

August 2006
Issue 131

AAS NEWSLETTER

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

J. Craig Wheeler, aaspres@as.org

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When I first contemplated accepting the nomination to run for President of the AAS, I thought, well, at least I will have the solid hand of Bob Milkey as Executive Officer to lead me through the thickets. Then I realized that not only was Bob intent on retiring, but our stalwart Senior Editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Rob Kennicutt, was decamping to Cambridge. The upshot is that we were scheduled to replace the three top leadership positions in the AAS simultaneously. It is a distinct mark of the health of our Society that this transition has gone very smoothly. Kevin Marvel is the new Executive Officer.

Kevin has some bold ideas of where to lead the Society and the luxury to contemplate them thanks to the solid foundation left by Bob Milkey. Ethan Vishniac is the new Senior Editor and while Rob Kennicutt's shoes are large ones to fill, it is hard for me to think of a better replacement. Ethan is a superb scientist, full of common sense and sensitivity, and has a keen view of the potentials and perils facing scientific publishing.

There is a long interval between that call from the nominating committee and the time when one receives the gavel of office. The call is in November, the election in December, the vote tallied in January, formal assumption of the position of President-Elect in June and then a year in that office; 19 months. That is why, I presume, in the Washington DC meeting, President Bob Kirshner properly protested he WAS still the President. It was a pleasure and education to serve as President-Elect with Bob, who remains Past-President for another year. I also note that we will have a new election this fall. I urge you all to think hard about who should lead the Society and look forward to working with the new President-Elect whom you chose.

My basic thought coming into this position was that the Society is in good shape, but the external environment we work in is, at best, turbulent. Kevin has, however, raised my consciousness about what a new administration might accomplish. There were days before the Job Center, before poster presentations at meetings, before electronic publishing. These things are the immense legacy of earlier administrations who worked to improve the Society. Developments of that magnitude will be hard to emulate, but it is incumbent on us to be open to the possibilities.

What can we do? The AAS Council is energetic, boisterous, and wants to be involved. While there is mandated business with an attendant modicum of tedium, we want to encourage the Council to think strategically. There may be ways to speed up, even fundamentally change, communications within our community. We are considering setting up Wikis to facilitate the work of committees, including the Council. We are going to institute a new web page about the ecology of the power structure in Washington that controls our fate, the committees and our colleagues who sit on them. The hope is not just to list committees and organizational charts but to include some narrative to help reveal how these interlocking groups actually function. I wonder if we could build a richer community by invoking some aspects of MySpace.com or Face.com (without the prurient self-revelations!). Should the President have a blog? I would be very interested in hearing suggestions as to how we can fully, efficiently, and usefully take advantage of modern communications potential.

There are issues facing the journals. To keep them preeminent, we have to ensure that they take maximum advantage of peer review, archiving, and the rich connectivity that electronic publishing allows. Steve Maran, our Press Officer, notes that with the rise of Craig's List and the depletion of classified ad budgets in old-line newspapers, their circulation drops and they reduce their science coverage. How do we respond to that?

Then there is that issue of the funding environment. Here is an issue of "Ask not what your Society can do for you, ask what you can do for your Society." Kevin Marvel has nurtured a very effective public policy arm of the Society. We propose to keep that healthy despite his new duties with a Policy Intern position. That, and other demands, require an increase in the dues, which have not changed for several years. We hope this will not be an undue burden, but I personally made the motion in Council to add another couple of dollars to the increase proposed by the Executive Officer for fiscal reasons alone.

I think that this is necessary to maximize the effect of the AAS on the funding and policy issues that face us. Watch for Email Alerts, and talk to your Congressman.

AAS Executive Office Staff

Kevin B. Marvel, Executive Officer
Susana E. Deustua, Director, Educational Activities
Eboni Bowman, Meetings Registrar/Assistant
Kelli Gilmore, Meetings Manager
Scott Idem, Network & Systems Administrator
Judith M. Johnson, Publications Manager
Shantice Jones, Membership Services Specialist
Laura Kay-Roth, Manager, Finance & Administration
Natalie F. Patterson, Financial Assistant
Faye C. Peterson, Manager, Membership Services
Crystal M. Tinch, Publications Specialist

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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.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@aas.org.

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

Manuscript Submissions Using AASTeX

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

AASTeX Homepage:

www.journals.uchicago.edu/AAS/AASTeX

User Support: aastex-help@aas.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@aas.org

For address changes email address@aas.org

MEMBER DEATHS

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

E. Ruth Hedeman

Wulff Heintz

James H. Trexler



Raymond Davis, Jr.

Raymond Davis, Jr., 91, passed away at his home in Blue Point, New York on 31 May 2006.

Davis was born in Washington, D.C., on 14 October 1914. He earned a B.S. and M.S. from the University of Maryland (1937, 1940) and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Yale University (1942). During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Force, before joining Monsanto Chemical Company in 1946. In 1948, Davis joined the Chemistry Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he was named senior chemist in 1964. In 1985, Davis joined the Department of

Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania, but continued to hold an active, research appointment at Brookhaven.

Davis was best known for his pioneering work in the detection of the elusive neutrino, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002. Produced by fusion reactions in the sun, 400 billion neutrinos strike every square inch of the earth every second, but most pass right through the earth without interacting with matter. In the 1960s, Davis designed a new detector, consisting of a 100,000-gallon tank of perchloroethylene, shielded from cosmic rays by being located 4,900 feet below ground in the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, South Dakota. When a neutrino struck a chlorine nucleus in the target, it formed radioactive argon, which could be detected. Success was achieved in the early 1970s, and during the next thirty years, Davis detected 2000 neutrinos, confirming that the sun produced them in nuclear reactions.

In addition to these experiments, Davis was a member of NASA's Lunar Sample Review Board in 1971-1973 and helped to analyze lunar rocks collected by the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Davis received many prizes for his contributions to solar physics, including the AAS's Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize, 1994, and the Solar Physics Division's George Ellery Hale Prize, 1996.

Image courtesy of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

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.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kevin Marvel, marvel@aaas.org

Chartering a sailboat always makes me a bit nervous. You never know if you will get a shiny new boat with strong rigging, new sails and a pleasant smelling bilge or a dull, uncared for boat with rust dripping from the chain plates and a bilge reeking like a swamp. I had none of these fears when taking the helm of the AAS Executive Office at the Calgary AAS meeting.

Our Society is strong: financially, programmatically and in terms of the excellent staff managing all of the day-to-day business of a member organization like the AAS. This strength is due in bulk to the wise leadership of Bob Milkey, who retired at the end of June after 11 years of excellent service. It is a credit to our profession that Bob is an astronomer and a credit to our Society that he served us so long and so well.

Transitions allow change. Although our Society and the services it provides our profession and our members are comprehensive, improvements can be made. In the coming months you can expect a revamped, easier-to-use website, online membership renewals for 2007 and a redesigned *Newsletter* on a six-issue per year schedule. Our Education program will be enhanced with the addition of a part-time intern and a part-time assistant, while the Public Policy program will also be expanded with the establishment of a new half-year Public Policy Fellowship position named for John Bahcall (see page 14 for details). At future meetings you will see a more streamlined registration process, and beginning at our 2008 St. Louis meeting a new kind of summer meeting structure (see page 5 for details).

Over the longer term, it is useful to have fundamental principles that can underpin accomplishment.

A membership society should provide meaningful value to its members. In this era of globalization it is not enough to be a membership society for a particular nation or region, but we must participate on an international level. Strong non-profits come from strong elected leadership thinking and acting strategically. These three principles, value, international focus and strong governance, will guide me as I serve the Society as Executive Officer.

Our current council, led ably by our new President J. Craig Wheeler, is ready to determine what the AAS should be doing and to provide the resources necessary to accomplish their goals.

As Executive Officer, I stand ready to accomplish these goals and provide feedback and insight on what works and what does not. Together we are a strong team and we can only be effective with member input and participation. Please participate in your Society by voting at each election, nominating deserving individuals for our prizes, attending our meetings and providing feedback on the quality, usability and technical aspects our journals.

