

# Celebrating 30 years of advancing the status of women in astronomy

## The AAS Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy



<http://www.aas.org/cswa>



The Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy was established in 1979. Its charge is to recommend to the AAS Council practical measures that can be taken to improve the status of women in astronomy and encourage their entry into this field. CSWA has addressed issues such as discrimination, harassment, the two-body problem, and work-life balance. We have several print and electronic publications, have held two international meetings about the status of women in astronomy, and host special topical sessions and brown-bag lunches at most American Astronomical Society meetings.

### What We Do

**Charge:** Recommends to the Council practical measures that the AAS can take to improve the status of women in astronomy and encourage their entry into this field.

Pursuant to this, we do/have done:

- Publications
  - ▶ AASWOMEN: weekly electronic newsletter. Timely news items, advice solicitations and responses, and job postings relevant to women in astronomy. Contributions are welcome from anyone, and anyone may subscribe. Submission/subscription/past issue information at <http://www.aas.org/cswa/AASWOMEN.html>
  - ▶ STATUS: annual publication of original and reprinted articles on topics relating to women in astronomy, in science and/or in society. Contributions, such as editorial columns, factual articles, personal stories and letters to the editor are welcome from anyone. Contribution/subscription/past issue information at <http://www.aas.org/cswa/STATUS.html>
- Women in Astronomy Database
- Women in Astronomy blog <http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/>
- Organized two international meetings

### How It Works

**History:** Established June 1, 1979.

**Members:** Ten Members - six women and four men - appointed by Council in June, preferably from a list of volunteers. Enlarged this year from the previous committee size of five people.

**Term:** Three years, June to June; staggered; from the close of one Annual Members' Meeting to the close of the next Annual Members' Meeting.

**Chair:** Elected by the committee members, for a one year term, from the June business meeting to June business meeting.

### Resources

Links to the following resources are available at our website:

#### Women in Astronomy Database

- Information and Help
- Direct Database Access



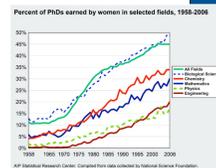
#### Meetings

- Women in Astronomy (1992)
- Women in Astronomy II (2003)
- Women in Astronomy III (2009)
- Past AAS and Non-AAS Meetings
- Anti-Harassment Policy for AAS Meetings



#### Statistics

- Departmental Surveys
- AWIS Statistics
- AIP Statistics



#### Advice

- Top Ten Ways to be a Better Advisor for Graduate Students
- Advisors, How Do You Deal with Student Tears?
- Yes, Virginia, Discrimination and Harassment Do Still Happen
- Advice on When to Raise a Family
- Advice for Postdocs Applying for Tenure-Track Positions
- The 2-Body Problem: New Advice for an Old Problem?
- Being Ignored in a Meeting: Suggested Solutions
- How to Be a Good Mentor



#### External Links - Women and Science Relevant

- Organizations
- Articles, Resources, and Databases



### Recommendations

#### Baltimore Charter and Pasadena Recommendations

The Baltimore Charter and Pasadena Recommendations are documents produced as a result of the Women in Astronomy Meetings held in Baltimore in 1992 and Pasadena in 2003. The first document describes a code of conduct governing gender issues, particularly aimed at U.S. institutions, while the latter document is a set of recommendations for institutions hoping to achieve true gender equity. The links to the individual documents and meetings provide much more information.

### What You Can Do

**The Pasadena Recommendations:** The President of the AAS and the Chairperson of the CSWA have asked that astronomical institutions formally endorse the Pasadena Recommendations. You can ask your institution to formally endorse these Recommendations by following the instructions at [http://www.aas.org/cswa/pasadena\\_endorse.html](http://www.aas.org/cswa/pasadena_endorse.html).

**Get involved:** If there is an issue that you think needs more attention, please contact a CSWA member.

### For further information

Please contact [cswa@aaas.org](mailto:cswa@aaas.org), or check out our website at <http://www.aas.org/cswa>; where you will find links to most of the topics listed here.



Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy is on Facebook!

### Who We Are



**Joan T. Schmelz**  
CSWA Chair  
(Univ. of Memphis)  
2009-2012



**Joannah L. Hinz**  
(Univ. of Arizona)  
2007-2010



**Ann E. Hornschemeier**  
(NASA GSFC)  
2009-2012



**George Jacoby**  
(NOAO)  
2009-2012



**Hannah Jang-Condell**  
(Univ. of Maryland  
NASA GSFC)  
2007-2010



**Donald A. Kniffen**  
(USRA)  
2009-2012



**Michele Montgomery**  
(Univ. of Central Florida)  
2008-2011



**Marc Postman**  
(STScI)  
2009-2012



**Wallace L. W. Sargent**  
(CalTech)  
2007-2010



**Caroline Simpson**  
(Florida International Univ.)  
2007-2010