



## Ari Jain

*American Physical Society (APS)*

Current PhD Student in Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronomical Engineering,  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Former chair of the APS Forum on Graduate Student Affairs

[LinkedIn](#)

“ I am most proud of [our] advocacy campaign. [Student] pay is such a problem... the fact that we engaged 500 members and we arranged six meetings with specifically targeted states.... when you get the email back that says, “We’ve agreed to co-sponsor this bill,” it means a lot. An impact was made. ”



## Aryeh Drager

*American Meteorological Society (AMS)*

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Former Co-Chair of the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee

PhD in Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University

[LinkedIn](#)

“ I’m probably most proud of all the work that went into planning the AMS Student Conference when I was co-chair. There was a lot of work went on behind the scenes not just to recruit poster judges, but also to bring in invited speakers to talk on professional development topics... I was pretty happy with how those conferences came together. ”



## Atrouli Chatterjee

*Optica*

*(Atrouli passed away in August of 2025)*

Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University School of Medicine

2023 Optica Ambassador

PhD in Chemical Engineering, UC Irvine

[LinkedIn](#)

“ I was writing short articles for *Optics and Photonics News*, very much on career development. And so when I went to FIO and they had student leadership at the same time, I didn’t realize how many people read the articles and knew of me, and... I was very happy that I could have hopefully given them some advice that was relevant to them in making their own career journey. ”



## Benjamin Cromey

[LinkedIn](#)

*Optica*

Principal Optical Engineering, BAE Systems  
 2023 Optica Ambassador  
 PhD in Optical Sciences, University of Arizona

“ I think the thing that I love the most about getting to be an Ambassador is... in industry, you think to yourself, “I’m losing the opportunity to teach students...” I really love getting to be involved with Optica and to teach people and to share the things that I’ve learned.... If I can still have the opportunity to help students go off and have great careers, that’s super rewarding. ”



## Cassandra Shivers-Williams

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Meteorological Society (AMS)*

Social Science Deputy Program Manager, NOAA  
 Co-Chair of the AMS Annual Meeting Oversight Committee  
 PhD in Social Psychology, Howard University

“ I’m proud of the fact that the work that the committees I sit on do help improve people’s experience at the annual meeting. I try to be a conduit... I try to give people examples of, “this is what we heard. This is what we propose that we should do...” I think that it’s nice that people see that... we do try to address it. You can’t fix everything, [you] can’t make everyone happy, but we can make things better. ”



## Carlos Martinez

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Meteorological Society (AMS)*

Senior Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists  
 Chair of AMS Committee on Spirituality, Multifaith Outreach, and Science (COSMOS)  
 PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University

“ I would say COSMOS, that was my passion project, and I never, in my wildest dreams thought that a scientific society would have within itself a multi spiritual, multi knowledge committee that is broadening participation in the weather, water, climate enterprise... and I’m excited to see where the committee continues on. ”



## Chuqiao (Elise) Chen

Society of Rheology (SOR)

Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Santa Barbara

SOR Executive Committee

PhD in Molecular Engineering, University of Chicago

[LinkedIn](#)

“ I’m very proud of organizing this Future of seminars series, not because I help it to run smoothly, but I get to see this very wide variety of research that are carried out by the student members. And I can also see that, the student body, they are not just good researchers. They are very good at communicating their ideas. They are very open to share their thoughts with the rest of the community. So I think helping to organize that and helping to provide that platform is a very inspiring thing for me.”



## Emma Loudon

American Astronomical Society (AAS)

President of Slooh: Bringing Space Directly into Classrooms

Former Member of the AAS Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy

PhD in Astrophysics, Yale University

[LinkedIn](#)

“ At the last Congressional Visit Day... we were walking back to the hotel train station after the last meeting, and it was really cool to listen to the reflections of the people who just spent the whole day on the Hill and had finally felt like they understood what science policy was and why this kind of advocacy work matters. That was when I felt was proud to have been a part of that “aha” moment.”



## Eric Welch

American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)

Proton Clinical Medical Physicist, Mayo Clinic

Chair of the Analysis and Evaluation Subcommittee

Doctorate in Medical Physics (DMP)

“ In the past year, I’ve rotated on as an active planner for the meetings. So this year I’m a co-director for therapy education, so we help curate the clinical talks for our annual meeting. For those clinical physicists, we kind of make sure that they’re well represented in our meetings so we can continue kind of educating our members. [I’m proud of] that kind of growth and getting more involved.”



