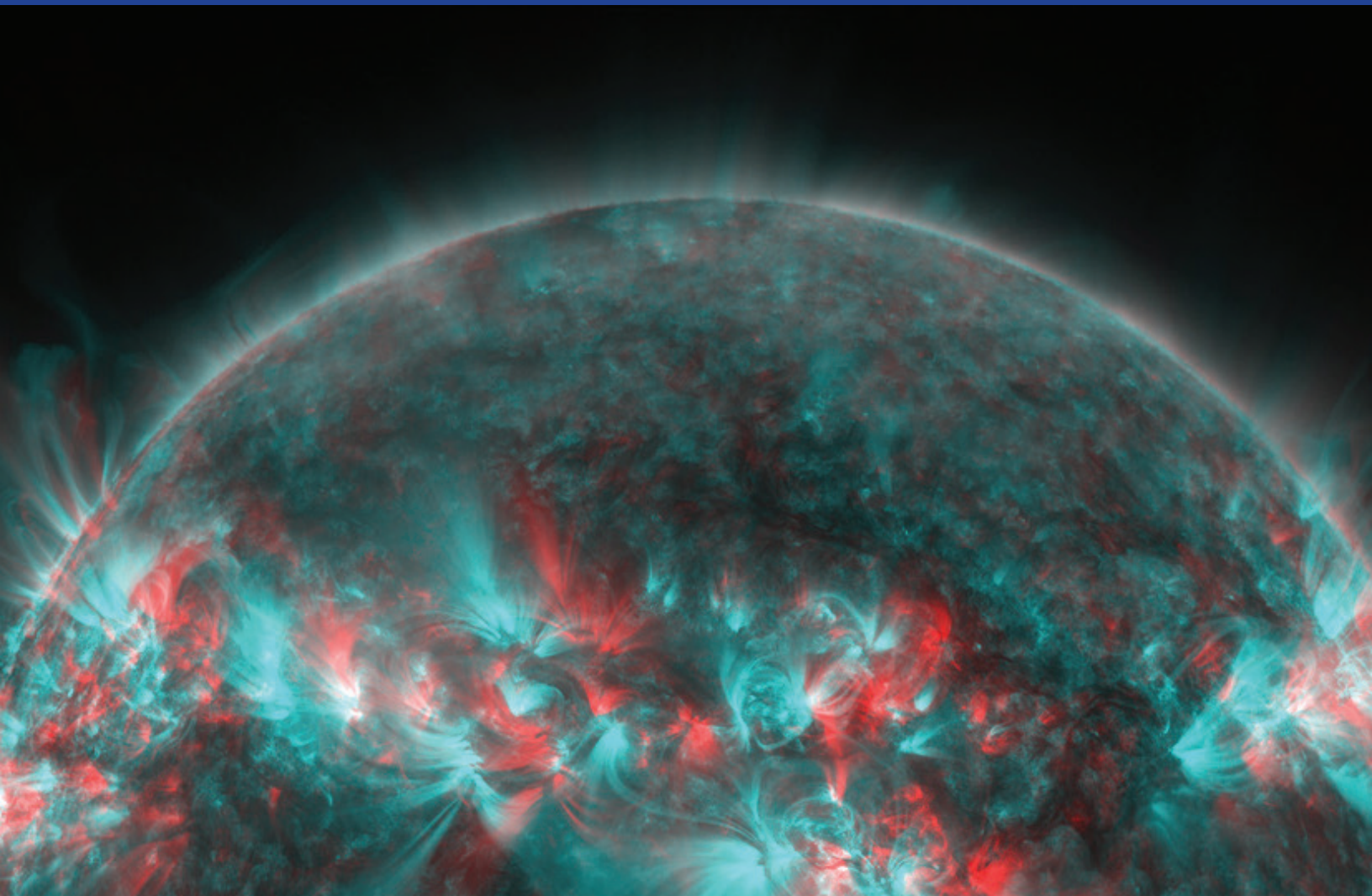


2023

Annual Report



The Mission of the AAS

To enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe as a diverse and inclusive astronomical community.

The Vision of the AAS

To create a world where all people value and benefit from a scientific understanding of our universe.

The Values of the AAS

Curiosity: We conduct research driven by our curiosity about the universe.

Integrity: We act with integrity, ethical behavior, and transparency as we perform our investigations and share our results.

Inclusivity: We use fair and accessible practices to create a diverse and welcoming scientific community.

Empowerment: We mentor and support our early career members, using our resources to create a positive environment for them and for our astronomical community.

Sustainability: We accomplish our work using environmentally sensitive actions rooted in scientific understanding.

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1. We caught this early career astronomer having a little too much fun in the Exhibit Hall. **2.** Past presidents and Board of Trustee members celebrate another successful AAS meeting.

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President's Message



As I approach the end of my term as president of the AAS, I am more aware than ever of the essential role this organization has in our community, from publications to public policy, ethics to employment, and mentorship to meetings. With the AAS about to celebrate its quasiquicentennial, having been founded 125 years ago in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, in 1899, it is a good time to consider the role and impact of the AAS.

To my mind, the AAS provides the infrastructure that enables astronomers across the country to carry out the work that we love. If you will indulge me for a moment, pause and consider what the field of astronomy in the United States would be like without the infrastructure provided by the AAS over the last 125 years. In this alternate reality, I would venture a guess that the field of astronomy would be dramatically different — the AAS has given us cohesion, a shared mission, and coordinated advocacy.

Over this last year, the AAS has continued its long record of supporting and advancing our field in myriad ways. For example, the health and vibrancy of astronomy critically depends on the training and flourishing of early career astronomers. To this end, we convened an Early Career Task Force on ways to better support and engage with early career astronomers, and we have also created a new task force on graduate admissions to investigate whether there are ways we can improve the application and admissions process. We have also started a working group to provide input on supporting members of the AAS who are foreign nationals, recognizing that one of the great strengths of the astronomy community is that it is fundamentally international.

