



LAD Objective

The Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD) is a multi-disciplinary division that encompasses experimental and theoretical research, and related observational astronomy and planetary science, with the objective of advancing our understanding of the fundamental processes that drive the Universe.

Nancy Brickhouse (CfA | Harvard & Smithsonian), LAD Chair

AAS 248th Annual Meeting, Pasadena, CA

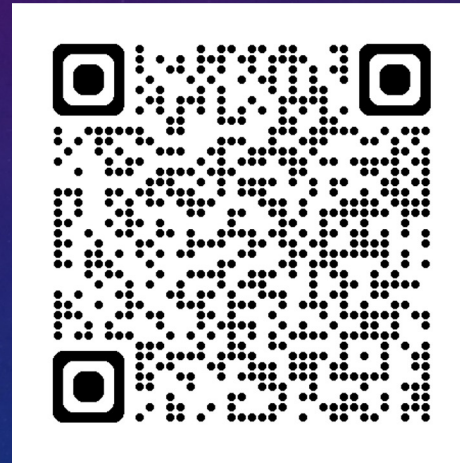
Welcome New and Future Members!



LAD BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 15, 2026

- I. Chair's Report
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Open Mic
- IV. Adjourn



Become a Member
Today!

LAD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JUNE 2026

Chair Nancy Brickhouse (2025-2027)
Vice Chair Joan Marler (2025-2027)
Past Chair Stefanie Milam (2025-2027)
Treasurer Edith Fayolle (2025-2028)
Secretary Dennis Bodewits (2025-2028)



Joan
Marler



Julie
Brisset



Wei Jia
Ong



Edith
Fayolle



Dennis
Bodewits



Christopher
Fontes

Members-at-Large:

• 2024-2027

Annemieke Petrigani (mol.)
Imre Bartos (particles)

• 2025-2028

Emily Lichko (plasmas)
Danna Qasim (planetary)



Annemieke
Petrigani



Stefanie
Milam



Emily
Lichko



Danna
Qasim



Nancy
Brickhouse



Imre
Bartos

• 2026-2029

Wei Jia Ong (nuclear)
Julie Brisset (dust/ice)
Christopher Fontes (atoms)



Andrew Mattioda
Dust & Ices MAL



Catherine Deibel
Nuclear MAL



Amy Gall
Atoms MAL

Thank you!

for your excellent service as LAD Members-at-Large
2023-2026



Thank you to the ELECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Andrew Mattioda (NASA Ames), Chair
- F. Scott Porter (NASA Goddard)
- Edward Brown (Michigan State University)

2025 ELECTION RESULTS

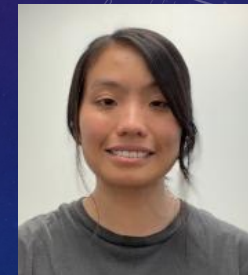
Member-at-Large Dust & Ice (2026-2029):

*Julie Brisset (Central Florida U.)
Perry Gerakines (NASA Goddard)
Sergio Ioppolo (Aarhus University)



Member-at-Large Nuclear (2026-2029):

*Wie Jia Ong (LLNL)
Steve Pain (ORNL)
Sergio Almaraz-Calderon (Florida State U.)



Atoms (2026-2029):

*Christopher Fontes (LANL)
Chintan Shah (John Hopkins)
Steve Brp.,eu Auburn University



Turnout = 27.78%
Ballots cast = 100
Eligible voters = 360

ANNUAL METRICS

Membership (as of June 2026)