Finally, I am always open to comments, insight and input from members. My email, door and phone are open to you at any time. If you are in Washington, please consider dropping by your Executive Office for a visit to meet the dedicated staff who work hard each day for you and for astronomy in general.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

HAWAII TOPICAL SESSION PROPOSALS

The current Summer meeting format provides for topical sessions to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on Tuesday and Wednesday, 29 and 30 May. Proposals are due in the Executive Office by 15 November. The proposal submission form will be accessible through the members only pages.

Sessions may be one half day, 3 ¼ hours or one full day, 6 ½ hours – there will be no more than three of these sessions running in parallel at any time. Proposed sessions may consist of: invited talks, selected contributed talks, selected display/poster papers, debates on a controversial subject, or any innovative format you may propose. Proposals should be concise, provide a rationale for evaluation, and be as specific as possible regarding topics, format, speakers, etc. Selected proposers (who must be AAS members) will be responsible for organizing their sessions, securing their speakers, selecting contributed talks and posters if appropriate.

Information regarding topical sessions as well as other meeting sessions may be found on the AAS website under Meetings. Please contact Kelli Gilmore if there are any questions with submission or meeting information.

CALGARY MEETING

Meeting in Calgary, Alberta for the first time in decades, the AAS 208th meeting drew 645 registrants. The Canadian Astronomical Society, CASCA, met just prior to our meeting. The added draw of a companion AAS meeting resulted in more than 300 people at the CASCA meeting, setting a new record for attendance.

Non-science highlights of the AAS meeting included a specially made beer for meeting attendees to enjoy, Hubble Flow Ale. Some likened it to a Negra Modelo, famous among astronomers versed in the ways of the Southwest, others a fine British Ale. Everyone agreed it was a good way to round out a busy day of attending sessions. At the closing banquet, Alex Wells, a special Native American hoop dancer, the three-time world champion hoop dancer it was revealed, gave a rousing performance. While twisting around to the rhythmic drumming and chanting of his partner, Hal, this native son maneuvered numerous willow hoops around his body culminating in interlocking temporary sculptures. The closing performance included all banquet diners, who leapt to their feet instantly when asked to join hands in the shuffling friendship dance.

The numerous special, contributed and topical sessions were highlighted by the Russell Lectureship given by Bohdan Paczynski. The Russell prize is awarded annually on the basis of a lifetime of eminence in astronomical research.

As we begin to prepare for the Seattle meeting in January 2007 with the AAPT, it is important we remind AAS members of a few items. Most importantly, the dates for the Seattle meeting are shifted relative to our normal winter meeting dates. The dates for the meeting are 6-10 January. Scientific sessions will begin on Sunday, 7 January, while the opening reception is Saturday night 6 January. Members should schedule their travel accordingly.

In response to a growing demand for splinter meetings, there is now a splinter meeting request system on the AAS web site on the Members Only web pages. Members should log in and follow the directions for submitting a splinter meeting request. There is a nominal charge of \$75 for arranging these meetings beginning with the Seattle meeting.

Photo 1: (L-R) AAS President J. Craig Wheeler, Native American chanter/singer/drummer Hal, retiring Executive Officer Bob Milkey, Gene Milone (Calgary LOC) at the AAS Society Banquet.

Photo 2: Native American Hoop Dancer, Alex Wells and his partner Hal on stage at the Banquet.

Photo 3: (L-R) Richard Dreiser (AAS meeting photographer) and AAS Staff: Susana Deustua, Scott Idem, Eboni Bowman, Kelli Gilmore, Crystal Tinch, Kevin Marvel, Faye Peterson, Bob Milkey, and Laura Kay-Roth pose with Alex Wells (center).

Photo 4: AAS Members participating in the friendship dance.



NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SUMMER MEETING CONTENT

The AAS Council has approved a slight modification to the current summer meeting content.

For the 2008 summer meeting in St. Louis, MO, the Committee on Meetings (composed of the three Vice-Presidents, President and Executive Officer) will accept proposals for one, two or three day topical meetings, which will meet in parallel with the normal contributed and proposed special sessions. Proposals are due on December 15 each year for the summer meeting about 1.5 years following. (e.g. for St. Louis in 2008, proposals will be due December 15 of 2006).

Partial-day topical sessions will be shifted to the 90-minute special session category. Full day topical sessions will be shifted to the topical meeting category. The revamped summer meetings will more closely resemble the winter meetings from a schedule standpoint, with four days of parallel sessions taking place, some sessions from member contributions or special session proposals, some sessions from multi-day topical session proposals and the normal prize-winner and invited speaker plenary sessions and town-hall meetings. All sessions take the same morning, lunch and afternoon breaks.

The goal of the change is to stabilize summer meeting attendance (saving the Society money) and to enhance the scientific content of the meeting (providing enhanced value to our meeting attendees). This new option is a great way for a focused scientific session to be held with minimal concern for logistical issues on the part of the organizers.

Proposals will be accepted using the online session proposal tool located on the members-only section of the AAS website. Proposers should include an explanation of the value of the proposed topical meeting, details on whether contributed material or only invited participants may take part, any special audio-visual or logistical requirements and any other particular information of use to the Committee on Meetings in deciding whether to accept the special session.

COUNCIL ACTIONS FROM CALGARY MEETING

Council actions taken at the 208th Meeting of the Council of the American Astronomical Society in Calgary, Canada, 4 June 2006

1. Adopted the Minutes of the AAS Council's 207th Meeting (Washington).
2. Approved Executive Committee actions taken between 7 January 2006 and 3 June 2006.
3. Accepted the AAS 2006 election results.
4. Accepted the election of Nancy R. Evans and Robert E. Williams to the 2006 AAS Nominating Committee.
5. Accepted the election of Robert P. Kirshner, J. Craig Wheeler, Wallace L. W. Sargent, Hervey Stockman, Paul A. Vanden Bout, John A. Graham, and Kevin B. Marvel to the Executive Committee for the interval between the annual business meetings June, 2006 to June, 2007.
6. Approved Bylaws changes for the Division of Dynamical Astronomy.
7. Adopted rules for the Chambliss Writing Award.
8. Approved special funding to support a research effort to Defend the Integrity of Science Education and to support the National Academies of Science Convocation on Rising Above the Gathering Storm.
9. Approved the Financial Report for 2005.
10. Accepted the Audit Report for 2005.
11. Confirmed Tate and Tryon as the AAS Auditor for fiscal year 2006.
12. Modified the budget for 2007 (dues increase to \$125).
13. Adopted the 2007 Budget.
14. Accepted the Annual Report of the Investment Advisory Committee.
15. Accepted the Annual Report of the Audit Committee.
16. Accepted the Annual Reports from the AAS journals.
17. Endorsed The Washington Charter for Communicating Astronomy with the Public.
18. Adopted the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP) Annual Report.
19. Adopted the Annual Reports from the Astronomy Education Board and the Education Office.
20. Accepted the Annual Report from the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy.
21. Accepted the Annual Report from the Committee on Minorities in Astronomy.
22. Accepted the Annual Report from the Working Group on Astronomical Software.
23. Accepted the Annual Reports from the AAS Divisions.
24. Elected Lee Anne Wilson to a four year term on the Publications Board.
25. Elected Gretchen Harris, Rosaly Lopes, and Robert Mathieu to three year terms on the Education Board.
26. Appointed members of the Standing Committees following recommendations of the Committee on Appointments.
27. Approved the Executive Officer's proposal to change the Society's Bank.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

John Graham, aassec@as.org

Announcement of Chambliss Awards for Writing and for Amateur Achievement

Thanks to the generosity of Carlson Chambliss, the American Astronomical Society will make annual awards for achievements in amateur research and in text-book writing. Rules for the awards are shown below. Each award will consist of a medal (nickel-silver, in the case of the Amateur Achievement award and gold, in the case of the writing award) and each will be accompanied by a cash prize of \$1000. The deadline for nominations this year is 1 October, the same as that of the regular AAS prizes. You will note that the writing award is aimed at a graduate level text book rather than at a book intended for the mass market. The AAS Council felt that such books had not been sufficiently recognized in the past.

