

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MICHAEL PECAUT

It's Halloween as I write this. The witches, ghouls and space aliens are out, and the crisp air of November is about to move in (at least we hope so here in Southern California). The countdown to the Fall Meeting in Phoenix relentlessly continues!

With just about a month to go, the excitement is building—despite a few bumps in the night. Poster and technical sessions are now taking shape, registrations are streaming in, and hotel rooms are filling fast. This is the penultimate newsletter before we gather under the desert stars for what promises to be an unforgettable meeting. I hope everyone is busy conjuring up their talks and crafting their posters—because soon we'll bring our ideas bubbling to life in the cauldron of science once more. After a year that's been anything but ordinary, I can't wait to reconnect with the brilliant spirits who make this community so remarkable.

Scientists, friends, and fellow space explorers—let's rise from the chaos and make Phoenix shine. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELLEN GERTSEN

This past month has been a flurry of activity preparing for the upcoming conference, and more importantly, welcoming two new members to the ASGSR family. I am very excited to share that Sarah Velasquez and Mary Harrison recently joined ASGSR as our new Operations and Membership Manager and Meeting Coordinator, respectively. Both bring an incredible wealth of experience to their roles and have quickly jumped in to help the society. You can read more about their backgrounds below.

ASGSR STAFFING UPDATES

ASGSR is excited to welcome Sarah E. Velasquez, Ph.D. as our new Operations and Membership Manager!

With nearly 20 years of experience in technical communication, research management, and information design, Dr. Sarah E. Velasquez brings both expertise and energy to her role. She has led biomedical communication initiatives at the University of Kansas Medical Center and Kansas State University, where she managed donor and grant-funded projects, developed data-driven communication strategies, and advanced research collaboration across colleges and institutions. Dr. Velasquez holds a Ph.D. in Library and Information Management from Emporia State University, along with multiple master's degrees in technical communication, library science, and business. Known for her enthusiasm, creative problem-solving, and commitment to excellence, she is passionate about connecting people, ideas, and information to drive meaningful impact.



ASGSR is excited to welcome Mary Harrison as our new Meeting Coordinator!

Mary Harrison joins ASGSR with many years of experience in event coordination, operations, and hospitality. Most recently she worked at USRA Lunar Planetary Institute, where she supported NASA and international research teams organizing scientific meetings, workshops, and conferences. Mary brings a strong background in strategic planning, vendor relations, and creating welcoming, well-organized spaces for collaboration. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Houston. Mary is passionate about bringing communities together and supporting the exchange of groundbreaking ideas. Outside of work she loves exploring art, creative projects, and finding ways to connect with others through shared experiences.



CONFERENCE UPDATES

If you have not already done so, now is the time to finish your [registration](#) and make your [hotel reservations](#) at the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs. Registration rates go up on November 3 and our hotel block is quickly filling up.

The ASGSR 2025 [Space Art Competition](#) is accepting submissions through November 8. This year's theme, "Exploration Enabling Science," invites you to visualize research discoveries, microgravity experiments, and the future of space exploration. Submit your artwork to be featured in our Virtual Gallery and In-Person Exhibition at the annual meeting. The winners of last year's competition can be seen at [ASGSR Awards – ASGSR](#).

Over the next several weeks, we will roll out information on the technical program and other exciting opportunities at the conference. Please watch your e-mail and ASGSR's LinkedIn and Facebook pages to stay informed.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Phoenix!

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHT

Chihiro Dixon, Gioia Massa, and Scott Jones recently published a new study in *Gravitational and Space Research* looking at on-demand fertigation. Read the paper [online](#).



POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE

Day of Action

ASGSR partnered with the Planetary Society and eighteen other organizations for the [2025 Day of Action](#) to Save NASA Science. Over 100 participants from around the country came to Washington, DC to talk about the importance of NASA-funded research and to highlight the scientific breakthroughs enabled by that funding. As one of the partner organizations for the event, we also had the opportunity to participate in a press conference and meet with several Members of Congress. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to attend in person or take on-line action. Save the date for the [next Day of Action](#) to occur in Spring 2026.

Resources

Did you know that ASGSR is a member of the [American Institute of Biological Sciences](#)? AIBS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the use of science to inform decision making for the benefit of the science and society. AIBS seeks to advance the biological sciences to promote increased understanding of all life. As one of the many benefits that AIBS offers to its member organizations, ASGSR members have access to AIBS's [public policy report](#) to stay informed about the rapid changes taking place across the federal science ecosystem. This is a great resource to learn about the on-going shutdown and proposed policy changes across the Federal government.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For those exploring new career opportunities, here are a couple of great job boards:

Science Careers: A broad job board dedicated to scientists around the world, with live openings and career-development tools. jobs.sciencecareers.org

Space-Careers (research/space industry focus): Listings for roles in the commercial and institutional space sector at spacecrew.com

ASGSR: A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Where were you on the evening of November 18th, 2006?

Well, thanks to our many volunteer ASGSR historians, and the great pictures they send us, we know exactly where this clean-shaven young man was on that very night, enjoying our ASGSR Conference Banquet!

Can you guess who this is?