The future health of astronomy also clearly depends on funding, and we have carried out deep work on advocacy and public policy, including time on Capitol Hill, advocacy for the decadal surveys, and numerous official letters to decision makers at all levels. Over this last year we have issued three separate action alerts to members, which generated roughly 1,000 letters to members of Congress. Note: when you get an action alert from the AAS, please respond to it — when we meet with folks from Congress, we are told over and over again that to make something a priority they must hear from their constituents. The AAS folks have made this super easy, so when you get an action alert, just do it, okay?

Our meetings continue to have a major role in the community, with the AAS winter meeting in New Orleans having the second highest attendance of AAS meetings ever with nearly 3,500 registered attendees. To this end, we recognize the importance of providing support to astronomers who have limited financial means to facilitate their attendance at these meetings, and this year we awarded 31 FAMOUS grants. Despite the success of our meetings, we always want to do better, and the Future of Meetings Task Force is in deep discussions on proposals and feedback received from the AAS community over the last year.

All of this work critically depends on the amazing and dedicated AAS staff and legions of volunteers who serve on the range of committees operating behind the scenes to make things happen. While serving as president, I have come to appreciate how much of the AAS mission depends on the work of volunteers from our community who raise their hand to help with something they care about. This work matters, and I am grateful on a daily basis that we have colleagues who care enough about topics and issues impacting our community to help.

As I sign off as president, I want to note that my term also came with a number of unexpected highlights. In particular, over the last year I was honored to meet John Rhys-Davies (aka Gimli) when he crashed the AAS meeting in New Orleans, and I got to visit the White House along with Jane Rigby as she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. These occasions underscored how truly beloved astronomy is, and I hope that the coming year continues to bring astronomical delights to both the professional community and the broader public that supports our work.

—Kelsey Johnson, AAS President



Chief Executive Officer's Message

The past year has been an active one for the AAS, and 2023 was clearly a transition year away from the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We held a successful meeting in Seattle, Washington, with almost 3,400 registrants, including 300 virtual participants. The summer meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with more than 1,000 registrants in total and 126 virtual participants. In addition to supporting our two major annual conferences, the AAS meetings team also fully supports our Division meetings — which, in 2023, included the 20th meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division; the 54th meeting of the Division on Dynamical Astronomy; the 54th meeting of the Solar Physics Division; and the 55th meeting of the Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS), held jointly with the Europlanet Science Conference. These Division meetings are significant undertakings — the DPS meeting is usually our second largest meeting! — and surveys of meeting participants regularly highlight how well our team does in organizing and carrying out these complex scientific gatherings, while pointing out where we can make improvements. We hold a “lessons learned” debrief after every meeting we organize and actively work to make improvements on an ongoing basis. Our team of professional meeting planners have decades of experience and really know how to do their work well ... we are lucky to have them!

Our journals continue to receive submissions of new research across all the exciting topic areas our authors are exploring. Our conversion to fully open access publishing continues to be successful, and we are seeing substantial growth in submissions as I write this in early 2024; time will tell if the significant (~15%) increase in submissions we are seeing in early 2024 will be sustained or not. It comes as a surprise to many that just over 40% of our lead authors are working in the United States; the rest of our published manuscripts are from other countries. Our journals are truly international. Our system is purposely collaborative by nature and assumes that if an author has taken the time to prepare a manuscript for publication in our journals, it is nearly always the case that an important observation or advancement of understanding is contained within their work. Our team of 40 scientific and lead editors, led by Editor in Chief

Ethan Vishniac, therefore works with referees and authors to improve the manuscript's presentation to help advance our shared understanding of the universe. As the author is the primary customer in our open-access business model, we continue to focus on putting the author first; a recent revamp of our submission portal is one example of our efforts to center the author experience. Supporting our



publishing efforts are AAS staff members who help make the peer-review process go, provide data editing services (which helps improve the presentation and accessibility of data and figures in our manuscripts), and interface with our peer-review platform and publishing partners. The process is fantastically complicated, but coordinated teamwork and dedication to the mission and purpose of our publications ensures our success. Thank you to everyone in our publishing team (nearly 100 people including contractors) for making AAS journals such a great resource.

Our public policy team is working diligently with our volunteer leaders to find ways to advance our discipline in the policy sphere. Challenges abound. Satellite constellations threaten ground-based observing, while simultaneously providing internet access for anyone anywhere (in principle). Funding for key priorities in the decadal surveys and NASA missions remains uncertain, in some cases leading to layoffs of staff central to the work. At times like this, advocacy is more important than ever, which is why we have invested in a software platform that greatly enhances our members' ability to serve as advocates. Our public policy team will lead one of our largest-ever Congressional Visits Day programs in early 2024 and will build on their past successes working to improve the prospects for astronomy in the US.

Sky & Telescope (S&T) continues to serve as one of the main ways the Society fulfills its goals in communicating with the public about astronomy. The S&T team, combined with the writing talent of many authors, continues to produce high-quality issues month after month. In 2023, they added the production of an additional special issue on the eclipse coming up in April of 2024 (and eclipses in general, so it has lasting value as well). AAS members can subscribe to S&T as a member benefit, whether with their annual renewal or at any time through their AAS member login. We have also restarted the S&T book publishing program, and more news about that will be coming in 2024.

Many other staff and our volunteer leaders work tirelessly to help make the AAS function for our members and our discipline. I thank them all for their role supporting the AAS and its mission to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe as a diverse and inclusive astronomical community. Our meetings, our publications, and our many other programs combine to make the AAS what it is: a central, supportive community of people working collectively to advance astronomy. Thank you for your part, whatever it might be, in helping the AAS succeed.