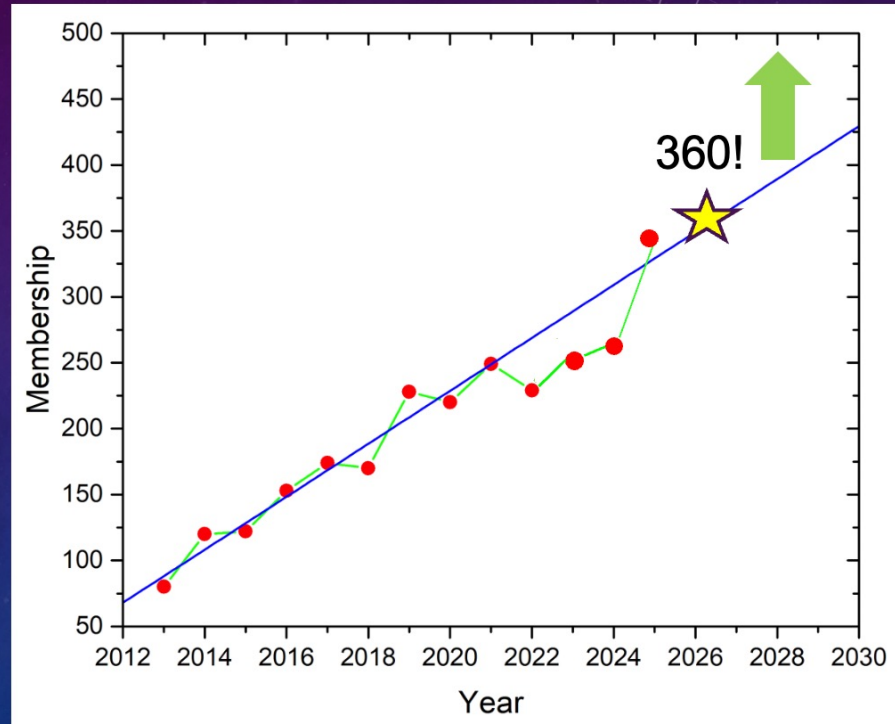
- 374 members in all categories
- 100 voted (360 voting members)
- 28% voted this year (29% in 2025, 36% in 2024, 38% 2023, 34% 2022, 43% 2021, 46% 2020, 29% 2019, 26% 2018, 31% 2017, 36% 2015, 40% 2014)

#	MEMBER TYPE
2	Alumni affiliate
7	Amateur affiliate
3	Affiliate of more than one Division
29	Emeritus member
2	Educator affiliate
143	Full member
62	Graduate student member
9	International affiliate
86	Undergrad member
5	Division only affiliate
1	Patron - Virginia Trimble
349	TOTAL

ANNUAL METRICS

- Become a LAD member
- Encourage colleagues to become a LAD member

<https://lad.aas.org>



HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST YEAR Prize Committee Members

Laboratory Astrophysics Prize:

Stefanie Milam (NASA Goddard), Chair
Ella Siamma O'Brien (NASA Ames)
Steve Bromley (Auburn)
Catherine Deibel (MAL, LSU)
Randall Smith (CfA)

Mid-Career Prize:

Stefanie Milam (NASA Goddard), Chair
Ella Siamma O'Brien (NASA Ames)
Chintan Shah (JHU/NASA Goddard)
Catherine Deibel (MAL, LSU)
Michael McCarthy (CfA)

Early Career Prize:

Stefanie Milam (NASA Goddard), Chair
Ella Siamma O'Brien (NASA Ames)
Chintan Shah (JHU/NASA Goddard)
Catherine Deibel (MAL, LSU)
Steve Bromley (Auburn)

Dissertation Prize:

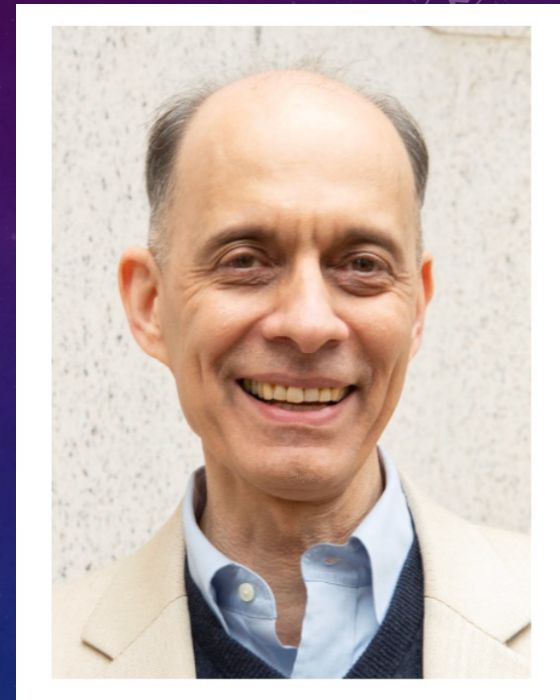
Stefanie Milam (NASA Goddard), Chair
Ella Siamma O'Brien (NASA Ames)
Chintan Shah (JHU/NASA Goddard)
Catherine Deibel (MAL, LSU)
Randall Smith (CfA)

LABORATORY ASTROPHYSICS PRIZE

Dr. Daniel Savin | Columbia University and American Museum of Natural History

For his contributions to studies in X-ray astrophysics and early Universe star formation and for his extensive service to the laboratory astrophysics community.