Rules for the Chambliss Writing Award

1. The Chambliss Writing Award is to be given for astronomy writing for an academic audience, specifically textbooks at either the upper division undergraduate level or the graduate level. The motivation for this choice is the fact that introductory textbooks and popular astronomy books have large markets and a number of existing modes of recognition and reward. Books serving astronomy majors and graduate students, by contrast, have relatively small markets and excellence in this area is rarely recognized. Nonetheless, such books serve a vital role in the professional development.
2. Books suitable for this award must be currently available in North America. Multiple medals will be given if the winning book has multiple authors and the monetary award divided.
3. Nominations will be formally invited each year via an announcement in the *AAS Newsletter*. The call for nominations will be also circulated to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and a listserve of Astronomy Department chairs, for forwarding to their teaching faculty.
4. Nominations will be by an AAS member with three supporting letters, at least one of which must also be from an AAS member. The nomination form will be available in the members-only section of the AAS web site. The nominator will be expected to fill in basic information about the book being nominated, the author or authors, including contact information, and the academic role and intended audience of the book. They will also submit a statement online to state why the book is being

singled out for recognition with this award. Self-nominations are permitted from AAS members only.

5. An Astronomical Writing Award Committee will be appointed by the AAS Council to make an annual recognition for the award. There will be three members with staged terms, with the members proposed by the Committee on Appointments.

6. Nominations will remain active for three years as for other AAS awards and prizes.

The committee will have the option of not making an award in any one year if the nominations are not considered sufficiently meritorious.

Rules for Chambliss Amateur Achievement Award

1. The award will be for an achievement in astronomical research made by an amateur astronomer; that is a person not employed in the field of astronomy in a professional capacity, and who is resident in North America. The key factor will be that the work contributes to the advancement of the science of astronomy.
2. Nominations will be formally invited each year via an announcement in the *AAS Newsletter*. The call for nominations will be circulated to other groups such as the ASP, AAVSO, ALPO, IAPP, and the Astronomical League.
3. Nominations will be by an AAS member with three supporting letters, including at least one from a professional member of the AAS, to be received by a closing date. The nomination form shall be available in the members-only section of the AAS web site with the provision for the nominator to fill out basic information about the nominee (including contact information), a description of the achievement being singled out for recognition, and a statement as to why this amateur and this work are worthy of the award. Self-nominations will be allowed but only from AAS members.
4. An Amateur Achievement Award Committee will be appointed by the AAS Council to make an annual recommendation for the award. There will be five members with staged terms. It will include three members of the WGPAC and initially one member of the AAS Council. Members will be proposed to the Council by the Committee on Appointments. Initially, there will be two persons (including a chair) serving for two years, and three serving for three years. After the initial appointments, members will be appointed for three year terms.
5. Nominations will remain active for three years as for other AAS awards and prizes. The Committee will have the option of not making an award in any one year should the nominations not be considered sufficiently meritorious.

2006 AAS ELECTIONS PRELIMINARY SLATE

President	Roger D. Blandford John P. Huchra
Vice-President	Stefi A. Baum Lee W. Hartmann
Secretary	John A. Graham
Publication Board Chair	Richard F. Green Bo Reipurth
Councilors	Gloria Koenigsberger Chryssa Kouveliotou Felix J. Lockman George Sonneborn Nicholas B. Suntzeff Jill C. Tartar
USNC-IAU, Cat. I	Edward B. Churchwell Robert L. Millis
Nominating Committee	W. Miller Goss Tod R. Lauer David L. Meier Mercedes T. Richards Faith Vilas

Additional nominations for Officer or Councilor may be submitted by mail and must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve and by the signatures of at least 30 voting Full Members of the Society. Additional nominations for the Nominating Committee must be proposed by at least five Full Members of the Society and must also be accompanied by the nominee's written statement indicating a willingness to serve.

All nominations and supporting materials must be received by 15 September 2006 in the Office of the Secretary. Send nominations to: John A. Graham, Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Reminder for Prize Nominations

The AAS needs your help in getting due recognition for our most outstanding colleagues.

Nominations for the AAS Prizes for 2007 must arrive in the Secretary's Office by 1 October 2006. The Prize nomination form is published in this *Newsletter* and is also posted online in the members only area of the AAS website. This year, nominations are being received for the Annie Jump Cannon Award, the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize, the Helen B. Warner Prize, the Danie Heineman Prize, the George Van Biesbroeck Prize, the Education Prize, the Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Education, and the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship. The Tinsley Prize is not to be awarded in 2007 and applications for the 2008 Prize will be accepted up until 1 October 2007.

2007 AAS PRIZE NOMINATION FORM

Please read the full descriptions of the AAS prizes and awards on www.aas.org or abbreviated information on page 14 of the 2006 AAS *Membership Directory*.

All nominations are due by **1 October 2006** and should be sent to the Secretary of the AAS:

John A. Graham
Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism
Carnegie Institution of Washington
5241 Broad Branch Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20015

I wish to nominate (Name)

of (Institution)

for the following prize (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Russell Lectureship	<input type="checkbox"/> Warner Prize
<input type="checkbox"/> Pierce Prize	<input type="checkbox"/> Education Prize
<input type="checkbox"/> Van Biesbroeck Prize	<input type="checkbox"/> Heineman Prize
<input type="checkbox"/> Weber Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Cannon Award

Please note: send a letter with this form stating upon which major scientific achievements you base your belief that this person is a suitable candidate for the prize. Enclose a curriculum vitae of the nominee, bibliography and abstracts of three papers illustrative of the candidate's merit, and request that three supporting letters also be sent to the Secretary.

Print Your Name _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

2005 AAS FISCAL REPORT

The firm of Tate & Tryon audited the accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 December 2005. This audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and indicated no material problems while confirming that the AAS was in compliance with the required accounting provisions. This report was submitted to and accepted by the Council at its meeting on 4 June 2006.

The Society reports its finances in six categories (see Table I) according to the nature of the activities and the source of the revenues:

(1) General Programs: This includes the Society's general operations and administration. In addition, the General Fund covers the income and expenses of all Society programs including educational and public policy activities, and meetings. Also under this heading are the general publications handled by the Executive Office, including the *AAS Newsletter*, the *AAS Job Register*, and the *AAS Membership Directory*.

(2) Journals: Each of the journals published by the AAS is operated as a distinct cost center. AAS Bylaws, Article VIII.3, mandate that each Journal maintain a reserve fund equal or above the level of one-half of the annual operating expenses. At the end of 2005 the three AAS journals had reserve funds totaling \$6,027,369, or 96% of the overall operating costs of the journals.

At the close of 2005 the reserve fund for long-term maintenance of the journal electronic archives had reached a balance of \$368,777, including the annual contribution of \$40,000 from the journal operations. To date, nothing has been withdrawn from this fund.

(3) Divisions: These comprise the finances of the five AAS Divisions and their related prizes. The Divisions legally fall under the oversight and fiscal responsibility of the AAS Council, but each Divisional Committee makes the financial decisions of its Division and the fiscal details are reported directly to the members of the Division. The figures in Table I include all Division funds whether held by the Division Treasurers or in the Society's general accounts.

(4) Bequests and Memorials: These include the AAS prizes and other funds established by gifts and bequests to the Society. The timing of the actual awarding of the various prizes causes the fluctuations in expenses between successive fiscal years. The balances of the principle funds on 31 December 2005 were:

Russell Lectureship	\$89,468
Warner Prize	\$51,960
Pierce Prize	\$116,833
Tinsley Prize	\$58,078
Van Biesbroeck Prize	\$56,275
Weber Award	\$104,401
Education Prize*	\$129,465

* Including Wentzel endowment.

(5) Grants and Contracts: The bulk of this category is in Federal Grants

NASA supported AAS Small Research Grants,
NSF International Travel Grants,
NSF funding for the Bok and Lines Awards

(6) Other: This includes the General Operating Reserve and accounts for the Shapley Visiting Lecturer Program, and a variety of other special purpose funds. The General Operating Reserve stood at \$1,071,920. The fund balance for the Shapley Lecture Program was \$606,421 as of 31 December 2005.