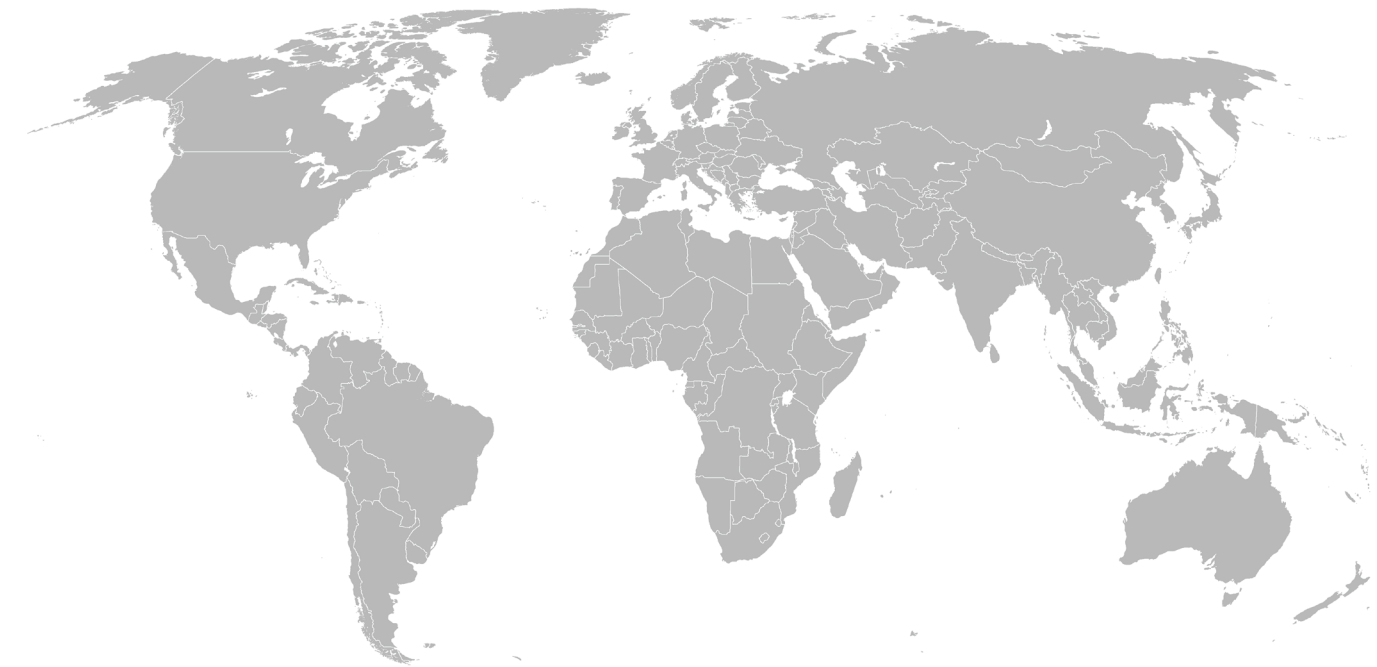
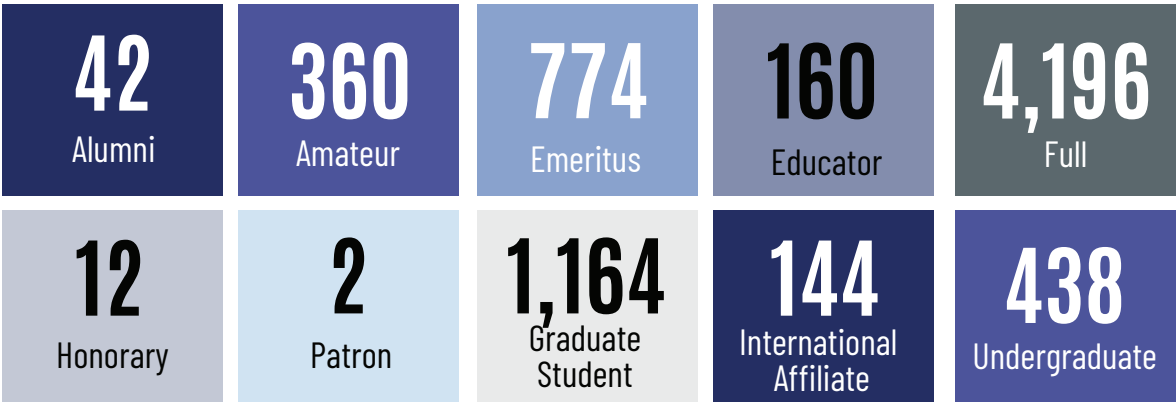
—Kevin Marvel, AAS Chief Executive Officer

Photo: Kevin observing the annular eclipse on 2 October 2024.

Membership

Our science is a worldwide endeavor. Telescopes and missions are large and complex, requiring nations to collaborate. The Society’s open access journals are supported by a diverse and international team of editors and receive contributions from around the world. And AAS members from across the country and the globe work together and travel to meet, collaborate, and present research results. While based in the US, the Society has members in 61 countries and welcomes new members, united by the night sky and our place in the universe, from all countries.

7,292 Total (count as of 11 July 2023)



6,563 Members in USA
729 Members outside USA
61 Countries represented including USA

Education Activities

The AAS Education Department is proud to offer programs that support astronomy educators who are engaged in a wide range of education, outreach, and mentorship efforts. AAS members interested in staying engaged in astronomy education news are invited to subscribe to the [AAS Education Biweekly Newsletter](#) and to join our Reception for Astronomy Educators in person at your next AAS meeting!

