

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of January 18, 2019

eds: Nicolle Zellner, Heather Flewelling, Cristina Thomas, Maria Patterson, and JoEllen McBride

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1. The Importance of Names in Astronomy

From: Cristina Thomas via womeninastronomy.blogspot.com

Astronomy and Planetary Science are fields with numerous opportunities for naming objects. From the many stars in the sky to the rocks on the surface of Mars, scientists have made many choices about what to call the objects they study. Several recent articles have highlighted the importance of using names that are inclusive and make connections to various cultures.

Read more at

<https://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-importance-of-names-in-astronomy.html>

2. The AAS Climate Site Visit Program

From: Alicia Aarnio [alicia.aarnio@colorado.edu], Nicole Cabrera Salazar [nicole.e.cabrera@gmail.com], Stuart Vogel, Sheryl Bruff, KeShawn Ivory, Adam Christensen, and Nancy Morrison [nancy.morrison@utoledo.edu] (the AAS SVOC)

The AAS Climate Site Visit program is getting under way. At the invitation of a department's chair, a three-person site visit team will spend a day and a half with the department, conduct interviews in order to assess the climate, and draft a report. Departments will benefit by receiving constructive feedback from an unbiased team of neutral, highly-qualified peers.

The Site Visit Oversight Committee (SVOC) has constructed a summary of recommended practices by which departments may promote an inclusive atmosphere, available here:

https://aas.org/files/aas_svoc_effective_practices_approved180602.pdf

We also have a procedures manual providing full details here:

https://aas.org/files/climate_site_visit_manual_approved180911.pdf

We are now assembling a pool of talented, accomplished people to conduct the

site visits, from which a team of three people will be chosen, based on availability, for each site visit. We envision that each site visit team will consist of a senior astronomer, another astronomer of a different identity from that of the senior astronomer, and a specialist in human resources, diversity, or another relevant area.

Those performing this service will make a major contribution toward advancing equity and inclusion in astronomy. There will be a modest honorarium for each team member for each visit, and we expect that this experience will be professionally valuable for anyone who has or aspires to a leadership position.

We invite nominations or self-nominations to the site visit team pool via this questionnaire: <http://bit.ly/sitevisit-team>

Please don't hesitate to contact the SVOC (see the From: list of this message) if you have questions about the site visit team pool.

3. Final Report of the 2018 AAS Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion in Astronomy Graduate Education
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner_at_albion.edu]

"At the January 2017 AAS1 meeting in Texas, the AAS Council approved the creation of a Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion in Graduate Astronomy Education. The Task Force consisted of 8 members of the community chosen to represent a wide range of stakeholders and interests. The membership included two co-chairs, one from a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and one from a research university, liaisons to each of the four AAS diversity committees (CSWA, CSMA, SGMA, and WGAD2), and liaisons to the AAS Board of Trustees. In addition, the Task Force had three advisors, social scientists with expertise in the three main areas of focus of the Task Force: Admissions, Retention, and Data Collection and Metrics for Success. These advisors fully participated in all activities of the Task Force, providing input on the research and practice in support of each recommendation of the Task Force. "

Read more at

https://aas.org/files/aas_diversity_and_inclusion_task_force_final_report.pdf

4. Shades of U.S.
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

I was contacted by CUNYTV for statistics on women of color in astronomy. I pointed them to the CSMA webpage and to the Astrobetter Equal Opportunity Astronomy webpage for the most up to date information. They published their show featuring Moiya McTier a PhD candidate in Astronomy at Columbia. At the end of her segment which runs from 7:00-17:03 you can see the statistics they used.

Watch the video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSS8V0rrQFE&feature=youtu.be>

5. Women who win prizes get less money and prestige
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

By Yifang Ma, Diego F. M. Oliveira, Teresa K. Woodruff & Brian Uzzi

"A new analysis of biomedical awards over five decades shows men receive more cash and more respect for their research than women do, report Brian Uzzi and colleagues."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00091-3>

6. Biology Lab Strips James Watson of All Honorary Titles After 'Reprehensible' Race Remarks

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

By Tom McKay

"The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) has stripped James Watson, the 90-year-old Nobel Prize-winning scientist famous for determining the double-helix structure of DNA with his partner Francis Crick in the 1950s based on research conducted by British chemist Rosalind Franklin, of all his honorary titles after the laboratory deemed his recent remarks on race "reprehensible," CNN reported this weekend."

Read more at

<https://gizmodo.com/biology-lab-strips-james-watson-of-all-honorary-titles-1831720097>

7. *Mythbusters Jr.*'s Tamara Robertson on Getting Girls into STEM Careers

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

By Jenna Busch

"Tamara Robertson was the last woman standing on *Mythbusters: The Search* and hosts [SciJinks](#). Now she's taking on hosting duties over on *Mythbusters Jr.* On top of that, she's also very active in getting young women interested in STEM. We got a chance to chat with Robertson about the new show, the bullying she went through as a kid, and using pop culture to get kids into science."

