



CORNELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone! My name is Abigail Bohl and I am excited to be back as your Newsletter Editor and Chief for the 2025-2026 year.

It has been a busy and exciting past month at Fuertes. As of today, we will have had an unprecedented six consecutive clear open houses. Usually we're lucky to get six clear Fridays in a semester! At the same time, the dome was repainted in late September, meaning we were not able to access Irv for a week. Fortunately, the renovations are now complete, leaving us with a freshly painted environment in which to enjoy the clear skies.

We are also continuing our CAS Lecture series this fall! Every semester, we host members of the Cornell astronomical community to give public lectures on their research. In the past, we have had topics ranging from exoplanetary atmospheres to traditional navigation methods in Hawai'i.

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Our first lecture of the semester was held on September 26th, where Professor Dongwoo Chung spoke on serendipitous astronomical discoveries in radio astronomy history, as well as a new kind of astronomical survey that is being developed. We had a great turnout for this lecture, so to those of you who came, thank you for stopping by! If you were not able to make it, a recording is available on our YouTube channel. Upcoming lectures will be held on October 17th, October 24th, November 7th, and November 21st. All lectures this year will be hosted in Appel Commons Multipurpose Room 303. More details on lectures will be posted in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for updates on our website and Instagram.

Our next newsletter will be at the end of the semester and will be a much larger accumulation of works that CAS members have created over the course of the semester. Until then, we hope to see you at the observatory!

Clear skies,
Abigail Bohl

SUMMER CAS-TROPHOTOGRAPHY

Photos taken by CAS members over the summer!



Orion Nebula / M42: Reflection and emission nebula in the constellation of Orion. Taken by Marquice Sanchez-Fleming through the 12" Irving P. Church Refractor on August 30, 2025. 165 x 30-second frames processed using Siril, and post-processed with GIMP.



Triangulum Galaxy / M33: Spiral galaxy in the constellation of Triangulum. Taken by Marquice Sanchez-Fleming using the 12" Irving P. Church Refractor on August 31, 2025. 45 x 2-minute frames processed using Siril, and post-processed with GIMP.



Milky Way outside Acadia National Park:
Taken by Abigail Bohl on July 18, 2025 with a 30-second exposure on an iPhone 14.



Moon: Taken by Jason Peskin

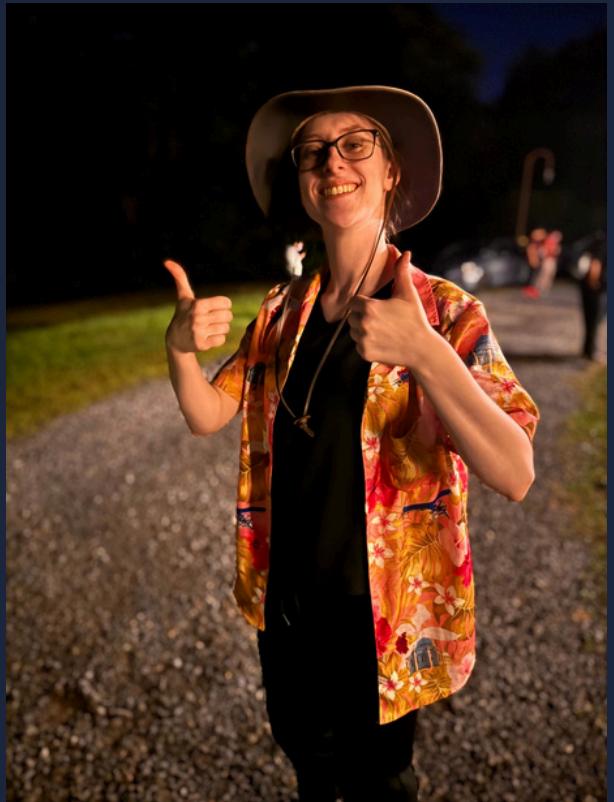
MEET THE OFFICERS!



ELLA MANSFIELD - PRESIDENT

Ahoy astronomers! I'm Ella Mansfield, your CAS president for 2025-2026. I'm a senior majoring in physics, and I am from Plattsburgh, New York. I've had an interest in astronomy since middle school—that's what happens when you live near the Adirondacks and have access to dark skies—but CAS is one of the reasons I decided to definitively pursue astronomy as a part of my major. I joined CAS my sophomore fall having very little experience in observational astronomy, and quickly fell in love with the telescopes, the outreach, and most importantly, all the people in the club. I tend to meander around during open houses, but I love to give talks at our slide wall and tours of Irv.