Flagship AAS programs that support astronomy educators include the following:

- The [Physics and Astronomy Faculty Teaching Institute](#), an annual four-day in-person intensive workshop for college and university astronomy and physics educators focused on effective and inclusive classroom teaching practices.
- The [Inclusive Graduate Education Network \(IGEN\)](#), which supports AAS by offering expertise and workshops targeted at improving faculty and department leaders' skills in mentoring and inclusive practices in graduate admissions and education.
- [TEAM-UP Together \(TUT\)](#), a project inspired by the [2020 TEAM-UP Report](#) to double the number of African Americans earning bachelor's degrees in physics and astronomy by 2030 by creating a culture of inclusion, support, and success in physics and astronomy. TUT offers both student and departmental programs, providing a multi-pronged approach to supporting student success.
- AAS & APS Virtual Workshops on Inclusive & Effective Education, a program that delivers approximately six workshops per year to AAS and APS members on a range of topics in teaching, mentoring, and departmental leadership. This program is funded by the American Institute of Physics Venture Grant program.

- The Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program, which brings distinguished astronomers on two-day visits to colleges and universities without their own astronomy programs. After a multi-year hiatus spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, Shapley Visiting Lectures have restarted operations under a pilot program in partnership with the NASA Community College Network and will soon be available to a broader set of AAS members and host institutions.

In close partnership with the AAS Education Committee, AAS supports volunteer-led efforts in the following four sectors:

- Public Outreach, Community Engagement, and Informal Education;
- Introductory Astronomy in Formal Education (K-12 and College Gen Ed);
- Undergraduate and Graduate Astrophysics Education, Mentoring, and Career Preparation; and
- Preparation for Careers Beyond Academia.

The [Education Committee Blog](#) features contributions from expert astronomy educators in the AAS community every two weeks, and the [Education & Professional Mini-Grants Program](#) funds AAS members who wish to offer education and professional development workshops at AAS meetings and other venues for the benefit of other AAS members.

AAS Education also supports some of the student-centric programming that happens at AAS national meetings, such as the [Chambliss Student Poster Competition](#) and the Undergraduate Student Reception (co-hosted with the Society of Physics Students).



1. Workshop Lead Dr. Rachel Scherr works with Faculty Teaching Institute attendees as they actively participate in a session on structured group work. Image credit: AAPT/APS/AAS. 2. Dozens of astronomy educators of all kinds attend the January 2024 Reception for Astronomy Educators at AAS 243 in New Orleans.

AAS & Division Meetings

242nd AAS Meeting

AAS 242 took place 4–8 June in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was held jointly with the AAS Laboratory Astrophysics Division. The meeting drew an attendance of more than 1,000 astronomers, educators, students, and journalists to a city that would be witnessing two solar eclipses in the coming year: the annular solar eclipse in October 2023 and the total solar eclipse in April 2024. Accordingly, one theme of the meeting was eclipse science and outreach — but the packed 5-day program included many other highlights including 16 prize and plenary lectures, public-policy town halls from NASA, the National Science Foundation, and more; and a session on the what and why of open science. Here's a snippet. [View the Plenary Talks.](#)



1. Scenes from AAS 242: Daniel Scolnic (Duke Univ.), on his work with the Pantheon+SH0ES collaboration to pin down measurements of our universe's expansion. 2. Bin Chen (New Jersey Institute of Technology), on the use of solar flares as a laboratory to study magnetic energy release and particle acceleration. 3. Edwin (Ted) Bergin (Univ. of Michigan), on how planets form, as understood by following the supply of carbon in our universe. 4. Julia Blue Bird (National Radio Astronomy Observatory), on studies of galaxy evolution with the COSMOS HI Large Extragalactic Survey. 5. Kathryn (Kate) Daniel (Univ. of Arizona), on the intersection of astronomy with indigenous communities. 6. Linda Shore (Astronomical Society of the Pacific), on using astronomy to develop science literacy. 7. John O'Meara (W. M. Keck Observatory), on next steps toward realizing the goals of the Astro 2020 decadal survey. 8. There were five press conferences with 21 presentations — both in-person and virtual — on new discoveries and other developments. 9. Peer Review Workshop "graduates." 10. Meeting attendees at the National Science Foundation town hall.

AAS 243 in Numbers

3,468 Attendees 	1,249 First-time attendees	2,336 Abstracts $y = ax^2 + bx + c$	23 Exhibitor theater presentations	111 Press registrants 	8 Press conferences 
17 Prize lectures & plenary talks 	1,092 Oral talks	1,290 iPosters 	36 Press presentations	460 Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award entries	80 Volunteer Chambliss poster judges
290 Meeting sessions, workshops & events	75 Exhibitors 	56 Grad/REU Fair sponsors 	25 Chambliss Student Award winners 	39 K-12 students visit Exhibit Hall 	35 Countries represented by attendees 

During 7–11 January 2024, nearly 3,500 astronomers gathered for the winter meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and online. AAS 243, which was jointly held with the AAS's Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) and High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD), offered a full in-person experience and a limited virtual component. The meeting featured a broad range of sessions, workshops, and events; and to our surprise, actor John Rhys-Davies helped us kick off the opening reception!

Seventeen prize lectures and plenary speakers shined a spotlight on the most exciting areas of astronomical research from some of the sharpest minds working to deepen our understanding of the universe. [View the Plenary Talks.](#)



1. AAS staff with actor John Rhys-Davies. 2. Stephen Taylor (Vanderbilt Univ.), on the exciting discovery of the nanohertz gravitational-wave background by the NANOGrav pulsar timing array. 3. Wen-fai Fong (Northwestern Univ.), on her work studying exploding astrophysical phenomena and their host galaxies. 4. Eve Lee (McGill Univ.), on theories of planet formation. 5. Jack Burns (Univ. of Colorado Boulder), on radio astronomy and cosmology from the Moon. 6. Alan Lightman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), on the rarity of life in the universe. 7. Ana Bonaca (Carnegie Institution for Science), on the Milky Way as a cosmological laboratory. 8. Lia Epperson (American Univ. - Washington College of Law), on implications of the US Supreme Court decision on the use of race in college admissions. 9. Meeting attendees gathered in the Exhibit Hall for the evening poster session.