Read more at

<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/mythbusters-jrs-tamara-robertson-on-getting-girls-into-stem-careers>

8. Symposium Highlighting Evidence-Based Interventions to Address the Underrepresentation of Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine

From: Nancy Morrison [nancy.morrison_at_utoledo.edu]

The scientific, engineering, and medical communities have been working towards improved representation of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) for decades. While progress has been made, women (particularly women of color) remain underrepresented in many scientific, engineering, and medical fields, and at many levels in education and career stages. This symposium will seek to understand institutional barriers to implementing practices for improving the representation of women in STEMM, so that those barriers can be removed or overcome. This event will re-visit the major themes of the 2007 National Academies report, *Beyond Bias and Barriers*, and will examine policies, practices, and strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in opening doors to women's participation and success in STEMM fields.

Details: March 11, 2019, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Please RSVP by March 7, 2019 here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-highlighting-evidence-based-interventions-to-address-the-underrepresentation-of-women-in-registration-53116862967?utm_source=CWSEM+List&utm_campaign=737b48e0c7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_27_10_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9f27a045ed-737b48e0c7-126401397

9. It's Time to Rethink How You Find a Mentor at Work
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner_at_albion.edu]

"There's no magic, one-stop adviser who's going to transform your life and your career ... So consider going for the specific advice you need. Shauna Duggins, the first woman to win an Emmy for stunt coordination, for her work on GLOW, has used that approach repeatedly. "I haven't had one formal person who has been my mentor through my whole career," she says. "Rather, I've had a handful of amazing men and women. ..."

Read more at

<https://www.glamour.com/story/how-to-find-a-mentor-at-work>

10. Girls' self-confidence falls below that of boys from around age of six -- but not if they go to a single-sex school, Australian study finds
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

By Victoria Allen

This study was conducted in Australia but shows very interesting results on girls' self confidence.

Read more at

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6582499/Girls-self-confidence-falls-boys-age-nine.html>

11. AI Solves Gender Bias, Puts Overlooked Women Scientists In Spotlight
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

By Martin F.R.

"But even after using AI in its practice, Wikipedia still perpetuated bias and overlooked scientists, many of whom were women. From the total registered biographies of scientists, women constituted only 18 per cent of it. It was also found that between 84 and 90 per cent of Wikipedia editors are male.

To resolve this problem, Primer introduced what industry's first machine-generated knowledge base for scientists that identified these omissions and made it possible for all to not trawl around finding missing names and provide users with a huge amount of well-sourced information in a quicker timeframe."

Read more at

<https://www.analyticsindiamag.com/ai-solves-bias-women-scientists-spotlight/>

12. CORRECTION! Save the Date! MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce.
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com]

Another Workshop from NASEM. This one's on minority serving institutions.

Learn more about the report at

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/bhew/msistem/index.htm?utm_source=CWSEM+List&utm_campaign=0b01fe8061-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_09_05_32_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9f27a045ed-0b01fe8061-129161885

Register at

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/minority-serving-institutions-americas-underutilized-resource-for-strengthening-the-stem-workforce-registration-54615676960?utm_source=CWSEM+List&utm_campaign=0b01fe8061-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_09_05_32_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9f27a045ed-0b01fe8061-129161885

13. Job Opportunities

- Full-time Astronomy/Engineering Lab Technician, College of San Mateo
<https://jobs.smccd.edu/postings/3986>

- Tenure Track Faculty in Physics and Optical Engineering, Astronomy, Rose-Hulman Institute
<https://rosehulman.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?site=6&id=116>

For those interested in increasing excellence and diversity in their organizations, a list of resources and advice is here:
<https://cswa.aas.org/diversity.html#howtoincrease>

14. How to Submit to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

To submit an item to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter, including replies to topics, send email to aaswomen_at_aas.org

All material will be posted unless you tell us otherwise, including your email address.

When submitting a job posting for inclusion in the newsletter, please include a one-line description and a link to the full job posting.

Please remember to replace "_at_" in the e-mail address above.

15. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send email to aaswlist+subscribe_at_aas.org from the address you want to have subscribed. You can leave the subject and message blank if you like.

Be sure to follow the instructions in the confirmation email. (Just reply back to the email list)

To unsubscribe by email:

Send email to aaswlist+unsubscribe_at_aas.org from the address you want to have UNSubscribed. You can leave the subject and message blank if you like.

To join or leave AASWomen via web, or change your membership settings:

<https://groups.google.com/a/aas.org/group/aaswlist>

You will have to create a Google Account if you do not already have one, using <https://accounts.google.com/newaccount?hl=en>

Google Groups Subscribe Help:

<http://support.google.com/groups/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=46606>

16. Access to Past Issues

<https://cswa.aas.org/AASWOMEN.html>

Each annual summary includes an index of topics covered.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "AAS Women Newsletter List" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to aaswlist+unsubscribe@aaas.org.