Summary

The overall financial picture for the Society remains very good. Net assets increased by \$492,692 including an unrealized loss of \$152,457 in the market value of securities in which the reserve funds are invested.

Table I gives a comparative summary of activities and change of net assets of the AAS for 2005 and 2005.

Table II contains a summary of the AAS Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2005.

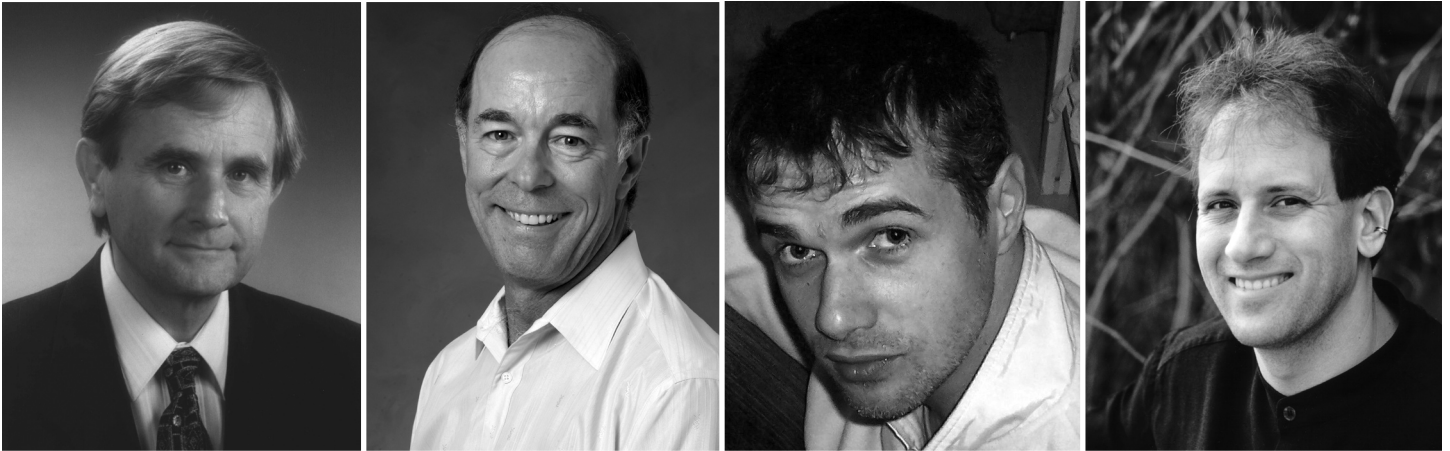
Table I. Statement of Income and Expense for 2004 and 2005

	2004	2005
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenue		
General programs	1,490,466	1,580,683
Journals	6,929,560	6,816,545
Divisions	298,526	679,276
Bequests and Memorials	20,000	0
Grants and Contracts	222,525	225,851
Other	112,288	50,808
Released from restrictions	48,993	97,410
Total revenue (unrestricted)	9,122,357	9,450,573
Expenses		
General Programs	1,628,670	1,724,770
Journals	6,347,882	6,273,302
Divisions	260,207	614,794
Bequests and Memorials	38,705	53,518
Grants and Contracts	240,339	248,396
Other	26,391	43,329
Total expenses	8,542,194	8,958,109
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	580,163	492,464
Change in Restricted Net Assets	206,429	228
Change in total net assets	786,592	492,692
Net assets,		
Beginning of year	8,765,558	9,552,151
End of year	9,552,151	10,044,842

Table II. Balance Sheet for 31 December 2004/2005

	2004	2005
Total Assets	\$12,737,596	13,446,623
Current Assets	3,355,663	4,104,196
Fixed Assets	52,869	23,959
Other Assets	9,329,064	9,313,468
Total Liabilities	3,185,445	3,401,781
Current Liabilities	615,812	817,859
Deferred Revenue	2,569,633	2,583,922
Net Assets	9,552,151	10,044,842
Unrestricted	7,501,297	7,988,353
Temporarily restricted	1,651,380	1,646,385
Permanently restricted	399,474	410,104
Liabilities & Net Assets	12,737,596	13,446,623

DIVISION NEWS



L-R: DPS prize winners, Dale Cruikshank, Gentry Lee, Tristan Guillot, and David Grinspoon.

DIVISION FOR PLANETARY SCIENCES (DPS)

2006 DPS PRIZES

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2006 DPS prizes! The awards will be formally presented at the Pasadena meeting in October 2006.

The Gerard P. Kuiper Prize is awarded to **Dale Cruikshank**, of the NASA Ames Research Center, in recognition of his pioneering work in the application of infrared spectroscopy to solar system bodies, his development of laboratory techniques that have become tools for interpreting observations, and his leadership in the design of instruments for remote sensing observations from deep space planetary exploration probes.

The Harold Masursky Award is given to **Gentry Lee**, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, for his fundamental contributions to systems engineering in the complex world of robotic planetary missions, including the Mars rovers, Deep Impact, Cassini, Stardust, and Genesis, and for imparting this knowledge to a generation of young engineers at the early stages of their careers.

The Harold C. Urey Prize is awarded to **Tristan Guillot**, of L'Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur, for his fundamental contributions in the study of the interior structure of gas giant planets, their formation process, and their atmospheres under extreme environments. His accomplishments include detailed models of the internal structure of Jupiter and Saturn and studies of the late emergence of gas giants.

The Carl Sagan Medal is given to **David Grinspoon**, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, for his energetic and successful efforts to get the general public thinking about planets,

and about our place in the solar system and wider universe. His two popular books, *Lonely Planets* and *Venus Revealed*, are detailed and thought-provoking treatments of serious subjects that describe scientific investigation in human and enticing terms.

SOLAR PHYSICS DIVISION (SPD)

James Klimchuk, Chair, spdchair@aas.org

The winners of this year's Solar Physics Division Popular Writing Awards are **Tony Hoffman** and **Brian Marsden** in the scientist category for their article "The Booming Science of Sungrazing Comets," which appeared in the August 2005 issue of *Sky and Telescope*, and **Gerry Byrne** in the journalist/science writer category for his article "Cycle of the Sun," which appeared in the June 2005 issue of *Astronomy*. Congratulations to all three!

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES & SUBSCRIPTION RATES

AAS Membership Rates

\$125	Full
\$125	Associate
\$ 43	Junior
\$ 63	Emeritus
\$ 57	International Affiliate

Division Dues (Tentative)

Division on Dynamical Astronomy (DDA)

AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: \$15

Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS)

AAS Member: \$15, Division Affiliate: \$20

Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) Student
(for first two years)

AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: n/a

High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD)

AAS Member: \$10, Division Affiliate: n/a

Historical Astronomy Division (HAD)

AAS Member: \$8, Division Affiliate: \$10

Solar Physics Division (SPD)

AAS Member: \$8, Division Affiliate: \$10

2007 Membership Subscriptions (Domestic)

For foreign shipping options, contact AAS Membership Department

AJ, ApJ, ApJ Supplement \$50
Electronic Package

Astrophysical Journal (ApJ): Paper only \$300
ApJ: Paper and Electronic Package \$325

ApJ Supplement (ApJS): Paper only \$60
Astronomical Journal (AJ): Paper only \$115

AJ: Paper and Electronic Package \$145

Bulletin of the AAS (BAAS): Paper only \$30

Note: Members desiring paper and electronic access to more than one journal should subscribe to the "Electronic Package" with Paper option for one of the journals and the "Paper Only" option for the other(s).

USNC-IAU

Geraldine J. Peters, University of Southern California
Category I Representative

The USNC-IAU met on 9 January 2006 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC during the 207th meeting of the AAS. Special guests were IAU President Ronald Ekers and IAU General Secretary Oddbjorn Engvold, who reviewed many of the points that were discussed earlier in the day at a special session on the IAU. The IAU consists of 65 national and 9,000 individual members. Currently there are 85 working groups, 37 commissions, and 12 divisions. Income comes primarily from national dues (86%). The funds are used for science programs (40%), education programs (15%), meetings and administration (35%), and other purposes (10%). There are two paid employees at the Paris office. The IAU sponsors nine symposia every year, and supports regional meetings and the triennial General Assemblies. Education programs include the International School for Young Astronomers, Teaching for Astronomical Development, Exchange of Astronomers, and the World-Wide Development of Astronomy.

