



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



## AAS MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The mission of the American Astronomical Society is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.

1. **The Society, through its publications, disseminates and archives the results of astronomical research.** The Society also communicates and explains our understanding of the universe to the public.
2. **The Society facilitates and strengthens the interactions among members through professional meetings and other means.** The Society supports member divisions representing specialized research and astronomical interests.
3. **The Society represents the goals of its community of members to the nation and the world.** The Society also works with other scientific and educational societies to promote the advancement of science.
4. **The Society, through its members, trains, mentors and supports the next generation of astronomers.** The Society supports and promotes increased participation of historically underrepresented groups in astronomy.
5. **The Society assists its members to develop their skills in the fields of education and public outreach at all levels.** The Society promotes broad interest in astronomy, which enhances science literacy and leads many to careers in science and engineering.

Adopted 7 June 2009

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Established in 1899, the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is the major organization of professional astronomers in North America. The membership (~7,000) also includes physicists, mathematicians, geologists, engineers and others whose research interests lie within the broad spectrum of subjects now comprising contemporary astronomy. The mission of the AAS is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEBRA M. ELMEGREEN



A key focus of the AAS this year has been the advocacy of the National Academies' Decadal Reports. *New Worlds, New Horizons*, released in August 2010, was the culmination of two years of effort from across the astronomy and astrophysics community. The AAS endorsed the report, and promoted town halls around the country and at AAS meetings to disseminate and discuss the recommendations. The proposed activities represent extraordinary opportunities for the astronomical enterprise, encompassing far-ranging goals from the eventual detection and characterization of Earth-like planets, to glimpses of the first stars and galaxies, to an understanding of the dark energy and dark matter that dominate the Universe. *NWNH* was followed in March 2011 with the Planetary Decadal Report, *Vision and Voyages*. AAS Executive Officer Kevin Marvel, Bahcall Policy Fellow Bethany Johns, the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy, AAS officers, and Congressional Visits Day

participants have been active in promoting awareness and support for the Decadal priorities, through visits to Congressmen and leaders in OSTP, OMB, and the funding agencies, as well as through testimony to the House Appropriations subcommittee. Despite an uncertain economic outlook, we remain optimistic that many of the exciting and potentially revolutionary recommendations will ultimately come to fruition.

The AAS Strategic Plan, priorities, and five-year goals that were initiated by our past president John Huchra were ratified this year, and Council has been working on metrics to guide us in achieving our objectives. An important component of the Decadal reports is the infrastructure of astronomy, from facilities, funding, data, partnerships, and policy, to the education, training, and employment of astronomers and promotion of science to the public. The latter aspects align well with several of the priorities of the American Astronomical Society. The AAS meetings continue to highlight forefront science and honor outstanding colleagues while also providing enrichment opportunities regarding our professional endeavors; the Seattle and Boston meetings were among the best-attended ever for winter and summer, respectively. Thanks to the skillful efforts by Kevin Marvel, along with the hard work of the AAS staff and the Budget Committee, the AAS is thriving. The AAS journals are flourishing under the new IOP management and the leadership of the Publications Board. Council has just approved a new Strategic Initiatives Fund, and we look forward to unveiling the first projects over the next year; they will focus on our lobbying, outreach, and communications priorities. We have made progress in promoting an even more welcoming atmosphere within the AAS community, showing support for our members by filing an Amicus Brief for a Supreme Court case involving background searches of astronomers, expanding inclusivity in our Non-Discrimination Policy, and forming committees and working groups to focus on additional issues (Demographics, Sustainability, LGBT) of importance to our astronomical family.

I am honored and delighted to be your president and to be engaged in the leadership of the AAS, working with the staff, officers, and councilors and interacting with the leaders of the Divisions and various committees. I appreciate the collective efforts, camaraderie, and commitment to our organization, as we all strive towards our common mission “to enhance and share humanity’s scientific understanding of the universe.”

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

KEVIN MARVEL



The year 2010 raced past quickly, and the AAS accomplished a great deal for its members and our field. Our fiscal position improved through market valuation recovery (after the steep and deep declines of 2008) and strong fiscal management. This is one of the most important responsibilities of my position, and with

Council's help we will continue to provide high-quality services to our members, manage the best journals in our field, and organize the largest scientific meetings in our discipline while ensuring the long-term fiscal health of our Society.

January 2010 found the AAS meeting in Washington, DC, for what ended up being a record-setting meeting. More than 3,400 attendees braved the cold DC winter to join together and discuss the latest results. Our winter meetings are huge, exciting affairs, and my favorite part is welcoming undergraduate students at the undergraduate reception. We can hold these through the generous support of a wide-range of graduate departments who each contribute a small fee to support the cost and secure a display table to recruit new graduate students. For many young astronomers, the winter meeting is their first scientific meeting of any type, and it can be a bit overwhelming. Having the Council and other members attend and interact with them helps convince them we are one big family. This fact becomes abundantly clear at the close of our meetings where cries of "Safe travels!" overlap with hugs and even tears. I still get a chuckle when attendees with hoarse voices from hours of talking science attempt to yell out across hotel lobbies "See you next time!"

In May 2010 we gathered for our summer meeting in Miami, Florida. This meeting was held jointly with our Solar Physics Division. Our Division for Planetary Sciences

met in Pasadena, our High Energy Astrophysics Division met on the Big Island of Hawai'i, and our Division on Dynamical Astronomy met in Brookline, Massachusetts. This gives you some sense of how many meetings the AAS has each year. Bravo for our Meeting Services team!

Speaking of meetings, I was honored to sign the agreement with the IAU in 2010 for the US hosting the 2015 General Assembly. We will organize this important meeting in Honolulu and are hoping to break all previous IAU attendance records. I encourage all US astronomers to consider submitting a proposal for a special session or other meeting content for the 2015 General Assembly. By getting the best possible science, we can ensure a good attendance. If we hit 4,000 attendees, we will have fireworks on Waikiki Beach! So plan now to spend the first two weeks of August 2015 in beautiful Hawai'i.

The year 2010 saw the completion of the migration to a new peer review management system to better serve our author community. Soon after the transition, our production times for *ApJL* began averaging less than a month from submission to publication. The speed and quality of our publication process is key to the long-term success of our journals. Our other journals are comparably fast, with *ApJ* taking the lead with an average submission to publication time of just under three months. This is something we can collectively take pride in, as only with effective and timely peer review and high-speed, high-quality production can these times be met. Keep up the good work!

As I write this, 2011 is already well along, so I am going to give you a synopsis of the year so far: Winter and summer meetings (Seattle and Boston) both successful, financial performance still improving, several new programs initiated by Council for 2012 and 2013 (more about those in our newsletter) and continued growth for our journals, in numbers of papers, numbers of subscribers, and quality and speed of publication. You can read the details in the *2011 Annual Report*.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

The Annual Audit for 2010 has been completed by Tate & Tryon. As with past years, the audit report received an unqualified opinion. Our financial performance in 2010 was superb. In 2010, there was an overall increase in net assets of \$3.06 million dollars, resulting in total net assets of \$16,072,168 as of 31 December 2010. In 2008, the Society lost 21 percent of the total portfolio value. As of 31 December 2010, we fully recovered the loss.

