

21-24 Sept 2009, Charlottesville, VA
Contact: Aaron Evans (aevans@nrao.edu)

*SOHO-23: Understanding a Peculiar Solar Minimum

21-25 Sept 2009, Northeast Harbor, ME
Contact: John Kohl
(jkohl@cfa.harvard.edu)
<http://www.soho23.org/>

Ten Years of Science with Chandra

22-25 Sept 2009, Boston, MA
Contact: Harvey Tananbaum
(ht@cfa.harvard.edu)

Nonlinear Processes in Astrophysical Plasmas: Particle Acceleration, Magnetic Field Amplification, and Radiation Signatures

28 Sept – 2 Oct 2009, Santa Barbara, CA
Contact: Anatoly Spitkovsky
(anatoly@astro.princeton.edu)
www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto/?id=975

*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 cadwww.hia.



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

Periodical
Postage
Paid
Washington DC

Newsletter 146 May/June 2009

Washington News

Marcos Huerta, John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow, huerta@aas.org



Springtime in Washington brings out Cherry Blossoms and tourists. School groups, in particular, seem rather noticeable in DC lately. And while it was March before we had our first good snowfall of the winter, the weather is slowly approaching truly spring-like weather. The annual Cherry Blossom

festival is winding down, and the trees were a sight to enjoy for both tourists and DC-residents alike.

The Stimulus Bill, Government Spending, and Scientific Societies

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed the House and Senate and was signed into law in February. The bill included significant money for science, including \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation. The final bill contains a total of \$21.5 billion in federal research and development (R&D) funding, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The exact amount of money in the bill for science was most uncertain in the final days leading up to the bill's passage, especially after the Senate reduced the NSF funding significantly in its version. For this reason, the AAS sent an Action Alert to our members, urging them to call their

members of congress to support the NSF in the stimulus bill. There were a few members of the society who found this call to action objectionable, as they did not support the stimulus bill overall.

However, this is an example where the goal of a majority of members may not match the personal sensibilities of every member of the society. A similar situation occurred with a push to put science money in the supplemental funding bills that funded the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While the AAS did not send out an action alert for that effort (it was much smaller amount of money with—we thought—a lower chance of passing), we did support the inclusion of science money—as did many other scientific societies. All this despite the fact that many scientists no doubt opposed the war in Iraq. Advocacy groups like the AAS and other societies often choose to advocate for science on a variety of fronts, including on legislation that may otherwise be contentious, but is likely to pass.

The FY 2009 and FY 2010 Budgets

The House and Senate passed the FY 2009 Omnibus bill last month, finally completing an appropriations cycle that started in February 2008. The bill contains substantially more money for science than the continuing resolution that had been funding the government until now. I detailed the FY 2009

continued on page 13