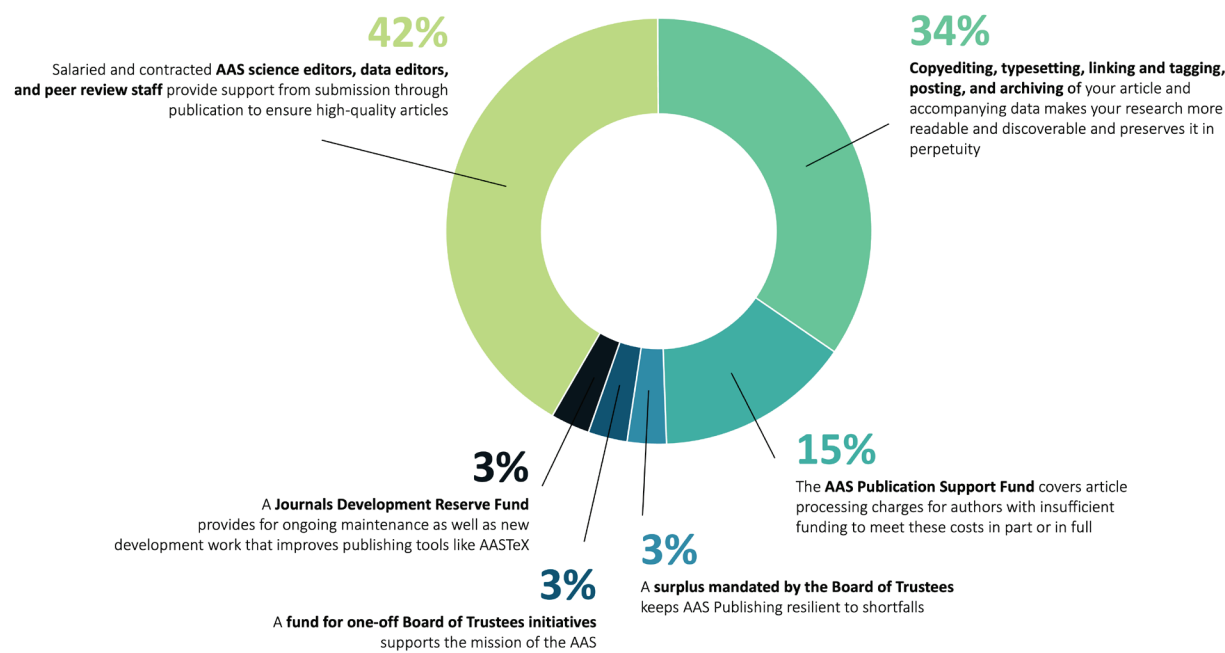
Publishing

The AAS publishing program consists of its suite of scholarly research journals, additional publications like the *Bulletin of the AAS* and AAS Nova, the AAS–Institute of Physics ebook partnership, and the *Sky & Telescope* and Willmann-Bell book imprints.

Some updates from AAS publishing in 2023 include:

- Submissions and publications in the now fully open access AAS research journals held strong in 2023, including a significant uptick in submissions from international authors.
- AAS publishing continued to work to preserve author access to AAS journals by offering financial assistance via a generous AAS Publication Support Fund. Authors unable to cover the cost of publishing in the AAS’s journals are encouraged to apply for support from the Fund.
- *The Planetary Science Journal*, the AAS’s newest research journal, published more than 700 papers in its first three years and was awarded its first Journal Impact Factor™ of 3.4, exceeding that of its closest rival journals.
- The AAS ran its first-ever in-person peer review training workshop at the summer AAS meeting in Albuquerque, during which AAS science editors trained selected applicants in how to conduct useful peer review. This workshop was repeated at the winter meeting in New Orleans and is expected to be held regularly in the future.
- AAS Publishing partnered with Black in Astro for #BlackSpaceWeek2023 to feature astronomical papers in video interviews with six Black scholars in the field through the AAS Journal Authors YouTube Series.
- The AAS began releasing reprints of previously published book titles and finalized its strategy for acquiring, producing, and publishing new books under the *S&T* and Willmann-Bell imprints in the future.

The AAS journals are operated as a nonprofit venture, and author charges fairly recapture costs for the services provided in the publishing process. The chart below breaks down the services that author charges go toward. [AAS 2023]



AAS research journals received 6,552 submissions from 80 different countries in 2023. The total number of published articles for last year was 5,026.

3,016 <i>Astrophysical Journal</i>	736 <i>Astrophysical Journal Letters</i>	575 <i>The Astronomical Journal</i>
346 <i>Astrophysical Journal Supplements</i>	286 <i>Research Notes of the AAS</i>	250 <i>Planetary Science Journal</i>

Public Policy

Congressional Visits Day was a major success this year as we brought 15 volunteers to DC to advocate for community priorities with several Congressional offices and with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. All of our volunteers participated in two days of advocacy training with speakers from NASA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy, the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, and Congress.



Yaswant Devarakonda joined the AAS in April as the John N. Bahcall Public Policy Fellow. Yaswant completed his PhD in Astronomy at Texas A&M University and is a former Congressional Visits Day volunteer.