His measurements of dielectronic recombination dramatically improved the charge state distribution calculations used to interpret and model cosmic X-ray spectra. Dr. Savin's early Universe chemical research began by identifying the associative detachment process $H^- + H \rightarrow H_2 + e^-$ as being the key reaction requiring improved chemical kinetics data, and then went on to laboratory measurements.



Inaugural LAD MID-CAREER PRIZE

Dr. Francois Lique | Columbia University and American Museum of Natural History

For his contributions to calculations of collisional excitation and reactive rate coefficients for molecules of astrochemical relevance.

François Lique uses the most accurate quantum methods in order to generate collisional energy transfer and kinetics' molecular data of high accuracy. During the last recent year, he has developed new scattering methodologies based on statistical approaches and has enabled the calculations of collisional data for highly reactive molecules as well as for collisional systems of cometary interest.



EARLY CAREER PRIZE

Dr. Gabi Wenzel | MIT and CfA

For her her transformative discoveries of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon molecules in the interstellar medium through high resolution microwave spectroscopy and radioastronomical observations.

By building and operating state-of-the-art broadband chirped-pulse and cavity-enhanced Fourier transform microwave spectrometers, she has enabled the first unambiguous interstellar detections of specific PAHs, radio astronomical discoveries that have reshaped our view of molecular complexity in the coldest regions of the galaxy.



DISSERTATION PRIZE

**Dr. Julia Santos | Ph.D. Leiden, 51 Pegasus b
Fellow at Harvard**

For her thesis "*Transformation and sublimation of interstellar ices: insights from laboratory experiments and astronomical observations.*"

Dr. Santos is being cited for *elucidating and quantifying several key processes in the formation and evolution of interstellar ices*. Her dissertation research focuses on the chemical evolution of interstellar ices throughout the stages of star and planet formation, and on how these processes shape the molecular inventory of nascent planetary systems.



CALL FOR 2026 HONORS

Laboratory Astrophysics Prize

- For significant contribution over extended time.

Early Career Award

- For significant contribution early in career.
- No more than 10 years past Ph.D. or equivalent.

Mid-Career Award

- For significant contribution early in mid-career.
- 11 to 20 years of experience since their PhD or equivalent degree, with allowances possible for career interruptions.

Dissertation Prize

- For outstanding doctoral dissertation (or the equivalent) in www.lad.aas.org/call_for_nominations laboratory astrophysics.
- No more than 3 years past Ph.D. or equivalent.



Cash award, citation, & invited talk at LAD meeting.



2026 HONORS

Nomination package for the Laboratory Astrophysics Prize, Mid-Career Award, and the Early Career Award **(due 01 Jul 2026)**

Starting this year, the package must be combined and submitted as **one file** (zipped file or combined pdf), which includes:

- - A nomination letter, including a one-sentence proposed citation. Only one signator allowed.
- - Two letters of support. Additional letters will not be considered, except for self-nominations.
- - Only one signator per letter allowed.
- - A summary of the significant aspects of the nominee's career (not to exceed 5 pages total including figures and bibliography)
- - A curriculum vitae
- - A publication list

Additional material (such as reprints, etc.) will not be considered.

Recipient announced Jan 2027; awarded Jun 2027.

Nominees not selected, considered for next 2 yrs.

2026 HONORS

Nomination package for the Dissertation Prize (due 31 Dec 2026)

- 5-page summary of the thesis (including figures & bibliography)
- CV
- Publication list
- Nomination letter, including one sentence proposed citation
- 2 letters of support (3 if self-nomination)
- A statement from the nominee's university
(Ph.D. or equivalent degree has been awarded)

Self-nominations accepted

Send to lad.secretary@aaas.org by deadline

Recipient announced Feb 2027; awarded Jun 2027.