Following the review of applications that were submitted in the Fall of 2005, the USNC-IAU is pleased to announce that 80 colleagues from the USA will be recommended for IAU membership. Each has received an invitation to attend the forthcoming 26th IAU General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic in 2006 August and all are slated to become individual IAU members at the conclusion of the General Assembly. We send our heartiest congratulations and hope many will be able to attend the Prague meeting.

The 2006 delegates from the USA at the Prague General Assembly will be John Huchra, Chair, Bob Milkey, representative to the Finance Committee, and John Graham, representative to the Membership Committee. The USNC will support a luncheon for young astronomers (who are within three years of the completion of their PhD degrees) prior to the opening ceremony on 15 August. We trust that many of the newly selected IAU members from the USA will be in attendance. The USNC will also support a women's luncheon on 21 August, similar to the successful one held in 2003 at the 25th IAU General assembly in Sydney, Australia.

Applications for IAU membership were down by about 25% in 2005 over those reviewed in 2002. A possible reason is that the USNC application stated that only authorship of papers with three or fewer authors would be counted, but such papers are increasingly rare since the data for many PhD dissertations come from large projects. The IAU has indeed removed this requirement and the change will be corrected on future application forms.

Other policy changes made by the IAU make it possible for librarians and educators to become members and the former consultant category has been eliminated. The USNC is looking forward to seeing our colleagues from the USA in Prague.

NEWS FROM...

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Eileen D. Friel, efriel@nsf.gov

Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences

New Faces at AST

The Division is pleased to welcome Dr. Julian Christou to NSF on a visiting scientist appointment from the Center for Adaptive Optics at Santa Cruz. Julian will be managing the optical/IR instrumentation components of the Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation and Major Research Instrumentation programs, and the Program for Research and Education with Small Telescopes (PREST). He will also be contributing his expertise to the review of proposals to the other grants programs and management of large projects and facilities.

Some common myths about NSF/AST programs

We have often heard people (and reviewers) make statements about what NSF funds or doesn't fund that don't reflect our practices or policies. We would like to take this opportunity to correct some of these misconceptions about the way we work. Remember that NSF does not present a monolithic front to all communities, and that other divisions can and do differ. The discussion here applies to AST only. NSF also changes on quite short timescales, so what you have heard may once have been correct but is no longer so. The most important message is that you should ask us about ways we might be able to support what you need for the science you want to accomplish.

Commonly heard sentiments include:

- **NSF doesn't fund my field (e.g. laboratory astrophysics, theory, data archival research) because I can't find a program for it.** - NSF/AST does not have specific targeted programs by discipline or technique or subject, but instead welcomes proposals for any kind of research using any technique. Most proposals would be submitted to the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants Program but we will also consider proposals outside the AAG on an individual basis. We will consider almost anything, so ask a program officer in AST.
- **My proposal will do better if I ask for less.** - Typical research awards from AST are about \$100K per year, but amounts range widely, from small grants of \$30K to individuals to large grants of \$1M for large groups and major collaborative efforts. Ask for what you need to do the research, and justify it fully.
- **NSF makes grants for three years and if I ask for five, the reviewers won't support it.** - NSF encourages requests for up to five years, if justified by the scope of the research program proposed. Reviewers

might think there are limitations where there are none, and make statements in their reviews that are not a factor in the funding decisions. Reviewers provide advice, and where it conflicts with policy or practice it is not used.

- **NSF doesn't support research that could be funded by a NASA program.** - NSF supports the most meritorious research, regardless of where the data come from. It is common for us to support programs using data from both space-based and ground-based facilities, including archival data. Even if reviewers assert that a research proposal better belongs at NASA, that is not a factor in our funding decision. We coordinate with NASA to avoid double-funding, and if you have questions about what NASA items NSF will or will not support, ask us.
- **NSF doesn't have an educational supplement program like NASA, so I can't ask for support for educational or outreach activities with my grant.** - Although NSF has no formal program or requirement for educational or outreach activities, you can always ask for support, either as part of your proposal, or as a request for supplemental funds on an existing award.
- **NSF doesn't support people like me.** - There are some legal restrictions on eligibility for NSF funding, but there are also, in some cases, legal exemptions, or specific exceptions to those rules. Ask a program officer.

Our goal in AST is to enable the best research and education identified through merit review and we are flexible in how we do so. Don't make any assumptions; instead, contact us to find out how we can help.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

Mike Bennett, Executive Director, mbennett@astrosociety.org

PASP Articles Now Available Individually

The ASP is happy to announce that electronic access to individual articles in *PASP* is now available through the journal's UCP web site at www.journals.uchicago.edu/PASP/.

For a one-time fee of US\$ 9.00 (payable by credit card) the user will have unlimited access to the article for 48 hours and may download it at any time during that period.

Keep Up-to-Date With Data Handling

Few astronomers would argue with the fact that huge and rapid changes in data gathering and analysis continue to overtake us. Wasn't it just yesterday that IIIa-J emulsion was the great breakthrough? Try telling *that* to a new PhD as she downloads satellite images in support of research with the International Virtual Observatory Alliance!

If you are having trouble keeping up with the latest developments in astronomical data handling (and who isn't?), we greatly recommend the proceedings from the highly successful Astronomical Data Analysis and Software System (ADASS) conferences. These proceedings have been published for many years in the ASP Conference Series (ASPCS). The latest two, from conferences 14 and 15, are ASPCS volumes 347 (available now) and 351 (due out by mid summer). They are both full of information on the latest in data analysis, archiving, mining, the VO, and more. You can find them at your library, at www.aspbooks.org, or by purchasing a copy at www.astrosociety.org.

Universe in the Classroom Teachers Newsletter Revitalized

With a generous "seed money" gift from well-known astronomer and astronomy educator Donat Wentzel, the ASP's venerable teachers newsletter is being revitalized and expanded. Designed for teachers and other educators who want to help children of all ages learn more about science, astronomy and the universe, *Universe in the Classroom* is published quarterly on our web site in a special easy-to-print format. Typically, each issue includes an astronomy content article and a classroom activity built around the same topic. The July 2006 issue highlights the upcoming November 8 transit of Mercury.

The Universe in the Classroom is designed to be useful to educators with limited access to technology. We are currently looking for volunteer "in-country representatives" around the world—especially in developing countries—to help us translate the newsletter, distribute it to area educators, and serve on an international advisory board. If you are interested in assisting us, please contact astroed@astrosociety.org.

If you know a teacher who might be interested in *Universe in the Classroom*, please let them know they can sign up for a free electronic subscription at: www.astrosociety.org/uitc.

Next "Cosmos in the Classroom" Symposium Set

The ASP is planning a three-day symposium on teaching introductory astronomy to non-science majors on 4-6 August 2007 at Pomona College in Southern California.

Held every two or three years, "Cosmos in the Classroom" brings together those who teach beginning astronomy at institutions ranging from community colleges to research universities—to exchange ideas, techniques, materials, and curricula; and to discuss the challenges of the students, budgets, and demands we face.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for information about this conference, visit www.astrosociety.org and click on "Events."

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL – SCIENTIFIC EDITORS

The American Astronomical Society is soliciting applications for Scientific Editor of *The Astrophysical Journal (ApJ)*. The *ApJ* Scientific Editors play a vital role in maintaining the high scientific standards of the Journal. Each editor oversees the peer review of 150-200 papers per year, and together with the other editors advises the Editor-in-Chief on issues of general editorial policy. Appointments are for terms of three years, subject to approval by the AAS Publications Board and the AAS Council, with an option for a second term at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. The term for this appointment would begin in January 2007.

For these appointments we are seeking editors who can oversee the review of manuscripts in the following general areas: solar physics, cosmology and extragalactic astronomy, and molecular astrophysics.