The AAS continues to advocate for Decadal Survey-recommended science, facilities, and state of the profession improvements. This year saw the passing of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which put strict caps on government spending for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. This has put severe strain on NASA, NSF, and the Department of Energy's ability to develop future facilities while sustaining ongoing missions. In addition, political struggles over Congressional leadership have led to significant delays in the appropriations process. Throughout the year, the AAS has been actively engaged with Congress and the federal agencies to reduce the cuts to our community during this difficult fiscal year.

Advocating for protecting the dark and quiet skies and for space sustainability remains a top priority. We have actively engaged in discussions with NASA, NSF, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congress, and industry groups as the commercial space sector continues to mature. Our continued advocacy has led to the FCC mandating coordination agreements between satellite companies and the NSF to minimize harm to astronomical observatories.

At the international level, we participated in the International Astronomical Union's symposium on dark and quiet skies in La Palma, Spain, where we discussed pathways forward for the astronomy community, state governments, and commercial actors.



1. AAS CVD Volunteers stand outside of the Eisenhower Building after their meeting with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. 2. Senator Mark Kelly and AAS member Lindsey Wiser. 3. Fabio Pacucci, Yaswant Devarakonda, Representative Katherine Clark, Caeley Pittman, and Tim Sacco.

Sky & Telescope

For *Sky & Telescope*, 2023 was predominantly about solar eclipses, both those occurring in 2023 and the Great North American Eclipse taking place on 8 April 2024. See details in all four sections below.

Magazine: Throughout the year and well into 2024, we published multiple articles on solar eclipses: the April 2023 hybrid eclipse off Australia, the October 2023 annular eclipse, and the April 2024 total solar eclipse. This plethora of pieces included a 10-page preview of the Great North American Eclipse in the April 2023 issue by eclipse experts Fred Espenak and Jay Anderson.

Late in the year, we developed two new monthly columns, which launched with the January 2024 issue. The first, called *Stories in the Stars*, covers naked-eye stargazing. Its author is Stephen James O'Meara, one of the world's leading amateur astronomers and a former editor at *S&T*. The second new element is a monthly Southern Hemisphere Sky Chart, which complements our Northern Hemisphere version. It includes observing copy by Jonathan Nally, former editor in chief of *Australian Sky & Telescope*. *S&T* also published many articles that help improve our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The magazine staff also welcomed two new staffers in January 2023: Beatriz Inglessis, our talented, Venezuelan-born technical illustrator, and Rod Nenner, who, as part of his many duties as Director of Strategic Partnerships at AAS, oversees *S&T*'s advertising initiatives.

Website & Social: In 2023, *S&T*'s website, skyandtelescope.org, attracted 6.2 million visitors, over half of them via web searches (which speaks to *S&T*'s high ranking). Page views

reached about 11 million. Most visitors continue to hail from the US (67%), followed by the UK (5.7%), India (5%), and Canada (4.8%). Our most popular online feature was, as always, the Interactive Sky Chart, and, not surprisingly, the most-read article (622,000 views) concerned eclipses.

Arguably the web team's greatest accomplishment was posting a continuously updated online eclipse guide, with dozens of pages of useful resources, including videos, safety features, and much more. *S&T*'s social media was equally active: YouTube had 298,000 views (up 112%), while Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn visitors also rose appreciably.

Products & Tours: In the fall of 2023, *S&T* published a 64-page special issue, *The Great 2024 Eclipse: Your Complete Guide to April's Solar Eclipse*. This fully illustrated publication, which included two pairs of eclipse glasses, was sold on the newsstand, through Barnes & Noble, and on shopatsky.com. *S&T* and Willmann-Bell books continued to be published or reprinted, helping to stand up the AAS's book-publishing venture. In 2023, *S&T* also ran successful tours (three of them eclipse-related) to Hawai'i, Australia, Botswana, the Canary Islands, Iceland, New Mexico, and the Yucatán. See all upcoming tours at skyandtelescope.org/tours.

Other Initiatives: *Sky & Telescope* furthered many other projects in 2023. These included launching a subscription effort to entice subscribers of *Australian Sky & Telescope*, which ceased publication in mid-2023; starting creation of a digital archive of all *S&T* issues back to its first in November 1941; overhauling our clubs online directory to improve outreach; and continuing a strategic-planning effort that will conclude in early 2024.



S&T tour in October 2023 to the Very Large Array in New Mexico. Image credit: Peter Tyson / *S&T*.

The AAS Fellows Program



The AAS Fellows Program was established by the Board of Trustees in late 2019 to honor members for extraordinary achievement and service and their contributions toward the AAS mission of enhancing and sharing humanity's scientific understanding of the universe. AAS Fellows are recognized for original research and publication, innovative contributions to astronomical techniques or instrumentation, significant contributions to education and public outreach, and noteworthy service to astronomy and to the Society itself.

An initial group of 242 Legacy Fellows was designated by the Board and announced in early 2020.

These include past recipients of certain awards from the AAS or its topical Divisions, distinguished AAS elected leaders and volunteer committee members, and previously unrecognized individuals with long histories of outstanding research, teaching, mentoring, and service.

In February 2023, the AAS honored another 22 members as Fellows.

Since then, a select number of new Fellows (up to 0.5% of the number of current full members of the Society annually) have been recognized each year.

Marcel A. Agüeros	Paul D. Feldman*	Claus Leitherer	Nicholas B. Suntzeff
Alice Allen	Jonathan P. Gardner	Jeffrey Linsky	David A. Weintraub
Gibor Broitman Basri	Andrew I. Harris	Makenzie B. Lystrup	Gillian Wilson
Karen S. Bjorkman	Lee W. Hartmann	Antonella Nota	Edward L. Wright
Geoffrey A. Blake	Elizabeth Lada	Bharat Ratra	
Tereasa G. Brainerd	James M. Lattimer	Joan T. Schmelz	

** The AAS Fellows Selection Committee was saddened to learn of the death of Paul Feldman after his nomination. Given the circumstances, the Board of Trustees voted to proceed with Dr. Feldman's recognition posthumously.*

Media Relations

The AAS Press Office consists of Press Officer Susanna Kohler, Deputy Press Officer Kerry Hensley, and the AAS Media Fellow, an astronomy graduate student who works part-time with the Press Office and the Communications team. Benjamin Cassese (Columbia University) agreed to stay on for another term as Media Fellow through Fall 2024.