## 2010 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Through financial support from NSF, we funded the following programs:

- Funded IYA projects in the amount of \$71,077. The NSF support was used primarily to fund a Project Director and a Project Manager as well as travel for these people as well as some volunteers. The program was a complete success; final results were presented at the 2010 Winter Meeting.
- Funded 40 individuals under the International Travel Grant in the amount of \$55,264.
- Funded the dissemination of scientific research from the 2009 Women in Astronomy Meeting in the amount of \$6,280.

Through financial support from NASA, we funded the following programs:

- Funded 20 individuals under the Small Research Grant for a total amount of \$103,197.
- Funded the 2010 Division for Planetary Sciences annual meeting in the amount of \$126,427.

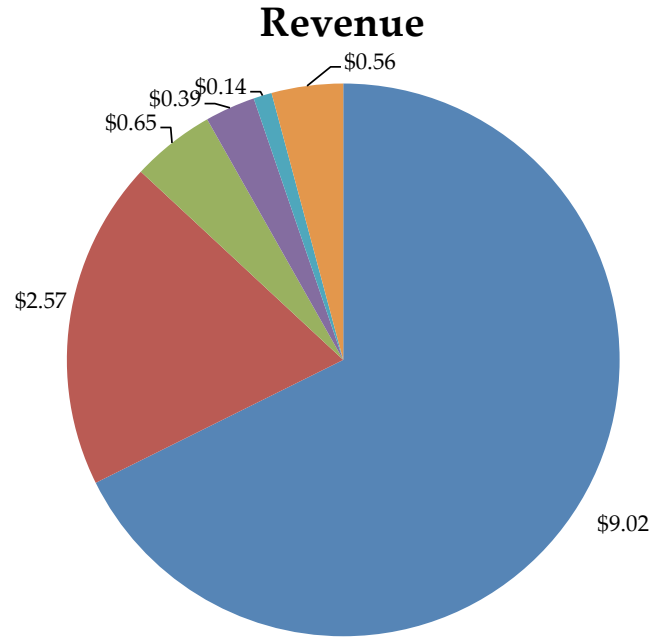
<b>Figure 1. AAS Balance Sheet</b>		
<b>Assets</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	783,937	769,608
Accounts Receivable	1,275,319	1,632,458
Promises to Give		75,000
Prepaid Expenses	309,885	248,920
Investments	13,588,739	10,157,186
Deposits	67,000	82,681
Property and Equipment	47,288	36,906
<b>Totals Assets</b>	<b>\$16,072,168</b>	<b>\$13,002,759</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	462,265	606,627
Deferred Revenue	2,769,698	2,399,105
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,231,963</b>	<b>\$3,005,732</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	10,641,793	7,659,431
Temporarily Restricted	1,634,214	1,849,073
Permanently Restricted	564,198	488,523
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$12,840,205</b>	<b>\$9,997,027</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$16,072,168</b>	<b>\$13,002,759</b>

We are pleased report that the AAS General Fund surplus reached an unprecedented high of \$134,443. At 31 December 2010, the unreserved balance in the General Operating Reserve Fund was \$1,457,721; representing 36.6 percent of the annual operating expenses.

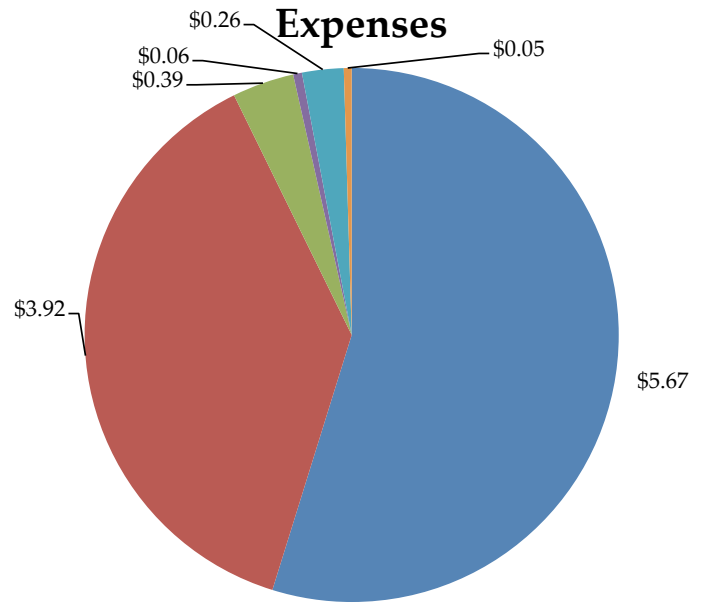
AAS bylaws, Article VIII.3, mandate that each Journal maintain a reserve fund equal or above the level of one-half of the annual operating expenses. In addition to the journal reserve funds, we have a segregated journal archive reserve fund to ensure the long-term maintenance of the electronic journals. As of 31 December 2010, the journal reserve fund balances reached \$7,211,530 representing 114.6% of the 2010 expenses.

<b>Figure 2. AAS Statement of Activities</b>		
Unrestricted Activities	2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>		
Journals	9,018,222	8,928,826
General Programs	2,567,202	2,429,694
Grants and Contracts	651,039	652,078
Divisions	392,432	821,121
Other	143,193	171,926
Bequests and Memorials	98,968	28,793
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	459,387	330,784
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>\$13,330,443</b>	<b>\$13,363,222</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Journals	5,666,847	6,335,949
General Programs	3,922,692	3,443,882
Grants and Contracts	387,495	785,674
Divisions	55,350	204,254
Other	266,053	279,432
Bequests and Memorials	49,644	46,686
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,348,081</b>	<b>\$11,095,877</b>
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,982,362</b>	<b>\$2,267,345</b>
<b>Temporary Restricted Net Assets</b>		
Divisions	59,420	103,974
Bequests and Memorials	101,950	122,332
Contributions and Other	83,158	440,297
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(459,387)	(330,784)
<b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$214,859)</b>	<b>\$335,819</b>
<b>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>		
Contributions and Other	75,675	750
<b>Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$75,675</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,843,178</b>	<b>\$2,603,914</b>
<b>Net Assets Beginning of Year</b>	<b>9,997,027</b>	<b>7,393,113</b>
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$12,840,205</b>	<b>\$9,997,027</b>

**Figure 3. Annual Revenue and Expenses (in millions of dollars)**



*\*Bequest and Memorials includes Asset Released from Restrictions*



- Journals
- General Programs
- Grants and Contracts
- Divisions
- Other
- Bequests and Memorials

# PRESS & MEDIA

The main role of the AAS Press Office is to ensure media attention to newsworthy scientific results. This includes results that are presented at Society meetings, presented by AAS members or other astronomy researchers at scientific conferences worldwide, published in peer-reviewed journals, or announced in press releases from recognized astronomy-related institutions. An ancillary role is to ensure media recognition for recipients of major astronomical prizes and honors, especially those awarded by the Society or its Divisions. These responsibilities fall to the AAS Press Officer, Dr. Richard Tresch Fienberg, who organizes press conferences at AAS meetings, handles media inquiries and requests for expert referrals, and manages the AAS press-release-distribution service, which forwards astronomy-related releases from public-information officers to journalists all over the world and working in all forms of print, broadcast, and electronic media. Rick, who succeeded Dr. Stephen P. Maran after the latter's retirement in 2009, is a member of the AAS Executive Office staff, though he works from home in Boston. Assisting as volunteers, primarily at AAS meetings, are Deputy Press Officers Dr. Larry Marschall (Gettysburg College) and Inge Heyer (University of Wyoming).

