



DDA Annual Report - 2017

Monica Valluri, Chair; Sethanne Howard, Secretary

I. Membership

The membership of the DDA, as of May 15, 2017, is 334, of whom 185 are full members, 29 are affiliate members, 49 emeritus, 1 emeritus associate, 36 junior, 7 international affiliates, and 27 associate members. Division membership in 2016 stood at 335.

We lost two much appreciated and valued members this year:

Arthur R. Upgren
1933-2017



Vera C. Rubin
1928-2016



II. Quarterly Committee meetings

The DDA Committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis this year, using Skype for all meetings except the one held in conjunction with the annual meeting.

III. Elections

The 2017 DDA Election was held entirely online. With the assistance of the AAS IT office, the slate was posted on the AAS website, along with candidates' curricula vitae. By the time the voting closed, 105 ballots had been cast, for a participation rate of 31%. The results were as follows:

New Officers (with all new terms beginning July 1st, 2017):

CHAIR (2017-2018)

Luke Dones (Southwest Research Institute) luke@boulder.swri.edu

VICE CHAIR (2017-2018)

Seth Jacobson (Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur) seth.jacobson@oca.eu

PAST CHAIR (2017-2018)

Monica Valluri (Univ. of Michigan) mvalluri@umich.edu

SECRETARY (2017-2020)

Sethanne Howard (USNO, retired) sethanneh@msn.com

COMMITTEE (2017-2019)

Kat Volk (University of Arizona) kat.vold@gmail.com

Sarah Loebman (University of Michigan) sloebman@yahoo.com

Ann-Marie Madigan (Univ. of Colorado, Boulder)

anmarie.madigan@colorado.edu

Continuing Officers:

COMMITTEE (2016-2018)

Daniel Tamayo (Univ. of Toronto) d.tamayo@utoronto.ca

Konstantin Batygin (Caltech) kbatygin@gps.caltech.edu

Maryame El Moutamid (Cornell Univ.) maryame@astro.cornell.edu

TREASURER (2015-2018)

Alice Monet (USNO, retired) alicemonet@gmail.com

Retiring Officers:

PAST CHAIR (2015-2016)

Kelly Holley-Bockelmann (Vanderbilt) k.holly@vanderbilt.edu

COMMITTEE (2015-2017)

Christa Van Laerhoven (Univ. of Toronto) cvl@cita.utoronto.ca

Joseph Spitale (Planetary Science Institute) jnspitale@psi.edu

Seth Jacobson (Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur) seth.jacobson@oca.eu

IV. Meetings

The 2017 DDA meeting will be held from June 11-15, 2017 at Queen Mary University of London, London, UK. The LOC is chaired by Craig Agnor (Queen Mary University of London), and Luke Dones (Southwest Research Institution) chairs the SOC.

Since the 2016 meeting, we have introduced Topical Special Sessions as a way to encourage cross-disciplinary discussions amongst DDA members. In September 2016, we issued a call for proposals for special sessions for the London meeting. We received 4 excellent proposals from which three were selected.

The program for the London meeting will include the special sessions: Impact of Gaia Astrometry on Dynamical Astronomy (Session Chair: Z. Norbert); Post Main Sequence Planetary System Science (Session Chair: D. Veras); and Cassini ring-grazing orbits and Grand Finale (Session Chair: M. Tiscareno).

83 abstracts (72 talks + 11 posters) were received by the abstract submission deadline. We will have 10 invited talks in addition to the The Brouwer Award Lecture, which will be given by Rosemary Wyse (Johns Hopkins University). The LOC is also organizing a public lecture by Professor Wyse (who happens to have received her Bachelor's degree at Queen Mary University of London)

Future Meetings: The 2018 meeting will be held in San Jose, California, hosted by M. Tiscareno and M. Cuk (SETI Institute).

V. DDA Prizes

2017 Brouwer Award

Since no new nominations for the Brouwer Award were received by the March 1st deadline, the DDA Leadership voted to extend the nomination deadline to April 17th. We reposted the announcement of the award on the AAS website and asked Jerry Sellwood (Rutgers), who manages an email list of Astronomy Department Chairs, to forward a message from M. Valluri (DDA Chair) and Ruth Murray-Clay (Brouwer Award Selection Committee (BASC) Chair). This process has resulted in xx new nominations, bringing the current pool of nominees to yy. The BASC will begin its review shortly and the winner will be announced at the DDA Committee meeting in June.

2017 Vera Rubin Prize

On December 14, 2016, the Division on Dynamical Astronomy announced the creation of a new DDA Early Career Prize to recognize extraordinary contributions by an early career dynamicist. Two weeks later, following the sad news of the passing of long time DDA Member and galactic dynamicist, Vera Rubin, the DDA Committee voted to name this new prize in her honor.

Candidates for this prize must have held a recognized doctorate for not more than 10 years on the date on which the nominations are due in a given year. However, in special circumstances, the committee may extend this time limitation by a moderate

amount to allow for career breaks. Candidates may be of any nationality, and need not be members of the DDA. The Rubin Prize will include an honorarium of \$1,000 and an invitation to give an invited talk at the DDA meeting during which the prize will be awarded.

The **Vera Rubin Early Career Prize of the DDA** shall be granted on the basis of the following criteria:

- excellence in scientific research in dynamical astronomy or closely related fields,
- impact and influence in the field,
- promise of continued excellence in research, teaching, and the advancement and support of the field of dynamical astronomy.