What was the Press Office up to this year?

- In 2023, we curated and shared more than 1,500 astronomy-news press releases from institutions worldwide via the [@AAS_Press](#) Twitter account and the AAS website's Astronomy in the News page.
- We issued a number of our own press releases throughout the year to our email list of roughly 2,000 astronomy and space science writers worldwide. These releases highlighted AAS prize winners, described new initiatives on which AAS has partnered, and outlined results from important Society activities.
- We maintained an internal database of expert astronomy media sources to connect with astronomy reporters seeking quotes for news stories. Members of the astronomy community can sign up with the AAS as expert media sources and help ensure that astronomy news stories contain a broad set of perspectives: <https://aas.org/form/media-expert-source-signup>.
- We organized and ran full press conference programs at AAS 242 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and AAS 243 in New Orleans, Louisiana. These featured a collective total of about 60 presenters organized across 13 briefing sessions and cumulatively had around 170 press registrants who attended the live-streamed briefings and produced extensive media coverage of the results.
- We teamed up with Astrobites, a graduate-student-run organization that summarizes recent astro-ph preprints for a broader audience, to live-blog each AAS meeting. Under the leadership of an Astrobites Media Intern — Sumeet Kulkarni (University of Mississippi) for AAS 242 and Briley Lewis (UC Los Angeles) for AAS 243 — a group of Astrobites authors provided valuable summaries of meeting content that were then published on astrobits.org and aasnova.org.

Division & Topical Meetings



The biggest HEAD meeting in history was held in the beautiful Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Other Division and topical meetings of 2023 included:

- 20th Meeting of the High Energy Astrophysics Division, held 26–30 March in Waikōloa, Hawai'i
- 54th Meeting of the Division on Dynamical Astronomy, held 8–12 May in East Lansing, Michigan
- 54th Meeting of the Solar Physics Division, held 13–18 August in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 55th Meeting of the Division for Planetary Sciences, held 1–6 October in San Antonio, Texas

Divisions, Committees, Working Groups & Task Forces

While the day-to-day operations of the Society are managed by AAS staff, what the Society can accomplish is greatly enhanced by our volunteer-driven Divisions, Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces. Below are a few highlights from some of these many groups in 2023.

- The Division on Dynamical Astronomy amended its bylaws to expand the duties of committee members to support and further the goals of inclusion and representation of underrepresented minorities.
- The Committee for the Protection of Astronomy and the Space Environment (COMPASSE) adopted its current name and its first statement of Mission, Vision, and Values. COMPASSE members undertook substantial outreach efforts throughout the year, including playing a leading role in the hybrid IAU 385 Symposium on Astronomy and Satellite Constellations: Pathways Forward.
- The Education Committee awarded four AAS Education and Professional Development (AAS-EPD) Mini-Grants to members for events scheduled for 2022-2023 and selected eight programs to partly or fully fund in 2023-2024.
- The Committee for Sexual-Orientation & Gender Minorities in Astronomy co-hosted a panel discussion on the topic of “Queer-Friendly Workspaces in the Current Environment” at the University of Washington in conjunction with AAS 243.
- The Sustainability Committee undertook a survey of meeting attendees to better understand attitudes toward climate change. The Committee proposed a series of recommendations to the Board to improve communication and advocacy for sustainable practices and mitigation of climate impacts.
- Two new groups were proposed and approved by the Board in February: the Corporate Engagement Advisory Committee, which will focus on enhancing interactions between AAS and astronomers working in the private sector; and the Meetings Task Force, whose tasks encompass providing recommendations for the planning of future AAS meetings.
- Several Task Forces completed their work and made recommendations to the Board, including the Governance Task Force, Volunteer Compensation Task Force, Beyond Academe Task Force, and Historic Site Designation Task Force.

Prizewinners

To foster and recognize excellence in astronomy, the AAS presents honors, awards, and prizes for outstanding contributions to astronomical research, instrumentation, writing, and service.



1. Marta Bryan - Annie Jump Cannon Award: For her leadership in observational studies of gas-giant exoplanet formation, evolution, and impact on planetary systems.

2. Karen Meech - Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics: For her pioneering work expanding and pushing boundaries in the field of small-body solar-system observational science, and for her transformative contributions that have shaped the broader field of planetary science.

3. Linda Shore - Education Prize: For the nationwide impact of her work educating teachers as Director of the Exploratorium Teacher Institute, and for the development of novel educational programs aimed at non-astronomers as CEO of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

4. Ana Bonaca - Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy: For innovative advances in our understanding of the hierarchical formation of the Milky Way and constraints on the galactic potential.

5. Frank Shu - Henry Norris Russell Lectureship: For his seminal contributions to theoretical astrophysics, from the formation of stars and planetary systems to the structure of disk galaxies; for his sustained leadership in the global astronomical community.

6. Shouleh Nikzad - Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation: For her pioneering contributions pushing the boundaries of ultraviolet/visible photon-counting charge-coupled devices, and for her sustained infusion of related technologies across multiple fields.

7 & 8. Emily M. Levesque & Henny J.G.L.M. Lamers - Chambliss Astronomical Writing Award: For their upper-level undergraduate or graduate textbook "Understanding Stellar Evolution" (IOP Publishing Ltd., 2017).