As noted in last year's annual report, Rick has been working to modernize the Society's meeting-related media functions. Live interactive webcasts of press conferences are now a regular feature of AAS meetings, typically attracting a half dozen to two dozen off-site reporters at each briefing. After surveying press-room registrants, Rick found he could save the Society a little money at meetings. Reporters all bring laptops and cell phones, so we no longer

need extra computers and phone lines. And with everybody on email 24/7, who needs a fax machine?!

It has long been AAS policy to embargo scientific announcements at our meetings until the time of presentation, defined as the start time of the oral or poster session in which the paper will be given, or the start time of the corresponding press conference (if any), whichever comes first. That was fine when abstracts appeared only in the *Bulletin of the AAS*, which was distributed in hardcopy at each meeting. But now abstracts are online weeks before the meeting, freely visible not only to astronomers but also to journalists and the public. Also, some presentations at our meetings are based on papers that have already been published or that will be published between the abstract deadline and the start of the meeting. Clearly we cannot embargo such results beyond the time of publication. Rick discussed this problem with the Council, and the Society's embargo policy was revised as follows: For journalists, anything already made public (e.g., abstracts, preprints, published papers) is fair game. For scientists, if you are going to present your work at our meeting, you should not discuss it with, nor provide additional information to, journalists before the time of presentation unless they agree not to publish their stories before that time. Details of the new policy are online at [http://aas.org/press/embargo\\_policy](http://aas.org/press/embargo_policy).

We have been forwarding press releases to the news media by email for more than two decades. Now, thanks to the Web and social media, journalists have many other ways to learn of new astronomical discoveries worth reporting.

One of them is to follow @AAS\_Press on Twitter, but does this mean the AAS email service is a relic? Rick conducted a survey of press-release subscribers to find out. The preliminary results suggest that most of them still get most of their astronomy releases from the AAS and that an overwhelming majority find our forwarding service very useful or even indispensable. Many offered useful suggestions for making it still more useful; these and other results from the survey will be reported after Rick has a chance to fully digest the responses.



L-R: Rick Fienberg, Larry Marschall, Inge Heyer



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Through its education and outreach program, the AAS nourishes a scientific outlook in society to help increase public support for scientific research, improve science education at all levels, attract young people to careers in science and technology, and make evident the connections between science, technology, and prosperity. The highest priorities of the AAS in these areas are to promote and support training the next generation of astronomers to become successful scientific researchers and educators and to encourage and support high-quality research on the teaching and learning of astronomy. To disseminate that research, the AAS publishes *Astronomy Education Review* (*AER*), a peer-reviewed, web-based journal for everyone who works in astronomy and space-science education.

Thanks to the Center for Astronomy Education (CAE), the Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars (CATS), and the Association for Astronomy Education (AAE), weekend workshops and oral and poster sessions on various aspects of astronomy education continue to be regular features of AAS meetings. Members of these groups also ensure that *Spark*, the AAS education newsletter, is published twice each year, usually coincident with the Society's winter and summer meetings.

The Astronomy Education Board (AEB) provides oversight of AAS educational activities by giving advice to the Council, the Executive Officer, the Education Officer, and, since 2009, the Education & Outreach Coordinator. Dr. Rick Fienberg, who also serves as AAS Press Officer (see page 6), fills that last role to encourage and support members' efforts in education and outreach and to manage AAS education programs that can't be maintained through volunteer effort alone. Among Rick's duties, he chairs the Small Research Grant committee (in part because a key criterion on which proposals are evaluated is the extent to which they involve students) and serves as AAS liaison to other scientific societies' education programs.

He also coordinates judging for the new Rodger Doxsey Travel Prize, which provides graduate students or postdocs within one year of receiving or receipt of their PhD a monetary prize to enable the oral presentation of their dissertation research at a winter AAS meeting.

As described in last year's report, Rick has been working on a plan to strengthen the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program, which sends AAS members on short visits to colleges and universities that don't have robust astronomy programs. The goal is to ensure that the program supports not only the part of our mission



AAS meetings typically begin with weekend workshops, including several offered by the Center for Astronomy Education (CAE) and the Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars (CATS). In this one participants differed as to whether the correct answer to a question was A or B.

statement that commits the Society to training, mentoring, and supporting the next generation of astronomers, but also the part that commits us to promoting increased participation of historically underrepresented groups in astronomy. Rick drafted a proposal to overhaul the Shapley program, covering everything from the selection of lecturers and host institutions, through outreach and publicity, to follow-up and evaluation. With the Council's support and in collaboration with the AEB, he will refine and implement his plan in 2011-12; watch the *AAS Newsletter* for details.

Rick is also working with the AEB on a new education-and-outreach initiative called Astronomy Ambassadors. Conceived by President Debra M. Elmegreen, the Ambassadors program will link early graduate students, and perhaps even advanced undergraduates, to local middle schools and high schools, where they can talk about their research, answer questions, and encourage interest in STEM careers (in case you're not familiar with that acronym, it means "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics"). Most important, the Ambassadors program will put a human face on science and help mitigate the awful statistic that fewer than 1 in 5 Americans knows a scientist personally. Again, watch for more information in the *AAS Newsletter*. In addition, you can follow @AAS\_EPO on Twitter to stay informed about (and get involved in!) astronomy-related education and outreach activities and to find out when new articles are published in *AER*.

# MEMBERSHIP

With more than 7,000 members in the US and more than 1,100 outside, the AAS membership is geographically diverse, with many members from countries beyond North America. The AAS is proud to draw members from countries all around the world as astronomy is clearly a global endeavor that knows no borders...after all, *one sky connects us all*.