Prior to the March 1st nomination deadline, the Chair of the DDA appointed a 5 member committee (see next section) to review the nominations and select a winner. Altogether, 11 candidates were nominated by the March 1st deadline, including 6 women and 5 men, in a diverse assortment of research areas. The Rubin Prize Selection committee set criteria for selection prior to the first meeting. They met twice via Skype teleconference and made their recommendation for the award on April 17th. The DDA committee will vote on this selection at the committee meeting in London and the announcement of the Award winner will be made at the Business which follows.

VI. Duncome Prize:

The Raynor Duncombe Prize is a travel stipend awarded each year to up to three graduate students to enable them to attend the DDA meeting and give a talk. This year there were 9 nominations for the Duncombe prize (significantly more than the previous two years). The following students were selected. **Alex Davis** from the University of Colorado (advised by Dan Scheeres) who is studying the dynamics of binary asteroids. **Michelle Vick** from Cornell University (advised by Dong Lai) who is studying Dynamical Tides in Highly Eccentric Binaries. **Robert Chancia** from the University of Idaho (advised by Matt Hedman) who is studying the dynamics of the Uranian moons. These three students will be honored at the DDA Meeting in London where they will give talks on their research and receive travel support to attend the meeting.

V. Committee Appointments:

Below we list the members of various committees for 2016-2017. Member of the committees for 2017-18 will be determined by the Chair and Vice Chair by the time of London DDA meeting in June.

Brouwer Award Selection Committee:

Ruth Murray-Clay (UC Santa Barbara) *Chair*
Sylvio Ferraz Mello (U. Sao Paulo)
Juntai Shen (Shanghai Astronomical Obs.)

Jack Lissauer (NASA/Ames)
Monica Valluri (University of Michigan) (*ex officio*)

Rubin Prize Selection Committee (new):

Scott Kenyon (Harvard CfA) *Chair*
Matthew Hedman (University of Idaho)
Susan G. Stewart (USNO, Vanderbilt University)
Renu Malhotra (University of Arizona)
Luke Dones (Southwest Research Institute) (*ex officio*)

Duncombe Prize Selection Committee:

Kevin Walsh (Southwest Research Institute) *Chair*
Matthew Walker (Carnegie Mellon)
[Katherine Deck was originally a member of the committee but has left the field and so did not participate in 2017]

Nominating Committee:

Benoît Noyelles (U. Namur) *Chair*
Hal Levison (Southwest Research Institute)
Alice Quillen (University of Rochester)

Archives Committee:

James Hilton (US Naval Observatory) *Chair*

VI. Awards Review Committee:

In the summer of 2016 the DDA Committee appointed the Awards Review Committee (ARC) to review procedures for the annual Brouwer Award, and to recommend procedures for a new early career award. The committee was chaired by Curtis Struck (Iowa State University), and included Rachel Kuzio de Naray (Georgia State University), Man Hoi Lee (University of Hong Kong), Renu Malhotra (University of Arizona), and Dimitri Veras (University of Warwick). The committee submitted its report on November 3rd, 2016.

The Charge to the ARC was to **(1)** Establish guidelines for a new DDA Early Career Award, including but not limited to the eligibility rules and nomination process. The inaugural award will be made in 2017. **(2)** Review and, if necessary, revise the process by which Brouwer Award candidates are nominated, as well as the procedures involved in reviewing the nominations and selecting the candidate. **(3)** Develop a set of best practices for the procedures involved in selecting all DDA awards to ensure that the nomination slate reflects the diversity of the DDA membership, conflicts of interest are minimized, and the deliberation process is fair and ethical. The highlights of the report are given below. The full report is available

on request from the Secretary of the DDA. The following is a summary of the recommendations

(1) The DDA awards process should include clearly defined procedures to avoid conflicts of interest (COI) , e.g. nominees for a given award cannot serve on the relevant award committee, be involved in the award review by the DDA Committee, or be involved in the award deliberations in any way. Former Ph.D. or postdoctoral mentors, recent close collaborators, and colleagues from the same institution should not be involved in the selection of a nominee. They should recuse themselves from the discussions of and voting on the nominee in the awards committee and the DDA Committee. DDA Committee and Awards Committee members should not be involved in the consideration of a candidate for whom they have written a letter of support.

(2) Simplify the Selection Process: Previously, the Brouwer Award Selection committee submitted rank-ordered list with multiple candidates to the DDA Committee that then voted on the final selection. In the future, DDA awards committees will recommend a single recipient, or no recipient, to the DDA Committee, except in very unusual circumstances. If for some reason the DDA Committee cannot accept the nominee, then the matter should be referred back to the awards committee for an alternate recommendation, if possible.

(3) Deliberations should be carried out via teleconference(s): As a matter of best practice, all DDA Awards Committees should have at least one teleconference to openly and frankly discuss the merits of the nominees. Teleconference(s) should be arranged to be as confidential as possible, and should not leave a record that could be easily opened accidentally or by an external agency.

(4) Continued consideration of awards nominations: Current Brouwer award nominations are kept active for five years. For other AAS prizes, nominations are kept active for 3 years. In future, nominees wishing to have their nomination kept active after 3 years need to arrange to have the full nomination package resubmitted

(5) Self-nomination for DDA awards: The AAS now allows self-nomination for all its prizes. A similar policy should be followed by the DDA. To ensure that the awards selection committees are "blind" to the nominator, nominations will be submitted to the DDA Secretary, who will forward them to the chair of the selection committee(s.)

(6) Early Career Award: The ARC made recommendations for the requirements for the DDA Early Career award which are reflected in the guidelines posted on the website.