



# NEWS! From the NAVAL OBSERVATORY

U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY

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**U.S. Naval Observatory  
Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

## **USNO STAFF MEMBERS NAMED AS FIRST AAS FELLOWS**

On February 25, 2020, the American Astronomical Society (AAS), the major organization of professional astronomers in North America, established a new accolade, Fellow of the AAS, “to honor members for extraordinary achievement and service. AAS Fellows are recognized for original research and publication, innovative contributions to astronomical techniques or instrumentation, significant contributions to education and public outreach, and noteworthy service to astronomy and to the Society itself.”

Among the first group of some 200 honorees, four are current or former staff members of the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). These Legacy Fellows include past recipients of certain awards from the AAS or its topical Divisions, distinguished AAS elected leaders and volunteer committee members, and previously unrecognized individuals with long histories of outstanding research, teaching, mentoring, and service.

USNO’s AAS Fellows are Dr. Jennifer Bartlett, Ms. Brenda G. Corbin, Dr. Steven J. Dick, and Dr. Arne Henden.

Dr. Jennifer Bartlett is the Chief of the Software Products Division in USNO’s Astronomical Applications Department, responsible for developing and maintaining the Observatory’s standalone computer software used both by the military and the private sector as well as various source-code packages and web-based calculators for computing many types of astronomical data. She is an active member of the AAS Historical Astronomy Division (HAD).

Brenda G. Corbin was USNO’s Librarian from 1973 until 2005. She was responsible for maintaining the 90,000-title collection of the Observatory’s world-renowned James. M. Gillis Library. The collection includes over 800 books dating before the year 1800 in publication. Among these rare volumes are original copies of works by Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, and Johannes Kepler. Brenda is still active in the AAS HAD. The achievements of Brenda and her husband Tom, who worked in ASNO’s Astrometry Department for many years, was recognized with the naming of asteroid (4008) Corbin in their honor.

Dr. Steven J. Dick was an astronomer, historian, and public affairs officer for the USNO from 1979 until 2003. His book, *Sky and Ocean Joined*, is the definitive history of the USNO from 1830 through 2000. Following his tenure at USNO, he became the Head of the NASA History Office, retiring in 2009. Also active in the AAS HAD, he served as that Division’s president from 1993 through 1994. He served as President of the History of Astronomy Commission of the International Astronomical Union from 1997 through 2000 and is a past President of the Philosophical Society of Washington. He is on the editorial boards for the *Journal for the History of Astronomy* and the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage*. From 2011-2012 he held the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History at the National Air & Space Museum. In 2013 he was named the Baruch S. Blumberg NASA/Library of Congress Chair in Astrobiology. A prolific writer, he has published

100 articles and 25 scholarly and popular works on astrobiology, the search for extraterrestrial life, and the history of science.

Dr. Arne Henden was an astronomer at USNO's Flagstaff, AZ Station (NOFS) from 1992 until 2004, when he became Director of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO), a position he held until retiring in 2015. At NOFS he developed specialized visual and infrared imaging devices. He has over 100 peer-reviewed publications as a primary or co-author, and over 350 citations in the NASA Astronomical Data System. His book (with Ron Kaitchuck) *Astronomical Photometry* (1978, revised in 1990: Willman-Bell publishers) is one of the classic texts in photometry. He is in the process of updating this text to include information on amateur and professional CCD based systems.