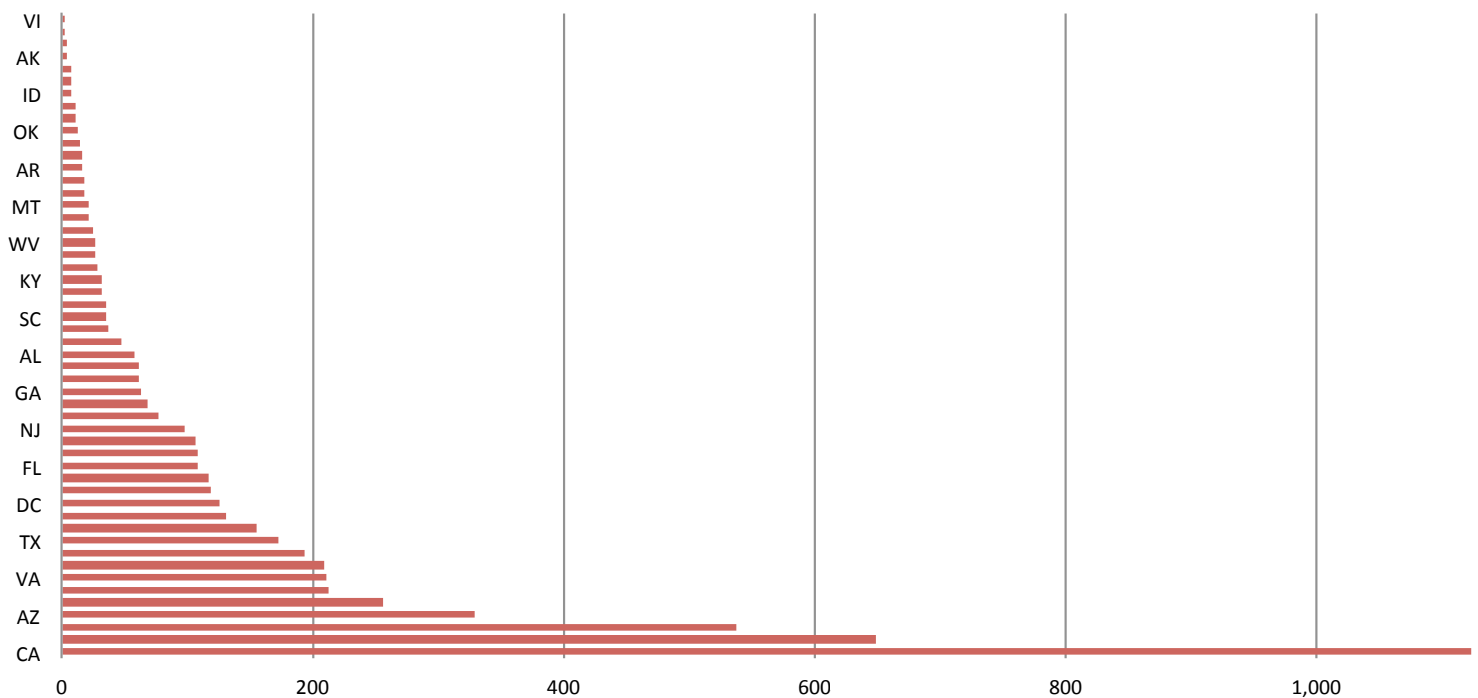
Of course, we know that by growing our membership internationally through, for example, our International Affiliate membership class, we can expand the diversity of our membership to better represent the global astronomical enterprise. Already, many of our services know no boundaries, such as the *AAS Job Register*, *AAS Newsletter*, *Membership Calendar* and *Membership Directory*, and we work actively to ensure a focus in these

publications beyond just North America. The *Directory*, for example, is recognized as the most comprehensive and accurate listing of international astronomy institutions and we are working with the International Astronomical Union to ensure that our list and theirs are consistent, accurate and complete.

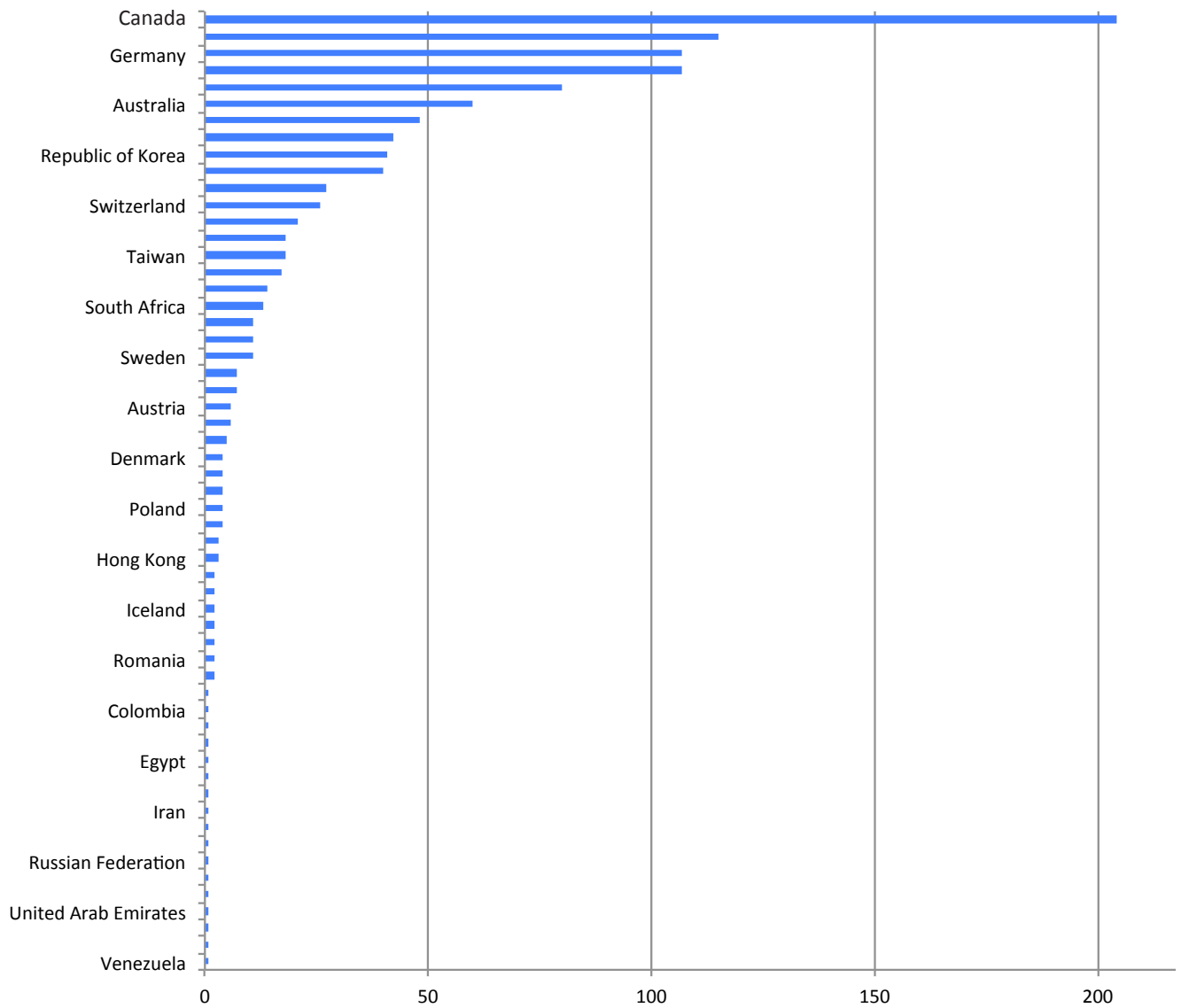
Our journals draw authors from all around the world and even our meetings are showing steadily increasing participation from astronomers working outside North America. We need this diversity to achieve our core mission, to enhance and share humanity's understanding of the universe.