## Katherine Burzynski

[LinkedIn](#)

*Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing (AVS)*

Materials Engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory  
Co-Chair of AVS Chapters, Divisions, and Groups  
PhD in Materials Engineering, University of Dayton

“ *Something that I've been proud of... Being able to honor some of my colleagues that maybe weren't getting recognition internally, and being able to show them that they are recognized and that their contributions do matter.* ”



## Kelly Nealon

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)*

Faculty Medical Physicist, Massachusetts General Hospital  
Instructor, Harvard Medical School  
PhD in Medical Physics, UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

“ *I really enjoyed being part of the mentorship program... I'm really proud that I was given that opportunity, and also that I'm hopeful that it is continuing to improve my career, and then someday I'll be able to do the same for someone else.* ”



## Martin Lawless

[Website](#)

*Acoustical Society of America (ASA)*

Assistant Professor, The Cooper Union  
Chair of ASA Member Engagement  
PhD in Acoustics, Penn State

“ *I'm most proud of... this Early-Career Acousticians Retreat. It's something that I started actually as a student in 2016, and it was an idea that I had during a strategic planning session, and it was well received... It was something that we birthed and grew to help the professional development of early career members, and hopefully attract them and keep them in the society.* ”



## Mason Ng

*American Astronomical Society (AAS)*

Postdoctoral Researcher, McGill University and the Trottier Space Institute at McGill  
 Member of the AAS Working Group for International Scholars  
 PhD in Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[Website](#)

“ I’ve conducted federal advocacy training sessions... about things like science funding, climate change, workforce development. All of these topics are massive topics in Congress. ”



## Meghan DiBacco

*American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)*

AP/GT Physics Teacher, Cinco Ranch High School  
 Co-chair of the Committee on Physics in High School  
 Master of Science Geophysics, University of Houston

[LinkedIn](#)

“ Being able to be a co-chair on a committee... That’s been something I’ve been very excited about. Getting to learn alongside these fantastic educators has been one of the things I’ve really enjoyed, and I’m proud that I’ve been able to go and learn from them. ”



## Pankaj Patel

*American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)*

Senior Imaging Physicist, Houston Methodist  
 Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine  
 Chair of the AAPM New Professionals Committee  
 PhD in Nuclear Engineering, A&M University

[LinkedIn](#)

“ Being the chair of a committee is rewarding for a variety of reasons... I’m doing my best to help people in the hard stage of their career... early on in my career, I got a lot of mentorship. I’m blessed... And one of the things that I would love to do for somebody else is that same exact thing.... it’s definitely a privilege to be able to do that. ”



## Rachael Merritt

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)*

Postdoctoral Associate, University of Colorado Boulder

Member of the AAPT Early Career Task Force

PhD in Astronomy, Georgia State University

“ I think the fact that we’re trying to reach out to a community that doesn’t have a lot of representation right now... that’s really important. I think for a lot of early-career people, things are going to get a lot more difficult... they’re going to need additional support as they try to navigate through this. ”



## Ria Corder

[LinkedIn](#)

*Society of Rheology (SOR)*

Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Member of the SOR Community Development Committee

PhD in Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University

“ I’m excited about this year... to be on the committee that’s helping to plan that Rheology Research Symposium for those graduate students... give travel support to come to the meeting... what I love about our Society of Rheology annual meeting, is that people actually talk to each other... I have found it much easier at this meeting than most other meetings to actually meet people. ”



## Spencer Perry

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)*

Current PhD Student in Science Education at Indiana University Bloomington

Chair of AAPT Indiana

“ I’m proud of my work at my Indiana section. We just had the highest attended conference in a decade, that felt pretty good to crunch those numbers. ”



## Tim Stachowski

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Crystallographic Association (ACA)*

Senior Bioinformatics Research Scientist, St. Judes Children's Hospital

Member of the ACA Education Committee

PhD in Biophysics, University at Buffalo

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*I spent a lot of time finding people who I thought would be good for the position to take after me, and I think I did that. I'm very happy that the people who I had connected with it were elected, and I think they're going to do a great job... it's really rewarding then to see them kind of take the next step... that's something I'm proud of.*

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## Trevor Jerome

[LinkedIn](#)

*Acoustical Society of America (ASA)*

Engineer, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division

Member of the ASA Committee on Meetings

PhD in Acoustics, Penn State University

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*I think I'm most proud of the connections that I've built and how I've been able to help students get jobs, talk to people, solve problems, and connect them with people.*

”



## William Munizzi

[LinkedIn](#)

*American Physical Society (APS)*

Postdoctoral Scholar, UCLA

Chair of the APS Forum on Graduate Student Affairs

PhD in Physics, Arizona State University

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*I am most proud of the augmented community that I've been able to observe over the last few years... walking into a conference like the Global Physics Summit and having someone come up to me that met me two years ago and tells me some success story about how now they're involved with APS.... That makes me very happy.*

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## Xuan Chen

*American Physical Society (APS)*

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cornell University  
Councilor for the APS Forum for Early Career Scientists  
PhD in Physics, University of Illinois Chicago

[LinkedIn](#)

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*When I go to some of the conferences, there always are some young students who come to me, ask for help, and then once they leave, I see a little bit more relief and comfort in their eyes. I might not be able to solve their problem completely, but I'm there to make their life feel slightly better.*

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