Nominees not selected, considered for next 2 yrs.

LAD EVENTS DURING AAS

MONDAY JUNE 15 10:00 -11:30 am PT

106 - LAD I: Bridging the GAP: Integrating Atomic Theory and Laboratory Experiments for Astrophysics
Pasadena Convention Center - Conference Center 214

MONDAY JUNE 15 2:00 - 3:30 pm PT

116 - LAD V: Unveiling the High - Energy Universe with XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission)
Pasadena Convention Center - Conference Center 214

MONDAY JUNE 15 5:30 – 6:30 pm PT

Laboratory Astrophysics Division Business Meeting
Pasadena Convention Center – Conference Center 214

TUESDAY JUNE 16 2:00 - 3:30 pm PT

2231 LAD IV: Next Generation Plasma Diagnostics



LAD EVENTS DURING AAS (cont.)

TUESDAY JUNE 16 5:30 - 6:30 pm PT
Pasadena Convention Center Exhibit Hall A
LAD iPosters

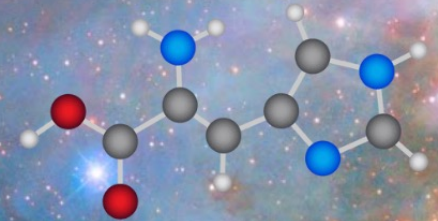
WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 10:00 – 11:30 am PT
Pasadena Convention Center – Conference Center 214
LAD III: PAHs and Ices and the ISM

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 2:00 - 3:00 pm PT
Pasadena Convention Center Exhibit Hall A at the AAS Booth
LAD Mentoring and Career Counseling

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 3:40 – 4:30 pm PT
Pasadena Convention Center Ballroom DE
LAD Plenary: Carolyn Kuranz: Creating Astrophysical Conditions at High Density Facilities

Future Workshop
Under Review

Identifying and Bridging Gaps in Laboratory Astrophysics Workshop II



January 9-10, 2027
249th AAS Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT

SOC Members:

Stefanie Milam (Co-Chair, NASA Goddard)
Sarah Moran (Co-Chair, UMD)
Jenny Bergner (UC Berkeley)
Steve Bromley (Auburn)
Bryan Changala (JILA/CU Boulder)
Adam Foster (CfA/SAO)
Rob Hargreaves (CfA/SAO)
Carolyn Kuranz (University of Michigan)
Joan Marler (Clemson University)
Brett McGuire (MIT)
Randall Smith (CfA/SAO)
Clara Sousa-Silva (Bard College)
Mike McCarthy (ex-officio, CfA/SAO)
Nikole Lewis (ex-officio, Cornell)
Kyle Crabtree (ex-officio, UC Davis)

<https://labastro-workshop.github.io/>



Funding from



**Want career advice? Have questions
about choosing a graduate school?
Need resume/CV help?**

**Come to the Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD)
Mentoring Event at the 2026 AAS Meeting!**

**Wednesday, June 17 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (PT)
Pasadena Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A, AAS Booth**



**Informal mentoring event where students & early career
scientists can speak with established scientists in the field**



THE FUTURE

Coordinating with other Divisions!!!

- We are starting to have the LAD Annual Meeting rotate with other divisions to engage more of the community and have active participation from these areas of science. SPD last summer; HEAD and DPS next fall 2027.

Membership

- LAD's goal is to reach 500 mark in ~5 years from now.
- Pins for new member sponsors. Ideas for other incentives?

Grow Treasury

- Raise funds to endow the prizes, travel funds, etc.
- Become a member and donate (tax deductible).



Donate **HERE!**

UPCOMING REQUESTS

- White paper laboratory astrophysics from the AAAC/LATF workshop (see next slide).
 - Community input on the draft paper will be sought.
- Membership Campaign again?
- Future Session Topics and Plenary Speakers

SIGN UP FOR OUR LISTSERV FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

ALSO, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT ITEMS OF INTEREST TO LAD
FOR DISTRIBUTION!





Become a Member Today!