The graphs presented here provide a snapshot look at our geographic diversity both within and outside the US, representing the geographic locations of our members in July 2011.

## US Members by State - Total 5,880



CA	1,123	TX	172	NJ	98	SC	35	MT	21	ID	8
MD	648	IL	156	CT	77	UT	35	NV	19	NE	8
MA	538	WA	131	IN	69	IA	32	ME	18	PR	8
AZ	329	DC	126	GA	63	KY	32	AR	17	AK	5
NY	256	MI	119	MN	62	LA	29	WY	16	ND	4
CO	212	HI	118	TN	62	OR	26	RI	15	MS	3
VA	211	FL	109	AL	58	WV	26	OK	13	VI	1
PA	209	OH	109	NC	48	NH	25	DE	12		
NM	193	WI	107	MO	37	KS	21	VT	11		



Canada	204
Japan	115
United Kingdom	107
Germany	107
France	81
Australia	60
Netherlands	48
Spain	42
Republic of Korea	42
Italy	40
Chile	27
Switzerland	26
Mexico	21
Taiwan	18
Brazil	18

China	17
Finland	14
South Africa	13
Sweden	11
Israel	11
Belgium	11
Norway	7
Greece	7
Czech Republic	6
Austria	6
Portugal	5
Turkey	4
Poland	4
Ireland	4
India	4

Denmark	4
Hong Kong	3
Argentina	3
Singapore	2
Romania	2
New Zealand	2
Lebanon	2
Iceland	2
Hungary	2
Bahrain	2
Venezuela	1
Vatican City State	1
Uruguay	1
United Arab Emirates	1

Ukraine	1
Serbia	1
Russian Federation	1
Philippines	1
Kazakhstan	1
Iran	1
Georgia	1
Estonia	1
Egypt	1
Cyprus	1
Croatia	1
Colombia	1
Armenia	1

# CHARITABLE DONORS

The year 2010 began with the Spring Campaign “(con)TRIBUTE to...” honoring the memory of three dynamic colleagues, John Bahcall, Roger Doxsey and Donald E. Osterbrock. Members and friends helped fund the following programs from 1 April 2010 to 1 September 2010:

*John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship*: \$1,775.00

*Roger Doxsey Travel Award*: \$4,090.00

*Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize*: \$9,460.00

During the 2010 renewal period the AAS offered an exciting opportunity to inspire children by connecting them to the Universe. We asked members to donate \$150 or more to the General Fund so the AAS could provide a free Galileoscope refractor kit to a school or educational organization of ones choosing.

The following schools and/or educational organizations received a Galileoscope along with a notecard on behalf of the member who donated to this successful program:

Blair IB School, Pasadena, CA  
 Dewey School, Evanston, IL  
 Fieldstone School, Bronx, NY  
 Fremont High School, Sunnyvale, CA  
 Hillsborough-Deering School District, Hillsborough, NH  
 Joseph Case High School, Swansea, MA  
 Leal School, Urbana, IL  
 Lincoln Elementary School, Urbana, IL  
 Red Lodge Middle School, Red lodge, MT  
 Sahuarita Middles School, Sahuarita, AZ  
 Saint Dominic School, Post Falls, ID  
 Savannah School, Rosemead, CA  
 Skyline High School, Front Royal, VA  
 The Covenant Upper School, Charlottesville, VA  
 Turning Point School, Culver City, CA  
 Virginia Institute of Autism, Charlottesville, VA

We are grateful for all charitable contributions to the Society and are pleased to provide special recognition of our donors in this annual report. Questions can be directed to the AAS Membership Services Director, Faye Peterson.

## Founders (\$5,000 plus)

Anonymous (1)

*From the Estate of  
 Edmondson, Frank K.*

*In Memory of Irene Osterbrock*  
 Tuthill, Timothy

## Quasar (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous (3)

Bass, Kim

Beebe, Herbert A.

Conklin, Edward K.

Fraknoi, Andrew

*In Memory of Andrew Fraknoi*

Graham, John A.

Heiser, Arnold M.

Linnell, Albert P.

*In Memory of Robert H. Koch*

Nolan, Michael C.

*In Memory of Steve Ostro*

Ostriker, Jeremiah P.

Shu, Frank H.

Trimble, Virginia L.

Tytler, David R.

Wentzel, Donat G.

Williams, Thomas R.

Willson, Lee Anne M.

*In Honor of George Wallerstein*

## Supernova (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (4)

Bless, R. C.

*In Memory of Don Osterbrock*

Brissenden, Roger J. V.

Doxsey, Virginia

Filippenko, Alexei V.

MacAlpine, Gordon M.

*In Memory of Don Osterbrock*

Milkey, Robert W.

Phillips, Mark M.

*In Memory of Don Osterbrock*

Press, William

## Nova (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous (14)

Becklin, Eric E.

Brown, G. Stanley

Cominsky, Lynn R.

DeVorkin, David H.

Hartmann, William K.

Hogg, David E.

King, Ivan R.

Lindsey, Charles A.

Litvak, Marvin M.

McCammom, Dan

Peoples, John

Roberts, Adriana

Saba, Julia L. R.

Sembach, Kenneth

Shane, Mary Lou

Sheehan, William

Shields, Gregory A.

Squires, Gordon K.

Tarbell, Theodore D.

Tully, R. Brent

Turner, Michael S.

Ulvestad, James S.

Williams, R.E.

## Giant Branch (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous (47)

Anders, Edward

Ayres, Thomas R.

Bahcall, Neta A.

*In Tribute to John Bahcall*

Baker, Andrew J.

*In Memory of Don Backer*

Bartky, Elizabeth H.

Benner, Lance A. M.

Biesecker, Douglas Alan

Bogart, Richard S.

Bohm-Vitense, Erika

Borucki, William J.

Bracher, Katherine

Briggs, John W.

Brissenden, Gina

*In Memory of John Huchra*

Buckner, Spencer L.

Burns, Jack O.

Carleton, Nathaniel P.

Carlstrom, John E.

Catacosinos, Paul A.

Chester, Margaret M.

Churchwell, Edward B.

Clark, Barry G.

Cole, Carol

Colgate, Stirling A.

Corbin, Brenda G.

Crowe, Michael J.

de La Fuente Marcos, Raul

Dinerstein, Harriet L.

Dobson, Andrea K.

Draine, Bruce T.

Dufour, Reginald J.

*In Memory of D. E. Osterbrock*

Dunham, David W.

Durney, Bernard

Elliott, Denis A.

Elmegreen, Debra M.

English, Thomas R.