Although we are not actively recruiting candidates in other subfields at this time, expressions of interest from scientists in all fields of astronomy and astrophysics are welcomed. Candidates should have a strong record of published scientific research, and be prepared to commit the time (up to 20% FTE) that is required to carry out the duties of a Scientific Editor. Although these are largely volunteer positions, funding is provided for office equipment, secretarial support, travel to editorial meetings, and a modest stipend or research grant. Scientific Editors are required to be members of the AAS during their terms of appointment, but residence at a U.S. institution is not required.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and a brief (1-2 page) cover letter that summarizes the candidate's qualifications and reasons for seeking an SE position. Applications (either in paper or electronic form) should be sent to:

Ethan T. Vishniac
Editor-in-Chief - Designate
The Astrophysical Journal
Johns Hopkins University
3400 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21210
Tel: 410-516-7269
Fax: 410-516-5096
Email: ethan@pha.jhu.edu

Successful candidates will also be asked to provide a brief letter of endorsement from their department head or director, indicating their agreement to the necessary time commitment upon appointment. Applications received by 1 August 2006 will receive full consideration. (Applications in the field of theoretical cosmology may close early due to the urgent need to redistribute our workload in this area.) Inquiries about the position are welcome and may be directed to the Editor-in-Chief designate at the addresses given above.

Washington News continued from back page

importance, keeping the number and size of earmarks low will be key. Although the AAS has not yet taken a formal position on earmarks, the Society does embrace the peer-review process in the distribution of federal funding and has stated this in various communications with policy makers.

John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship

The AAS council has approved the establishment of the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship of the AAS. The fellowship will be a half-year postdoctoral level position with the first fellowship planned to begin in January of 2007.

The fellowship is named in honor of John Bahcall because of his leadership in the public policy arena. He actively advocated for science at the federal level, engaged public officials in discussions about science policy and encouraged colleagues to do their part by contacting legislators. He served as both President of the AAS and President-Elect of the APS. The AAS is pleased to establish this fellowship as a fitting recognition for his many years of service to our field.

To expand the support for the fellowship, the AAS is actively seeking donations for this new and vital position. An option to donate will be available through the 2007 online renewal process. Additionally, Neta Bahcall has pledged a supportive amount for the next several years as well as providing a challenge match amount. For each dollar AAS members donate to support the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship of the AAS, she will donate a matching amount, up to an agreed upon cap. AAS members are strongly encouraged to help the AAS take advantage of this generous offer and donate whatever amount they can to help us meet the challenge grant cap. [Note: The AAS is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and all donations to the AAS are tax deductible.]

The Position

In partnership with the Executive Officer, the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow will be responsible for a wide range of AAS public policy activities including:

- Direct advocacy for astronomy-related issues
- Maintaining relationships with key policy people related to astronomy (agencies, hill staff, OMB, OSTP, NRC, etc.)
- Visits with Hill offices (all Spring)
- Coordination of Congressional Visits Day Springtime, either March or April
- Coordination of CNSF Hill exhibition participation (sometime May-July)
- Authorship of the *Washington News* Column in the *AAS Newsletter*; a chapter in the AAAS annual R&D budget book and Action Alerts and Informational Emails as required
- Coordination with and support of the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, strategic planning
- Attendance at policy events: coalitions, colloquia, etc. (mainly spring)

Applications for the position are due on 15 October 2006. Interested applicants holding a Ph.D. should send a resume, names and contact information of three professional references and a one or two page summary of why the position is interesting to them. Candidates will be interviewed in late October. The salary will be \$22,500 plus benefits for six months.

Send resumes to: Executive Officer, AAS Executive Office, 2000 Florida Ave, NW, #400, Washington DC 20009.

CNSF Hill Exhibition

Each year the AAS sponsors an exhibit booth at the Coalition for National Science Funding Hill Exhibition. This annual event draws hill staffers, members of Congress and science policy experts from the OMB, OSTP and the NSF itself (usually the Director and the Assistant Director attend). In consultation with the NSF-AST division staff, a different NSF-funded facility or program is highlighted. This year, the ALMA telescope was selected. Tony Remijan and Adrian Russell drove up from Charlottesville to represent NRAO and ALMA. The AAS is proud to sponsor this annual exhibition of NSF-funded astronomy on the Hill.



Tony Remijan explains the breakthroughs that ALMA will provide to a Hill staffer.



Adrian Russell discusses the benefits of the ALMA telescope with a feisty House Science Committee staff member and former OMB and OSTP staff member, Mike Holland.

COMMITTEE NEWS

STATUS OF WOMEN IN ASTRONOMY

Patricia Knezek

CSWA Chair, WIYN Observatory, knezek@noao.edu

The June 2006 issue of *STATUS*

We invite you to check out the June 2006 issue of *STATUS*, which is available from the CSWA website, see: www.aas.org/~cswa/pubs.html. It contains a celebration of the contributions of Betty Friedan, who died in February 2006 at the age of 85, to the feminist movement, along with two articles continuing our exploration of family-work issues, an article on Caroline Herschel, and other interesting items. If you currently do not receive a paper copy of *STATUS* but would like to do so, please email membership@aas.org.

Update on the Pasadena Recommendations

The CSWA has facilitated the formation of a group of people interested in actively working on a longitudinal study of the career paths of women in astronomy. This group is meeting bi-weekly. Currently, the focus is on defining the overall goals of the study, selecting an initial target group of participants, and formulating a first survey. The group is actively seeking to secure funding for the first phase of the study. The CSWA also continues to work with the AAS Executive Office to finalize the draft letter to send to the departmental chairs and division heads of colleges, universities, and institutions encouraging them to publicly endorse the Recommendations.

Activities at the June AAS in Calgary

The CSWA co-sponsored a highly successful special session with Stephanie Coté, (HIA) Jayanne English (U. Manitoba), Brenda Matthews (HIA), and Michael Reid (CfA/SMA) on Monday, 5 June 2006 at the Calgary AAS Meeting. The session was entitled "Canadian Women Astronomers: Their Status and Science," and took advantage of the consecutive CASCA and AAS meetings to highlight the achievements of women astronomers in Canada. Jayanne English chaired the session.

The first part of the session focused on the status of women astronomers in Canada, including some history, and current statistics based on the results of a second Canadian survey of Canadian institutions. Talks in this portion of the session included "Women in Canadian Astronomy, 1991-2005" by Michael Reid (CfA/SMA) and Brenda Matthews (HIA), "Canadian Women in Astronomy" by R. Elizabeth Griffin (HIA), and "Women in Astronomy at the University of Toronto" by Christine Clement (U. Toronto). There was also time for discussion about what differences and/or opportunities there are for women who are based in Canada, as opposed to the U.S. (such as the University Faculty Awards that NSERC has created to increase the participation of women in science).

The second part of the session contained short science talks by several eminent female astronomers in Canada. The talks in this portion were "The Fascinating High-Energy World of Neutron Stars and Supernova Remnants" by Samar Safi-Harb (U. Manitoba), "Stellar Populations: Old Stars in the Nearest E Galaxy" by Gretchen Harris (U. Waterloo), and "Observations of the Galactic Magnetic Field from the International Galactic Plane Survey" by Jo-Anne Brown (U. Calgary). These talks provided a wonderful introduction to the diversity of research that Canadian women astronomers are undertaking.

The CSWA plans to post the speakers' presentations, as well as notes on the discussion session and questions for the speakers and their answers off of the CSWA website, see www.aas.org/~cswa/JUN06/. Presentations are available in PDF, and often in PowerPoint as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make sure you stay totally connected!

Updating your membership information has never been easier! As a valued AAS member, you can access your membership record at members.aas.org. By keeping your email address up to date, you will stay informed with the latest news affecting astronomy.

With a login and password, you can update your contact information at anytime. Contact the membership team at membership@aas.org or 202-328-2010 for more information.

We appreciate your support!

Guidelines for Historical Preservation of Scientific Source Materials

The AAS office receives many inquiries about the preservation of scientific source materials, whether from a scientist, their family members or departments or institutions.

As a member society of the American Institute of Physics, AAS members have access to recognized experts in the area of historical preservation. The Center for the History of Physics (www.aip.org/history), in addition to archiving original source material, photos and oral interviews AIP also provides the following advice on the preservation of original materials (excerpted from www.aip.org/history/source.htm):

What to save?

