

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of May 03, 2019

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

[We have migrated the newsletter to a new mailing system. We thank you for your patience as we work through the issues. We continue to work on developing new instructions for subscribing and unsubscribing. --eds.]

This week's issues:

1. Cross-post: In lopsided vote, U.S. science academy backs move to eject sexual harassers
2. National Academy of Sciences â€¦ Historic Number of Women Elected to Its Membership
3. An Engineering School With Half of Its Leadership Female? How Did That Happen?
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1. Cross-post: In lopsided vote, U.S. science academy backs move to eject sexual harassers

From: Cristina Thomas via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

... [M]embers of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) today voted overwhelmingly in favor of amending the elite organization's bylaws to allow ejection of members who breach the group's new Code of Conduct. ... In a recent article in *Science*, Meredith Wadman discussed the vote which occurred this week at the NAS's annual business meeting. This vote only polled those who attended the meeting and is not final. All academy members will be given the opportunity to vote in the coming months.

Read more at

<https://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/05/cross-post-in-lopsided-vote-us-science.html>

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2. National Academy of Sciences ... Historic Number of Women Elected to Its Membership

From: Rick Fienberg [[rick.fienberg\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:rick.fienberg_at_aas.org)]

The National Academy of Sciences elected a historic number of women to its membership.

Read the press release and see the list at

<http://www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/news/2019-nas-election.html>

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3. An Engineering School With Half of Its Leadership Female? How Did That Happen?

From: JoEllen McBride [[joellen.mcbride\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com)]

By Alec D. Gallimore

"Often when I tell people that we have filled half of the top leadership

positions at the University of Michigan's College of Engineering with women, I can almost see the unspoken assumption in many of their eyes: They think we did it by passing over better-qualified male candidates.

"At the 10 U.S. engineering schools with the largest research budgets, women make up about 17 percent of the faculty. It's always noticed when women constitute a higher-than-usual proportion of an engineering college's leadership, but somehow we don't make the same assumptions about talent when all of a school's top positions are filled by men."

Read more at

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/An-Engineering-School-With/246214?cid=wsinglestory>

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4. Why scientist-mums in the United States need better parental-support policies  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

"The most physically and emotionally demanding times of motherhood -- pregnancy, delivery and recovery, and breastfeeding -- often coincide with a female researcher's most intense push up the career ladder, from graduate studies to the first years in an independent position. ... At universities across the United States, support provisions for mothers ... vary enormously, and even across departments, resulting in piecemeal policies."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01315-2>

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5. Male researchers' 'vague' language more likely to win grants  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

In a recent article published by the National Bureau of Economics, Julian Kolev (Southern Methodist University) and co-authors report that "Despite blinded review, female applicants receive significantly lower scores, which cannot be explained by reviewer characteristics, proposal topics, or ex-ante measures of applicant quality. ... results reveal that gender differences in writing and communication are a significant contributor to gender disparities in the evaluation of science and innovation." In summary, the investigators consistently showed "that female reviewers' scores do not favour proposals from male applicants in the way that male reviewers' scores do." One way around that is to increase the number of female reviewers.

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01402-4>

Read the journal article at

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25759>

[Purchase may be required to access the article. --eds.]

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6. Maria Kirch was the first woman to discover a comet, but her husband took the credit

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

Unfortunately, most of what happened to Maria Winklemann-Kirch 300 years ago still happens today.

Read more at

<https://massivesci.com/articles/maria-kirch-comet-astronomy-margaretha-aurora->

[borealis-saturn-venus-conjunction/](#)

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7. Seven ways scientists handle technology challenges in resource-poor settings  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

Several researchers offer suggestions and tips on how to work effectively when resources may be scarce.

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01314-3>

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8. 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>

- AURA Chief Diversity Officer

<https://recruiting2.ultipro.com/SPA1004AURA/JobBoard/57b96f30-6a4b-42cc-8f73-d417a17b54e9/OpportunityDetail?opportunityId=4140cd41-5ff2-498b-b0eb-d01126e010cd>

- Scientist, Small Bodies of the Solar System, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA

<https://jpl.jobs/jobs/2019-10610-Scientist-Small-Bodies-of-the-Solar-System-2019-10610>

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9. 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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10. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

AAS has migrated the mailing list for this newsletter to Mailman. Please watch this space for updated instructions on subscribing and unsubscribing to the *AASWomen* Newsletter.

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11. 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)