Fiala, Alan D.

Freedman, Richard

Gandet, Thomas L.  
Gehrels, Tom  
Geyer, Edward H.  
Ghaffari, A.  
Giacconi, Riccardo  
Gibbs, Michael  
Gilliland, Ronald L.  
Gleim, James K.  
Groom, Donald E.  
Haughney, Louis C.  
Hauser, Michael G.  
Heeschen, David S.  
Henriksen, S. W.  
Henry, J. Patrick  
Hildebrand, Roger H.  
Hobbs, L. M.  
Ishibashi, Kazunori  
*In Memory of Tom*  
Jenkins, Jon Michael  
Johnson, H. R.  
Keil, Stephen L.  
Kellermann, Kenneth I.  
Klemola, A. R.  
Koo, David C.  
*In Memory of Rodger Doxsey*  
Kron, Gerald E.  
Lada, Charles J.  
Lebofsky, Larry A.  
Lee, Martin A.  
Levine, Alan M.  
Levison, Harold F.  
Lockman, Felix J.  
Lubow, Stephen H.  
Malhotra, Renu  
Maran, Stephen P.  
Marshall, Herman L.  
Martins, Donald Henry  
Molnar, M. R.  
Newsom, Gerald H.  
Nousek, John A.  
O'Connell, Robert W.  
O'Dea, Christopher P.  
O'Dell, C. R.  
Olson, Edward C.  
*In Memory of Robert H. Koch*  
Orton, Glenn S.  
Peale, Stanton J.  
Penhallow, William S.  
Percy, John R.  
Rickett, Barney J.  
Robinson, Susie  
Rogers, Alan E. E.  
Rosendhal, Jeffrey D.  
Rumstay, Kenneth S.  
Ryter, Charles  
Saito, Sumisaburo  
Sakurai, Takashi  
Schmidt, Edward G.  
Schmidt, Maarten  
Schwartz, Daniel A.  
*In Memory of Rodger Doxsey*  
Shane, William W.  
Smith, Edward J.  
Spencer, John H.  
Stencel, Robert E.  
Stockman, Hervey  
Thronson, Harley A.  
Tohline, Joel E.  
Tull, Robert Gordon  
Twarog, Bruce A.  
Veilleux, Sylvain  
*In Memory of Donald Osterbrock*  
Waddington, C. J.  
Wagoner, Robert V.  
Waite, J. Hunter  
Wampler, E. Joseph  
Wheaton, William A.  
Whitney, Charles A.  
Willner, Steven P.  
Yeomans, Donald K.

**Main Sequence (\$99 or less)**  
Anonymous (36)  
Adams, Ronald J.  
Baines, Kevin H.  
Balick, Bruce  
Becker, Stephen A.  
Bender, Peter L.  
Benkhoff, Johannes J.  
Bodenheimer, Peter  
Bohm, Karl-Heinz H.  
Braffman-Miller, Judith  
Breyer, Walter  
Brown, Leslie F.  
*In Memory of John Huchra*  
Carlson, Barbara E.  
Christian, Damian Joseph  
Condon, Jack  
Corbin, Thomas E.  
Dalton, James B.  
Daugherty, Joseph K.  
Devinney, Edward J.  
Dick, Steven J.  
Dodd, Jack G.  
Dryer, Murray  
*In Honor of Karen Harvey*  
Duncombe, R. L.  
Durgin, Harold E.  
Ebel, Denton  
Erickson, Edwin F.  
Eryurt-Ezer, Dilhan  
Fabricant, Daniel G.  
Folinsbee, Peggy  
Franz, Otto G.  
Frieband, Carol & Neil  
Fukuda, Ichiro  
Galvin, Antoinette B.  
Gelbord, Jonathan  
Gladstone, Randy  
Greenhill, Lincoln J.  
Hahn, Joseph M.  
Hammond, Gordon L.  
Harris, Alan W.  
*In Memory of Brian Marsden*  
Hartman, Robert C.  
Hartmann, Dieter  
Hertz, Paul L.  
*In Memory of Rodger Doxsey*  
Jackson, E. S.  
Jacoby, Margaret M.  
Janiczek, P. M.  
Jones, Christine  
Jugaku, Jun  
Keeseey, Michael S. W.  
Kelley, Richard L.  
Kemper, Edward  
Killen, Rosemary M.  
Kirk, Randolph L.  
Kirkpatrick, R. C.  
Krolik, Julian H.  
Lara, Juan F.  
Liebenberg, Donald H.  
Lindenblad, Irving W.  
Lippincott, Sarah L.  
Loren, Robert B.  
Lundquist, Charles A.  
Maguire, William C.  
Marche, Jordan  
Margon, Bruce H.  
Matese, John J.  
Mauche, Christopher W.  
McCluskey, Stephen C.  
McGrath, Melissa  
Miller, Diane  
Miller, M. Coleman  
Mink, Douglas J.  
*In Memory of Brian Marsden*  
Mitalas, Romas  
Mumford, George S.  
Murphy, Jim  
Mutschlechner, Joseph P.  
Nolt, Ira G.  
Nord, Brian  
Ouellette, Gerald A.  
Pearson, Kae Ellen  
Peterson, Charles J.  
Pitman, Joe  
Pound, Marc W.  
Primini, Francis A.  
Reasenber, Robert D.  
Reeves, Kathy  
Reid, Paul B.  
*In Memory of Leon van Speybroeck*  
Rogers, Ernest H.  
Sandras, Michael D.  
Savedoff, Malcolm P.  
Schiller, Stephen J.  
Schleicher, David G.  
Schultz, Gregory R.  
Schweizer, Francois  
Shields, Joseph C.  
Simpson, Richard A.  
Sittler, Edward C.  
Skumanich, Andrew P.  
Smecker-Hane, Tammy A.  
Snyder, Lewis E.  
Solomon, L. H.  
Stern, Robert A.  
Sternglass, Ernest J.  
Stoner, Jeff L.  
Sullivan, Woodruff T.  
Sung, Keeyon  
Swenson, George W.  
Takeda, Hidenori  
Tarter, C. Bruce  
Teplitz, Vigdor L.  
Thomas, Peter C.  
Thorstensen, John R.  
Turner, Paula C.  
Van Hoven, Gerard  
Vandervoort, Peter O.  
Vrba, Frederick John  
Vrtilek, Jan M.  
White, Oran R.  
Widemann, Thomas  
Williams, Robert E.  
Wilson, Curtis  
Winkler, P. Frank  
Woodgate, Bruce E.  
Wright, Shelley  
Wu, S. T.  
Zavala, Robert T.  
*In Memory of Thomas L. Swihart*  
Zeilik, Michael

# AAS/DIVISION MEETINGS



The 215th AAS meeting in Washington, DC, in January 2010 was more than just the largest in the Society's history. With 3,414 registrants, it was the largest astronomy meeting in the history of the universe—as far as we know, anyway! Attendees heard eight prize lectures and 10 other invited talks, including a policy address by NASA administrator Charles Bolden and a personal travelogue of the last Hubble servicing mission by astronaut John Grunsfeld. Astronomers presented more than 2,300 oral and poster papers, and some four-dozen researchers showcased newsworthy science in 11 press conferences eagerly attended by more than 100 reporters representing print, online, and broadcast media (both radio and TV). Among the many other highlights of the meeting was the Society banquet at the National Air and Space Museum, featuring a performance by the Capitol Steps in which Pluto was reminded that, sometimes, size does matter. Both the Historical Astronomy Division and the High Energy Astrophysics Division met concurrently with the parent society. There was so much going on all the time that you couldn't help but find something interesting no matter where you turned.