- Correspondence (including email)
- Student course notes
- Laboratory notebooks and other research files
- Diaries and appointment calendars
- Drafts of scientific publications
- Other writings of the scientist

continued on page 16

Announcements continued from page 15

- Photographs and other pictorial works
- Biographical materials

Where to save?

- Best to save the materials at your home institution. If this is not possible, there are other repositories potentially open to receive the materials.

How to save?

- With the advice of a professional archivist.

When to save?

- While the original owner/creator of the materials is working or shortly after retirement.

Theodore Dunham, Jr. Grants for Research in Astronomy 2006 Application Due: Monday, 2 October 2006

The Fund for Astrophysical Research (F.A.R.) invites applications each year for the award of small research grants. The grants are named in memory of Theodore Dunham, Jr., the Scientific Director of the F.A.R. from its founding in 1936 until his death in 1984. Last year, the F.A.R. awarded a small number of grants, ranging up to about \$3,000 per grant, but may in the future be slightly larger in appropriate cases.

Please visit the website at www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/fundastro/ for information about grants and applying.

CSO Call for Proposals Due 31 October 2006

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

Applications for observing time between 1 February 2007 through 31 July 2007 are due by mail 31 October 2006. Applications will be reviewed by an outside peer group.

NSO Observing Proposals

The current deadline for submitting observing proposals to the National Solar Observatory is 15 August 2006 for the fourth quarter of 2006.

The following deadline is 15 November 2006 for the first quarter of 2007. Information is available from the NSO Telescope Allocation Committee at P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349 for Sacramento Peak facilities (sp@nso.edu) or P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, AZ 85726 for Kitt Peak facilities (nsokp@nso.edu). Instructions may be found at www.nso.edu/general/observe/. A web-based observing-request form is at www2.nso.edu/cgi-bin/nsiforms/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.

Pollock Award Proposals Due

Dudley Observatory invites applications for the Pollock Award, a grant of up to \$5,000 for a project on the history of astronomy. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 28 October 2006. See www.dudleyobservatory.org/pollock_award.htm for eligibility and proposal requirements.

The purpose of the Award is to provide encouragement and support for an innovative project in the history of astronomy or astrophysics, to be undertaken by a faculty member, research associate, or postdoctoral associated with a college, university, nonprofit research institution or observatory located in North America. Applications from persons meeting the other requirements, who are not currently affiliated with any institution will also be considered.

Arecibo Observatory

The seven pixel Arecibo L_{band} Feed Array (ALFA) has been producing science for more than 18 months. This instrument is used for pulsar and continuum surveys, as well as for extragalactic and galactic HI surveys. A unique aspect of its work is that some surveys are conducted commensally, by feeding copies of the intermediate frequency to more than one backend. Thus, the selfsame time block and signal is used by different groups for their own objectives. Until June, the availability of backends limited multi-use of the signal to just two, though two new FPGA-based astronomy backends are expected with the change of the year. However Dan Werthimer has just upgraded the SETI@home system to use the ALFA signal whenever it is at the telescope focus. Henceforth, all ALFA work is commensal, and some will feed three separate backends simultaneously. This gives a new twist to both efficiency and to being oversubscribed!

The ALFA surveys are restricted to about 50% of available astronomy time, and their data is destined for community-access archival databases. Arecibo is equipped with a set of receivers that cover the whole 1-10 GHz frequency range, as well as for bands at 327, 430 and 610 MHz. The higher frequency receivers are all wideband MMICs. Telescope proposal deadlines are 1 February, June and October.

EDUCATION NEWS

Susana E. Deustua, Director, Educational Activities

ISEF Bart and Priscilla Bok Awards

The Bok Awards are jointly awarded by the AAS and the ASP to high school students participating at the ISEF. The main criterion for selecting the two Bok Awards is scientific merit. Observational, instrumental, or theoretical projects are all eligible, as are interdisciplinary projects involving Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering, etc.

At this year's ISEF held in Indianapolis, IN, the awardees were:

Priscilla and Bart Bok First Award of a \$5,000 scholarship

Magic Mirror for Galaxy Clusters

Hsin-Yu Chen, 18, Taipei First Girl High School, Taipei, Taiwan, Chinese Taipei

Priscilla and Bart Bok Second Award of a \$3,000 scholarship

SP022 Group Analysis to Pattern Discovery in Stellar and Galactic Distributions

Philip Mocz, 16, Mililani High School, Mililani, Hawaii

The Richard D. Lines Special Award in Astronomy is presented to a student whose project best reflects the mission of the IAPPP (collaboration between amateurs, students and/or professionals) as well as in observational and/or instrumental astronomy.

Scholarship Award of \$5,000

Radio Interferometry Using 2 NASA RadioJOVEs at 20.1 MHz with Software Implementation in Java

Hieu Huu Tran, 16, Southside High School, Greenville, South Carolina

The awarded funds are intended to be used by the recipients to further their education and research efforts. \$1,000 is also awarded to their high school science departments for use in enhancing their science education programs. These awards are funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation; they have proven very successful at attracting and retaining these talented students in astronomy and in science.

We thank the judges, Katy Garmany, Terry Oswalt and Thomas Steiman-Cameron, for volunteering three or more days of their time to participate.

Telescope Observations and Astronomy Demonstrations for seriously ill children and their families at Ronald McDonald House of Long Island Proposal awarded to AAS Member Don Lubowich

The purpose of my proposal for a NASA IDEAS grant is to provide funding for a "Stars for Students" program of telescope observations and hands-on astronomy demonstrations. The unique target audience is seriously ill children with special medical needs and their families (including other children and adult family members) who are staying at the Long Island Ronald McDonald House in conjunction the children's surgery and medical treatments at the adjacent Schneider Children's Hospital. The program will include activities specially designed for ages ranging from elementary school to high school along with their adult family members. The wide age range is similar to the range of ages encountered with people attending science museums. There are no similar astronomy outreach programs designed for this group in the New York metropolitan region.

The telescope observations and hands-on astronomy demonstrations will provide a unique family learning experience. Innovative edible demonstrations using chocolate, marshmallows, and popcorn will be used to present astronomy, earth science, and space science concepts to enhance learning and achieve a greater educational impact. An important component of this program will be train the education staff to use the telescope for demonstrations and to conduct family astronomy demonstrations throughout the year to take advantage of clear weather and interesting celestial events. This education and public outreach program will improve public science education and science awareness for these children and their family members. This program will also reach under-represented groups because most of the children at the Ronald McDonald House are minority or socio-economic disadvantaged children.

This program expands a similar program conducted by the PI at the Long Island Ronald McDonald House and at summer camps run by the Fresh Air Fund for disadvantaged children (socio-economic) and children with special medical needs. At these outreach activities children line up to look through a telescope to view the Moon, stars and planets. When some of these children saw the rings of Saturn they thought that there was a picture of Saturn in the telescope. At another outreach program, one of the children was so excited by seeing the rings of Saturn that he told his grandmother. His grandmother came out of her house and across the street in her bathrobe and slippers to look at Saturn through the telescope.