Outside of CAS, I can usually be found hanging out in the atrium of PSB avoiding my homework, and I'm often on the slope if the sunset is looking like it will be really good. I also play a bit of piano, collect lego birds, and am a huge fan of dogs (I have two!). I am an avid fan of dragons, so if you see someone around campus sketching dragons on an iPad or graffitiing dragons on your local chalkboard, it's probably me. I'm looking forward to what this year has to offer for us up here at Fuertes!



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ANDREW LEWIS - VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings, folks! I'm Andrew Lewis, serving as the Vice President of CAS once again this year. I am a third-year undergraduate majoring in computer science and electrical and computer engineering, and I might minor in astronomy as well. I've been coming to Fuertes every Friday evening since I first arrived at Cornell, impressed by the fact that the telescopes and other instruments over a hundred years old were still operational and being used by students for the purpose of public outreach.



I'm always trying to get one project or another done at Fuertes, whether that be researching the observatory's history, updating the website, cleaning up the basement, or finding a new source of funding to ensure Fuertes is kept in shape for the next hundred years. Otherwise, I'm always interested in learning more about interesting things – you might find me experimenting with the radio antennas around campus, or figuring out how to upgrade the computer system at the Hartung-Boothroyd Observatory. I am also very often found making contacts in the Amateur Radio Club shack in Barton Hall, or listening to a Cornell Chimes concert in McGraw Tower. I look forward to another fun and productive year at Fuertes (and HBO and Cherry Springs)!

TREYTON GRAHN - TREASURER



Ahoy there astronomers! I'm Treyton Grahn, and I am the Treasurer of CAS this year! I am a junior majoring in physics with a concentration in astronomy. I am from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and I first got interested in astronomy when I watched Carl Sagan's TV Series "Cosmos" when I was 8 years old. Ever since then, I have been obsessed with space and that obsession led me to Fuertes Observatory and CAS the moment I got to campus my freshman year.

While at the observatory, you can find me upstairs giving tours of the dome where our beloved and historical Irv stays. Outside of the observatory, I live in PSB where I slave away at my problem sets. I also do undergraduate research through the Carl Sagan Institute, where I am involved in modeling and characterizing exoplanet atmospheres. I also do research in the HALKEN group at Cornell where I am determining the theoretical sensitivity of line-intensity mapping on bursty star formation. When I'm not focused on academics, I enjoy appreciating nature and going on hikes, as well as spending time with my friends, family and cats!

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ELINA STENGLE - OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Hello everyone! My name is Elina Stngle, and I'm the outreach coordinator for CAS this year. I am a sophomore majoring in physics with a concentration in astronomy. I've been fascinated by astronomy for as long as I can remember, but growing up in the suburbs of D.C. meant I often turned to museums and magazines to feed that interest rather than the city's light-polluted skies. Fuertes was one of my first stops arriving on campus for the first time, and I've been coming back ever since!

Outside of the observatory, I adore horseback riding, figure skating, and archery, but I'm just as likely to be caught with a sci-fi or comic book and a hot cup of tea. I'm also a fan of astrophotography, and frequently take trips to HBO or any dark field I can find, even just to stargaze. I have a penchant for collecting swords, antique weaponry, and other oddities as well! While at Fuertes, I love talking to visitors more than anything, so you'll usually find me by the slide wall or up in the dome. I look forward to seeing what this year holds in store!



ABBY BOHL - NEWSLETTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Hello everyone, my name is Abby Bohl and I'm this year's Newsletter Editor in Chief! I am a senior majoring in physics with a minor in astronomy and I am from Newton, Massachusetts. Like many others, I have been passionate about astronomy for as long as I can remember—apparently I had the planets memorized by the time I learned the alphabet (including Pluto, RIP). Perhaps unsurprisingly, I have been a part of CAS since my freshman year, with three of my four years here spent working on the newsletters.

This semester at Fuertes, I've been spending most of my time in the dome or on the deck. The past few weeks have been incredibly clear, and I've been trying to make the most of them! Outside of the observatory, I spend most of my time working on research and problem-sets. I'm looking forward to another amazing year at Fuertes!

CREDITS

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Treyton Grahn, Treasurer
Elina Stengle, Outreach Coordinator
Abigail Bohl, Editor-in-Chief
Phil Nicholson, Faculty Advisor

Cornell Astronomical Society (CAS) is a student-run non-profit organization founded in 1972.

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Special Thanks

Ella Mansfield for providing cover image