An especially large winter meeting is typically followed by an unusually small summer one. The 216th AAS meeting in Miami, Florida, at the end of May 2010 was no exception, with just 763 registrants. But there are benefits to a small meeting: fewer parallel sessions to decide between, shorter chow lines during breaks, and the virtual certainty that you will eventually run into that particular friend or colleague you were looking for. Miami offered all that, as well as a rich assortment of prize and invited talks and oral and poster presentations. Appropriately for the Sunshine State, many sessions featured new results on the Sun, as this was a joint gathering of the AAS and the Solar Physics Division (SPD).

Miami-area residents were offered four opportunities to share in the excitement: an AstroZone open house for families, and three well-attended public talks on NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, the threat to Earth from asteroid impacts, and the challenge to science from pseudoscience. Even if you sat this one out, you probably saw extensive coverage of the meeting in print and online. This wasn't because we had a strong turnout among reporters—we didn't. But for the first time, our news briefings were webcast live, featuring audio, video, and PowerPoint slides, so that journalists unable to attend in person could still participate and ask questions of the presenters. During our six press Miami press conferences, we usually had more reporters tuned in to the webcast than present in the room.

With more than 1,400 members, the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) is the Society's most populous division. Thus it should come as no surprise that the largest DPS annual meetings now attract more attendees than the smallest AAS summer meetings. The 42nd DPS meeting at the Pasadena Convention Center in October 2010 is a case in point: with 1,042 registrants, it dwarfed the Miami AAS meeting. Without doubt, the DPS annual meeting is the Woodstock of planetary science.

The Pasadena conference featured more than 700 presentations on ground- and space-based studies of objects in our own solar system and others—planetary science now includes research on exoplanets too, of course. Many of the talks and posters concerned new results from space telescopes and robotic planetary explorers, including Kepler, CoRoT, WISE, Herschel, Venus Express, Rosetta, Cassini, and the not-so-small fleets of robots investigating the Moon and Mars. Attendees took advantage of numerous workshops, town halls, local tours, and other activities as well. Some even spent an evening way outside their area of cosmic expertise by attending a taping of the popular TV program *The Big Bang Theory*.

As more than one observer pointed out, there is a certain irony in holding a major astronomy conference in Seattle, Washington, a city not exactly known for clear skies. But that did not keep 2,959 astronomers, educators, exhibitors, and journalists from heading to the Washington State

Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle in January 2011 for the 217th meeting of the AAS. In doing so, they set a new attendance record for a Society meeting outside Washington, DC. And they got the weather the city is famous for: rain, rain, and more rain—and some slushy snow, too.

Contributing to the high turnout was the fact that this was a joint meeting with the Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) and the High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD). For five straight days, every square foot (or meter, if you prefer) of space in the Convention Center was abuzz with activity. Anchoring the science program were 17 prize and invited talks, about 650 contributed oral presentations, and nearly 1,300 posters. Nearly 40 discoveries were featured in 11 press conferences, and one item—a Hubble image of Hanny’s Voorwerp—even made it onto David Letterman’s hugely popular late-night TV show.



## DIVISIONS, COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

The AAS is a diverse group of members passionate about their discipline. What the AAS can accomplish is greatly enhanced by our Divisions, Committees and Working Groups. Each has a role to play, but all are enabled by the dedicated enthusiasm of volunteer leaders and participants.

The AAS Divisions cover all major areas of scientific endeavor. Our Divisions are: Division for Planetary Sciences, High Energy Astrophysics Division, Solar Physics Division, Division on Dynamical Astronomy and the Historical Astronomy Division. Each has their own governing committee, whose volunteer leaders guide the strategic direction of each Division and partner with the AAS Council to enhance our field. All AAS members may join any of the Divisions they choose, which have their own membership dues and bylaws. Several of the Divisions have Affiliate Memberships, which allow scientists who would not reasonably be or do not qualify as a member of the AAS.

The AAS Committees actually help implement many of the strategic goals of the AAS Council. A full list is available

online at the AAS website, but some of the important committees include the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy, Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy, Committee on Public Policy, Publications Board and Employment Committee. Some committees require election, while most rely simply on interested individuals to volunteer for service. Each prize has its own selection committee and there are a range of administrative committees that look after the operation of the Society in a variety of ways. Individuals interested in volunteering for committee service should contact the AAS Secretary.

Working Groups are formed by the AAS Council to look after specific issues in our field. Sometimes Working Groups stay active for a long time, like the Working Group on Astronomical Software, while occasionally they “graduate” to a full-fledged Division, as outlined in our bylaws. The Working Group on Laboratory Astrophysics continued their activities in 2011 and are likely to move forward to Division status in the near future.





# PUBLIC POLICY

The AAS conducts a wide range of public policy activities on behalf of the membership and US astronomy. Most of the policy activities are guided by the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP), whose members are appointed by the President of the AAS. The CAPP is charged with staying informed of developments in science policy that might affect the astronomical community in the United States and carrying out advocacy initiatives with federal agencies and Congress.

The John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow is the staff person in the AAS Executive Office who monitors policy issues on a day-to-day basis. (S)he works closely with the Executive Officer and CAPP to engage and disseminate information to both policymakers and the astronomical community.

The National Research Council published *New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics* in August 2010 and *Vision and Voyages for Planetary Science in the Decade 2013-2022* in March 2011. These decadal surveys represent the consensus of scientific communities' review of the current state of understanding of the science and have a prioritized list of projects, programs, and missions important in the next decade. A task for decadal surveys was to consider the budgetary outlook in making recommendations. The funding agencies look to these reports for guidance on scientific priorities.

The AAS is a member of several multi-society coalitions in Washington, DC, that work on science and science-education policy. These include the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), the Science-Engineering-Technology Working Group (SETWG), the STEM Education Coalition, the Task Force for American Innovation (TFAI), and the Coalition of Scientific Societies (which works on challenges to the teaching of evolution in schools).

CNSF primarily works on issues related to funding for the National Science Foundation. The coalition organizes an annual exhibition and reception in the spring on Capitol Hill to showcase NSF-funded projects. In 2011 the AAS sponsored an exhibit by Dr. Christopher Reynolds, Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Joint Space

Science Institute at the University of Maryland, on black holes and understanding these ultimate powerhouses of the Universe.

