

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of June 14, 2019

eds: Nicolle Zellner, Heather Flewelling, Maria Patterson, JoEllen McBride, and Ale Aloisi

[AAS has migrated their email system to Microsoft Exchange, so please check your spam folder if you did not receive the newsletter this week. It is no longer possible to subscribe or unsubscribe to the AASWomen newsletter by means of Google Groups. We have updated our subscribe and unsubscribe instructions below. Please follow us on social media for updates and thank you for bearing with us as we work out all the kinks.

Twitter @AAS\_Women Facebook <https://bit.ly/2PkU9of>]

This week's issues:

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1. Interview with Dr. Ramirez-Ruiz, Vera Rubin Presidential Chair for Diversity in Astronomy at UC Santa Cruz  
From: JoEllen McBride via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

Dr. Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, professor and chair of astronomy and astrophysics at UC Santa Cruz, was inducted as the inaugural Vera Rubin Presidential Chair for Diversity in Astronomy last month. Vera Rubin was on the steering committee of the Working Group on the Status of Women in Astronomy whose report led to the [creation of the AAS Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy](#). She was also a champion of inclusive science -- mentoring students from various backgrounds. I spoke to Dr. Ramirez-Ruiz about what this chair means and about his intentional work to increase the diversity of voices contributing to the field of astronomy.

Read more at

<https://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/06/interview-with-dr-enrico-ramirez-ruiz.html>

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2. Chairwoman Johnson and Rep. González-Colón Introduce the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act  
From: JoEllen McBride [[joellen.mcbride\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com)]

Reps put forward a bill to designate the LSST as the Vera Rubin Survey Telescope.

Read more at

<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=54172>

Read more coverage at

<https://www.space.com/giant-lsst-telescope-name-vera-rubin.html>

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3. Vera Rubin: The Astronomer Who Brought Dark Matter to Light  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Tom Childers

"Astronomer Vera Rubin changed the way we think of the universe by showing that galaxies are mostly dark matter."

Read more at

<https://www.space.com/vera-rubin.html>

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4. NASA Honors 'Hidden Figures' in Street Renaming Ceremony Outside NASA Headquarters  
From: Pat KNezek [patricia.m.knezek\_at\_nasa.gov] and JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

NASA Headquarters officially renamed the street outside its Southwest D.C. headquarters on Wednesday 'Hidden Figures Way' to honor Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary W. Jackson.

Read more at

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/NASA-Honors-Hidden-Figures-in-Street-Renaming-Ceremony-Outside-NASA-Headquarters-511183221.html>

Learn more about NASA's efforts here

<https://www.nasa.gov/modernfigures>

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5. All-woman team commands rock-zapping laser on Mars  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

The LANL team responsible for sending commands to the ChemCam instrument on the Curiosity rover -- which shoots Martian rocks with a laser -- is made up entirely of women.

Read more at

<https://www.lanl.gov/discover/news-release-archive/2019/June/0610-all-woman-chemcam-team.php>

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6. Chairwoman Johnson's Opening Statement for Hearing on Combating Sexual Harassment in Science  
From: Alessandra Aloisi [alosisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing yesterday on H.R. 36 the Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act. Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's (D-TX) made the opening statement.

Read her statement here

<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=54177>

Learn more about H.R. 36 here

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/36>

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7. Time to End the Manel Tradition

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the NIH, has stated he will no longer take part in conferences or scientific meetings if "attention to inclusiveness is not evident in the agenda."

Read his statement at

<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/time-end-manel-tradition>

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8. When English is not your mother tongue

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Chris Woolston & Joana OsÃ³rio

"Science as a career attracts people from across the world. But whether researchers come from Beijing, Berlin or Buenos Aires, they have to express most of their ideas and findings in English. Having a dominant language can streamline the process of science, but it also creates extra barriers and the potential for conflict. In January, for example, a biostatistics professor at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, chastised students from China for speaking in their native language on campus.

"*Nature* asked seven researchers with personal or professional experience of language barriers to share their insights."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01797-0>

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9. Eight Ways to Support Women in Science

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

These eight steps are described for the geosciences, but can be broadly applied to our field also.

Read more at

<https://eos.org/opinions/eight-ways-to-support-women-in-science>

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10. 5 Ways Society Sabotages Girls' Interest In Science And Math

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride@gmail.com]

Marshall Shepard, a climate scientist, explains the ways girls are discouraged and pushed away from STEM using personal anecdotes and interviews.

Read more at

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/marshallshepherd/2019/06/09/5-ways-society-sabotages-girls-interest-in-science-and-math/>

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11. Job Opportunities

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>

-Postdoc/Research Scientist for the NASA Ames Exoplanet Speckle Imaging Group  
<https://jobregister.aas.org/ad/c74ca46a>

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12. 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](mailto: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.

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

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_aas.org). A list moderator will add your email to the list. They will reply to your message to confirm that they have added you.

Join AAS Women List through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/postorius/lists/aaswlist.lists.aas.org/> and enter the email address you wish to subscribe in the 'Your email address' field. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to. There may be a delay between entering your email and receiving the confirmation message. Check your Spam or Junk mail folders for the message if you have not received it after 2 hours.

To unsubscribe from AAS Women by email:

Send an email to [aaswlist-leave\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave_at_lists.aas.org) from the email address you wish to remove from the list. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to which will complete the unsubscribe.

Leave AAS Women or change your membership settings through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/accounts/signup/> to create an account with the online portal. After confirming your account you can see the lists you are subscribed to and update your settings.

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14. Access to Past Issues

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

Each annual summary includes an index of topics covered.

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AASWomen Newsletter mailing list -- [aaswlist@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist@lists.aas.org)  
To unsubscribe send an email to [aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org)