The grant will allow this program to be conducted on a regular schedule and for telescope observations to take advantage of clear weather and time sensitive astronomical phenomena such as different phases of the Moon, different visibilities of the planets, meteor showers or comets.

continued on page 19

CALENDAR

AAS & AAS Division Meetings

High Energy Astrophysics Division

4-7 October 2006, San Francisco, CA

Contact: Dr. John Vallerga

(headmeeting06@earthlink.net)

<http://www.confcon.com/head2006/head06.php>

Division for Planetary Sciences

8-13 October 2006, Pasadena, CA

<http://adams.dm.unipi.it/~dps06/>

209th AAS Meeting (joint with AAPT)

6-10 January 2007, Seattle, WA

Contact AAS Executive Office

(gilmore@as.org)

Other Events

NVO Summer School

6-14 September 2006, Aspen, CO

Contact: Sarah Emery Bunn

(summer-school@us-vo.org)

<http://us-vo.org/summer-school/2006/>

2006 AMOS Technical Conference

10-14 September 2006, Wailea Maui

Contact: Lewis Roberts

(lewis.c.roberts@boeing.com)

www.maui.afmc.af.mil/conferences.html

*Symposium on the Composition of Matter Honoring Johannes Geiss

11-15 Sept 2006, Grindelwald, Switzerland

Contact: Glenn Mason

(glenn.mason@jhuapl.edu)

www.issi.unibe.ch/symposium/

ASP 118th Annual Meeting - Engaging the EPO Community: Best Practices, New Approaches

16-18 September 2006, Baltimore, MD

Contact: Marilyn Delgado

(meeting@astrosociety.org)

www.astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html

Pale Blue Dot III

18-20 September 2006, Chicago, IL

Contact: Dr. Grace A. Wolf-Chase

(gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org)

www.adlerplanetarium.org/pale_blue_dot/index.shtml

Applications of Gravitational Lensing: Unique Insights into Galaxy Formation and Evolution

3-6 October 2006, Santa Barbara, US

Contact: Leon Koopmans

(lensing@kitp.ucsb.edu)

www.kitp.ucsb.edu/activities/auto2/?id=353

*Galaxy Mergers: From the Local Universe to the Red Sequence

4-6 October 2006, Baltimore, MD 21218

Contact: Barry Rothberg (gryce@stsci.edu)

www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/mergers

Radiation Backgrounds from the First Stars, Galaxies and Black Holes

9-11 October 2006, College Park, MD

Contact: Susan Lehr (october@astro.umd.edu)

www.astro.umd.edu/october/

Astronomical Data Analysis Software & Systems XVI

15-18 October 2006, Tucson, AZ

Contact: Dick Shaw (adass2006@adass.org)

<http://adass.org/adass2006/>

*Massive Galaxies over Cosmic Time 2

1-3 November 2006, Tucson, AZ

Contact: MGCT2 SOC/LOC

(mgct2@noao.edu)

www.noao.edu/meetings/mgct2/

Extragalactic Surveys: A Chandra Science Workshop

6-8 November 2006, Cambridge, MA

Contact: Paul Green

(xsurveys06@cfa.harvard.edu)

<http://cxc.harvard.edu/xsurveys06>

Cool Stars 14

6-10 November 2006, Pasadena, CA

Contact: John Stauffer

(stauffer@ipac.caltech.edu)

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

*Second UN/NASA Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year and Basic Space Science

27 Nov-1 Dec 2006, Bangalore, India

<http://ihy2007.org>

IAU Symposium No. 241

Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies

10-14 Dec 2006, Canary Islands, Spain

Contact: Alexandre Vazdekis

(vazdekis@ll.iac.es)

www.astro.rug.nl/~peletier/IAUS241.html

2007 Planetary Defense Conference

5-8 March 2007, Washington, D.C.

Contact: William Ailor (william.h.ailor@aero.org)

www.aero.org/conferences/planetarydefense/index.html

*IAU Symposium No. 242 Astrophysical Masers and their Environments

12-16 Mar 2007, Alice Springs, Australia

Contact: Jessica M. Chapman

(Jessica.Chapman@csiro.au)

*IAU Symposium No. 243 Star-Disk Interaction in Young Stars

1-5 April 2007, Grenoble, France

Contact: Jérôme Bouvier

(jbouvier@laog.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)

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

11-14 April 2007, Gainesville, FL

Contact: Jonathan Tan

(starstoplanets@astro.ufl.edu)

<http://conference.astro.ufl.edu/STARSTOPLANETS/>

*IAU Symposium No. 244 Dark Galaxies and Lost Baryons

25-29 June 2007, Cardiff, UK

Contact: Jonathan I. Davies

(jid@astro.cf.ac.uk)

*IAU Symposium No. 245 Formation and Evolution of Galaxy Bulges

16-20 July 2007, Oxford, UK

Contact: Martin Bureau

(bureau@astro.ox.ac.uk)

*IAU Symposium No. 246 Dynamical Evolution of Dense Stellar Systems

5-9 September 2007, Capri, Italy

Contact: Enrico Vesperini

(vesperin@physics.drexel.edu)

*IAU Symposium No. 247 Waves and Oscillations in the Solar Atmosphere: Heating and Magneto-Seismology

17-21 Sept 2007, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Contact: César A. Mendoza-Briceño

(cesar@ula.ve)

*IAU Symposium No. 248 A Giant Step: from Milli- to Micro-arcsecond Astrometry

15-19 October 2007, Shanghai, China

Contact: Imants Platais (imants@pha.jhu.edu)

***IAU Symposium No. 249**

Exoplanets: Detection, Formation and Dynamics

22-26 October 2007, Suzhou, China

Contact: Ji-Lin Zhou (zhoujl@nju.edu.cn)

***12th Latin-American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM-2007)**

26-30 Nov 2007, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Contact: Gustavo A. Bruzual (bruzual@cida.ve)

***IAU Symposium No. 250**

Massive Stars as Cosmic Engines

10-14 December 2007, Kauai, HI

Contact: Paul A. Crowther

(Paul.Crowther@sheffield.ac.uk)

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@aaas.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>.

Education News continued from page 17

Chambliss Student Presentation Medals

Winners at the 208th Meeting of the AAS, Calgary, AB, Canada

Graduate Student Medalist

Meghan McGill, University Of Western Ontario, Canada

Theoretical Disk Models For The Circumstellar Material Surrounding Hot Stars

With T. A. Sigut, C.E. Jones

Undergraduate Student Medalist

Anna Quider, Universtiy of Pittsburgh, USA

Cosmic Neutral-Gas-Phase Metal Abundances for SDSS Quasar Composite Spectra

With D.B. Nestor, S.M. Rao, D.A. Turnshek

Other Student Participants in this very First Round of Chambliss Medals

Teresa Ashcroft
Sanchayeeta Borthakur
Krzysztof Findeisen
Amy Furniss
Sharina Haynes
Tyler Lenhardt
Emily McNeil
Arik Mitschang
Ashley Ross
Michael Stolarz
Shikui Tang

Shapley Lectureships Program

The Shapley Lectureships Program seeks new lecturers, particularly in the areas of astrobiology, cosmology and planetary science where it has seen an increase in the number of requests. If you are interested in joining the Program as a speaker, please send email to Susana Deustua, Director of Education at deustua@aaas.org. Information on the Shapley Lectureships Program is available at www.aas.org/shapley.



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Washington, DC 20009-1231

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WASHINGTON NEWS

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



The burst of hot weather in late May apparently spurred Congress into action on the 2007 budget, with the House Appropriations committee for Commerce, Science, State and Justice releasing their version of the spending bill for most science agencies. The overall result is about what was expected, a close match

to the President's request. The budget will not be finalized until the Senate also passes their appropriations bill and a Conference committee is held.

Under the House plan, NASA is slated to receive \$16.7B, \$462 M above the FY06 base level (but below the President's requested level by \$83.2M). The Science Mission Directorate is slated to receive \$175 million above the President's requested amount of \$5.3B. Of this total, \$100M is for Aeronautics and \$75M is for Science. As further details become available, we will inform AAS members via email.

Under the House plan, NSF is slated to receive \$6 billion, the full amount requested as part of the American Competitive Initiative and an increase of \$439 million above FY06 funding levels. This

total includes \$4.6 billion for research, which is \$334.5 million above FY06; and \$832.4 million for science education, which is \$16.2 million above the request.

These are good results for a very tough budget environment. Most government programs saw cuts under the President's plan and receiving at least the President's requested amount from the House is significantly good news as the Senate often funds above the House level. Interestingly, the number of earmarks in all funding bills coming out of the House is significantly reduced from "normal" levels. There are doubts among insiders that this fiscally responsible stance can be maintained in an election year and it is expected that additional earmarks will be inserted during the conference process. As yet, it is not known when the Senate might release their version of the Commerce, Science Justice appropriations bill. [Note added in proof: The Senate released their funding bill on 13 July, details to be distributed by email.]

If the Senate results are particularly negative, an AAS Action Alert will be sent to all US AAS members to send communications to the conference committee. Of particular

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