SETWG consists of members from various scientific and technical professional societies as well as universities and industry. The group sponsors an annual Congressional Visits Day each spring. This event brings together research scientists and engineers from all over the country for two days to learn how federal funding for science works and to lobby their elected Representatives and Senators for basic R&D funding. The two-day event in 2001 was held on 6-7 April in Washington, DC. This event introduces AAS members to the federal budget process and science policy formulation and shows them the basics of meeting with Congressional offices.



AAS members who participated in CVD 2010 outside the Capitol Building.

The participants were Joe Bernstein, Alberto Conti, Meredith Drosback, Ori Fox, Eric Hilton, Susan Kassin, Makenzie Lystrup, Adam Morgan, Delphine Perrodin, Dan Wik, Diane Turnshek, Jack Burns, Dennis Ebbets, and AAS President Debbie Elmegreen.

On the first day they heard from NSF and NASA Astrophysics and attended a briefing on science and technology in the executive branch and congressional branch. Panelists included Kei Koizumi, Assistant Director for Federal R&D; Patrick Clemins, Director, AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program; and Congressional staff: Julia Jester, Dahlia Sokolov, Jonathan Epstein, and Chris Martin. The key speaker was retired Congressman the Honorable Sherwood Boehlert, former Chair of the US House Science Committee and an advocate for federal support for science.

The second day was full of meetings with the Congressional office staff of each participant's home state. They also met with Celinda Marsh, JD Kundu, and Joel Pierrot from the Office of Management and Budget.

The AAS is also a member of the Intersociety Working Group and authors a chapter every year on the outlook for astronomy funding published in the *AAAS Report on Research and Development*.

# PRIZE WINNERS



Top row: Margaret J. Geller, Tommaso Treu, Anna Frebel, Scott Ransom. Bottom row: Edward W. “Rocky” Kolb (right) and Michael S. Turner, Virginia L. Trimble, Philip M. Sadler, Dan Maoz

## **Margaret J. Geller**

*Henry Norris Russell Lectureship*

(Photo copyrighted by Massimo Ramella)

“for a lifetime of work on the distribution and clustering of galaxies in the universe and for her notable success in describing this work to the public.”

## **Tommaso Treu**

*Newton Lacy Pierce Prize*

“for his insightful work into the physical understanding of the formation and evolution of galaxies, groups, and clusters.”

## **Anna Frebel**

*Annie Jump Cannon Award*

“for her pioneering work in advancing our understanding of the earliest epochs of the Milky Way Galaxy through the study of its oldest stars.”

## **Scott Ransom**

*Helen B. Warner Prize*

“for his astrophysical insight and innovative technical leadership enabling the discovery of exotic, millisecond, and young pulsars and their application for tests of fundamental physics.”

## **Edward W. “Rocky” Kolb and Michael S. Turner**

*AAS/AIP Dannie Heineman Prize*

“for their joint fundamental contributions to cosmology and their development of the field of particle astrophysics, which have resulted in a vibrant community effort to understand the early universe.”

## **Virginia L. Trimble**

*George Van Biesbroeck Prize*

“for her many years of dedicated service to the national and international communities of astronomers, including her expert assessments of progress in all fields of astrophysics and her significant roles in supporting organizations, boards, committees, and foundations in the cause of astronomy.”

## **Philip M. Sadler**

*Education Prize*

“for opening our minds to the misconceptions and reasoning difficulties held by teachers and students about astronomy, and the role that understanding these misconceptions and reasoning difficulties plays in improving teaching and learning.”

## **Drake Deming** (Not pictured)

*Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize*

“for his innovative and pioneering work detecting thermal infrared emission from transiting extrasolar planets using the Spitzer Space Telescope.”

## **Donald Hall** (Not pictured)

*Joseph Weber Award for Instrumentation*

“for his innovative contributions to the development of low-noise detectors for observational infrared astronomy that have enabled decades of scientific discoveries.”

## **Dan Maoz**

*Chambliss Astronomical Writing Award for 2009*

“for a wide-ranging treatment of topics from stellar structure to cosmology... [that] explains crucial physics with sufficient depth to capture students’ curiosity without getting lost in detail.”

## **Robert D. Stephens** (Not pictured)

*Chambliss Amateur Achievement Award*

“for his extensive contributions to the understanding of asteroids through collection and analysis of asteroid photometry,” repeated brightness measurements capable of revealing asteroids’ rotation rates.

# MEMBER DEATHS

The Society was saddened during 2010 to learn of the passing of the members listed here. The Society, through its Historical Astronomy Division, strives to publish an obituary for each AAS member after we are informed of his or her death. Obituaries are published in the *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* and available online through the AAS web pages. They are also provided to Astrophysics Data System. A complete index is available at [aas.org/had/obits.html](http://aas.org/had/obits.html).

Donald Backer  
Geoffrey Burbidge  
Dave Burstein  
Kenneth Cashdollar  
J.M.A. (Tony) Danby

J.P. Davidson  
Alan Fiala  
Harry W. Fulbright  
Timothy G. Hawarden  
Darrel Hoff

John Huchra  
Robert Koch  
Mukul Kundu  
Andrew Lange  
Earle B. Mayfield

Father Martin F. McCarthy  
Leonard Searle  
Michael E. Van Steenberg  
Joseph Zelle



# SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

## January, February, March

- *Astronomy Education Review* gets a new editor, Tom Hockey
- 215th AAS Meeting, Washington, DC—following comment from the membership, a revised AAS Ethics Statement is approved; also, new attendance record is set (3,414)
- Lancelot M. Berkeley—New York Community Trust Prize for Meritorious Work in Astronomy is established

## April, May, June

- AAS participates in 15th Annual Coalition for National Science Funding Hill Exhibit Day
- 216th AAS Meeting, Miami, FL—AAS Council approves a draft of the AAS Strategic Plan; also, press office begins live webcasts of news briefings
- Rodger Doxsey Travel Prize established for presentations of doctoral research

## July, August, September

- *New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics* (latest decadal survey) is published
- Kavli Foundation Plenary Lectureship is established
- *AJ* and *ApJ* switch to new peer-review-management system

## October, November, December

- Bethany Johns joins AAS staff as John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow
- The last printed issue of the *BAAS* is published

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**Vice-President** Lee Anne Willson, Iowa State Univ.  
**Vice-President** Nicholas B. Suntzeff, Texas A&M Univ.  
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**Publications Board Chair** Richard F. Green, LBTO/Univ. of Arizona  
**Executive Officer**, Kevin B. Marvel

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Felix J. Lockman, NRAO  
Nicholas B. Suntzeff, Texas A&M Univ.

##### 2008-2011

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C. Megan Urry, Yale Univ.  
Charles E. Woodward, Univ. of Minnesota

##### 2009-2012

Richard G. French, Wellesley College  
James D. Lowenthal, Smith College  
Jennifer Wiseman, NASA GSFC

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Scott Idem, Director of Information Technology  
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*Front cover: Red Rectangle, courtesy of NASA, ESA, and STScI*