9. Renee Ludlam - Newton Lacy Pierce Prize in Astronomy: For novel explorations of the relativistic universe that have revealed fundamental properties of neutron stars.

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In Memoriam

The Society was saddened to learn of the passing of the following members in 2023. The Society, through its Historical Astronomy Division, strives to publish an obituary for each AAS member after we are informed of the member's death. Obituaries are published and available online through the Bulletin of the AAS website at <https://baas.aas.org/obituaries>.

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Financial Report

As of 31 December 2023, the AAS's net assets were \$12,076,468, representing a decrease of \$1,634,264 from 2022. This represents planned operational losses to spend down operational surpluses from prior years and to keep the dues and meeting registration rate increases lower than they would be otherwise. All nonprofit organizations were also required to report all leases in excess of 12 months on the balance sheet. Our new "right of use asset" was \$5,595,154, and the corresponding "operating lease liability" was \$6,783,306, resulting in a paper loss of \$1,188,152.

The *Astrophysical Journal (ApJ)* family and *The Planetary Science Journal (PSJ)* produced annual operating surpluses of \$177,888 and \$105,870 respectively, while *The Astronomical Journal (AJ)* produced a slight deficit of \$70,928. While we rolled out our new Author Publishing Charges for the *ApJ* family and *AJ*, our financial results met our expectations. We were able to grant author assistance from our AAS Publication Support Fund in excess of \$824,485. We have segregated the Journal Program expenses that were included in the General Program expense category in 2022 and 2023; this segregation better represents the full costs of our Journals Program.

The market value of our portfolio increased by \$1,062,862. The journal development expenses reached \$81,664. In 2023, we spent \$112,465 toward strategic initiatives.

In July of 2019, we created AAS Sky Publishing, LLC, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAS. Through this subsidiary, we purchased *Sky & Telescope* business lines from F+W Media through a bankruptcy sale. At the time of the purchase, we also assumed the fulfillment of subscriptions paid to F+W through 2025. Since the entire subscription revenue was not collected by the AAS and two tours were cancelled due to the pandemic, we experienced a loss in 2023. We did anticipate losses in the first few years as we build *S&T's* content through an editorial advisory board, increase its subscription base, expand tour operations, and expand the online store. We do anticipate a surplus being produced by 2024.

To diversify the revenue streams of the Society, we created AstronomyCom, Inc. (ACI), a wholly owned for-profit subsidiary of the AAS. This for-profit corporation is used to fund partnerships/programs that are not considered to be tax-exempt by the IRS but are closely related to our mission. Our eBooks partnership with IOPP, our journals publisher, is accounted for in ACI. The revenue was \$44,252 in 2023.

In 2023, we awarded International Travel Grants to 59 individuals in the amount of \$123,184. Thanks to our membership donations over the years, we have been able to award FAMOUS travel grants to 203 members in the amount of \$167,000 since 2017; dependent care grants to 245 members in the amount of \$68,915 since 2005; and student travel grants in the amount of \$244,060 since 2014.

Figure 1. AAS Balance Sheet

Assets	2023	2022
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,058,352	1,219,935
Accounts Receivable	1,434,112	1,628,700
Inventory	472,655	538,025
Prepaid Expenses	1,060,415	1,122,883
Investments	13,599,496	12,536,634
Deposits	235,780	243,749
Assets Held for Deferred Compensation	623,981	487,904
Goodwill, net	448,025	1,344,075
Property and Equipment	898,592	956,714
Right of use of assets - operating leases	5,595,154	6,181,846
Totals Assets	\$25,426,562	\$26,260,465
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,865,193	1,158,013
Deferred Revenue	4,077,624	3,936,450
Operating lease liabilities	6,783,306	7,342,536
Deferred Rent		0
Deferred Compensation	623,981	487,904
Total Liabilities	\$13,350,104	\$12,924,903
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	7,746,730	9,380,994
With Donor Restrictions	4,329,738	3,954,568
Total Net Assets	\$12,076,468	\$13,335,562
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$25,426,572	\$26,260,465

Figure 2. AAS Statement of Activities

Unrestricted Activities	2023	2022
Revenues		
Journals	10,331,489	8,877,994
General Programs	4,573,906	3,751,217
Divisions	1,610,096	536,927
Other	249,428	(293,457)
Grants and Contracts	426,455	483,710
Bequests and Memorials	33,010	(15,937)
AstronomyCom, Inc	44,252	39,904
AAS Sky Publishing, LLC	2,839,765	3,769,703
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	138,098	127,512
Total Unrestricted Income	\$20,246,499	\$17,277,573
Expenses		
General Programs	6,069,316	4,774,848
Journals	8,766,508	8,031,226
Divisions	633,950	475,196
Other	810,859	1,202,097
Grants and Contracts	429,883	496,800
Bequests and Memorials	32,148	48,939
AstronomyCom, Inc	4,330	1,464
AAS Sky Publishing, LLC	5,133,769	4,726,776
Total Expenses	\$21,880,763	\$19,757,346
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$1,634,264)	(\$2,479,773)
Temporary Restricted Net Assets		
Bequests and Memorials	194,336	(216,071)
Contributions and Other	222,203	(195,964)
Divisions	96,729	(114,807)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(138,098)	(127,512)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$375,170	(\$654,354)
Change in Net Assets	(\$1,259,094)	(\$3,134,127)
Net Assets Beginning of Year	16,335,562	16,469,689
Net Assets End of Year	\$15,076,468	\$13,335,562

Established in 1899, the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is a major international organization of professional astronomers, astronomy educators, and amateur astronomers. Its membership also includes physicists, geologists, engineers, and others whose interests lie within the broad spectrum of subjects now comprising the astronomical sciences.



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