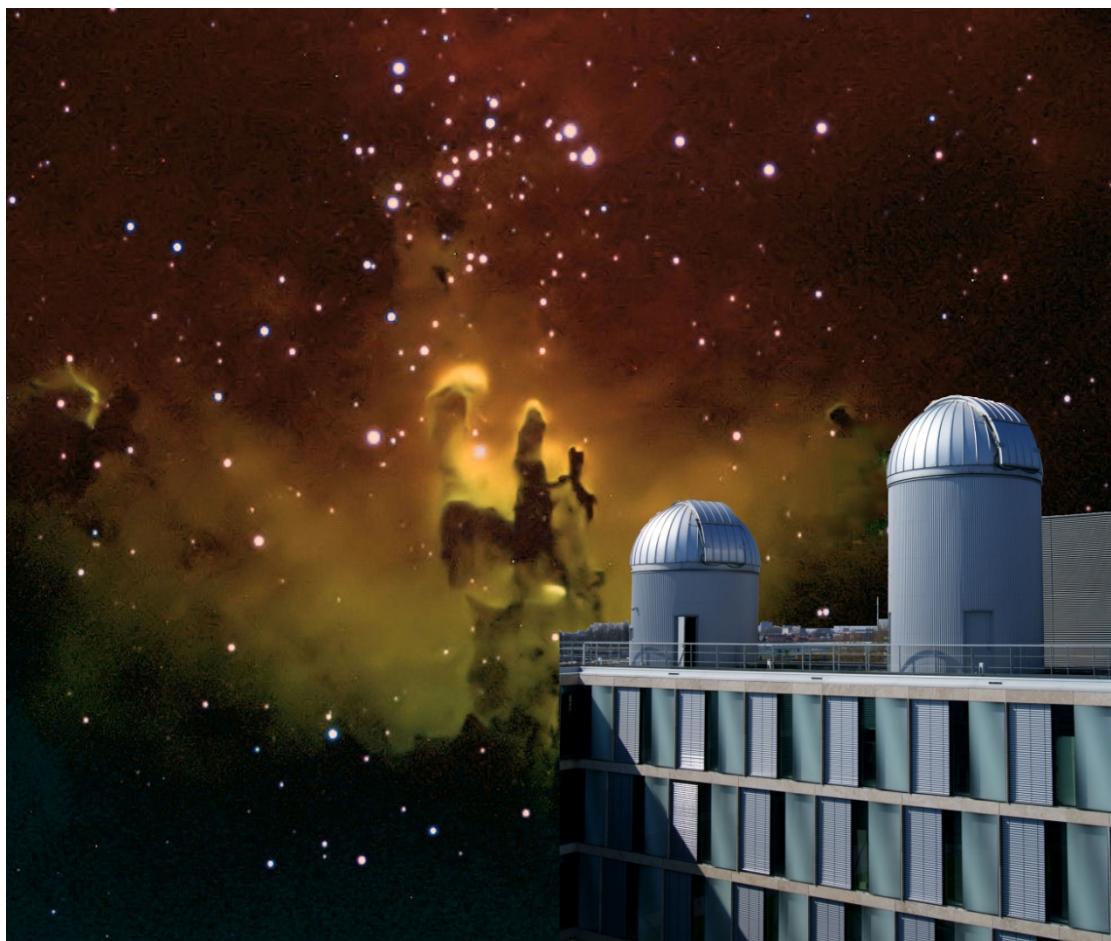


ASTRONOMICAL INSTITUTE
ANTON PANNEKOEK
1921-2011

University of Amsterdam



ALUMNI BOOK

Book edited by Milena Hoekstra
Picture on cover page courtesy of Huib Henrichs
API Logo courtesy of Christian Thalmann



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Dear Alumni,

You are holding the first edition of the API alumni book, which I very much hope you will enjoy. It is part of our effort to reach out more to our alumni, which is something we very much want to do. We hope you will feel the same, and will help us make a pleasant and enduring connection.

We have chosen to define API alumnus very broadly: it includes everyone who graduated in astronomy from the University of Amsterdam as kandidaat, doctorandus, BSc, MSc, or PhD, or who worked at API in any capacity during its now 90-year history. The effort to reconnect with you started when, in 2007, API granted its 100th PhD. We felt this was an occasion for a bigger than usual party, and since the granting of PhD diplomas had started long ago it would be good to have our alumni join us. It was no easy task to find you, since it turns out neither the Institute nor the University kept very good records of who had graduated from API, and where they are now. Nonetheless, we managed to contact about 200 people, and 130 showed up on November 22, 2008, when the party was finally held. We also asked you at the time to update your contact information for us, and to send in a short story of your life and picture for an alumni book. For various reasons we never got to make the book then, but now, thanks to the information you all supplied and heroic efforts of our secretaries, especially Milena, you are holding it now. It is not perfect, of course. We are sure there are still many addresses of alumni whose names we know that are missing or out of date, and even many names of alumni that are not in here at all. Please help us! Look at the names in the missing persons list, and see if you know where they are. And think back to your time at API, and think who was there with you and is not yet listed. Even if you know only their name and the vaguest of information on them, tell us. Once the name gets into the missing persons list, someone else's memory may be triggered by it.

Our plan is to update the book regularly and send it to everyone in it (more often electronically, and less frequently in hardcopy). We will also keep you updated from time to time on developments at API. We hope you will enjoy this, and that it will help motivate you to keep your information up to date. Many of you have generously agreed to allow us to put your biographies on the API website. We think this will be valuable resource to prospective new students and their parents, and potential employees, when they wonder what studying or working at API may lead to later in life.

Much has happened at API between the first Alumnifest in November 2008 and the present one, almost exactly three years later. The number of PhDs has increased to 124 by now, and a number of great crops of MSc's graduated from API. In April 2009, we moved to our new building at Science Park 904, where the entire Faculty of Science is now housed (across the –renamed– road from our previous location). We are immediately recognisable as one of the inhabitants of this building, by the two prominent domes on its top that house Anton Pannekoek Observatory, the best student observatory in the country.

We hope the Alumnifest 2011 will be an occasion for you to reconnect with API, and enjoy our new surroundings at Science Park, but first and foremost to meet old friends and enjoy their company again!

Ralph Wijers
Amsterdam, November 2011

CONTRIBUTIONS

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Anastasia obtained her BA in physics and astronomy from Wesleyan University in the state of Connecticut in the US, in 1994. She then went onto work as a software engineer on three of NASA's Great Observatories: The Chandra X-Ray Observatory at Harvard, The Hubble Space Telescope at ESO, and the Spitzer Space Telescope at Caltech. Anastasia switched wavelengths once more in 2009 and joined the LOFAR software effort at UvA/API and ASTRON, to work in the radio regime on pulsars within the Transients Key Science Project. She is now the leader of the LOFAR Data Formats Group, the co-lead of the LOFAR Beam-Formed Pipeline Group and the software developer for the LOFAR Pulsar Working Group.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since I was a child I always wanted to understand everything. I was never satisfied with only a "YES" or a "NO". For this reason, I could have studied Astronomy but also physics, chemistry or any other science. The important issue was to be challenged; to be given questions or problems without answers or solutions so I could work on them. I finally decided for astronomy thanks to one of my best friends (Javier), with whom I did my undergraduate studies until October 2003, when I got my degree of "Licenciado en Astronomia".

After my undergraduate studies, things went faster than fast. In November 2003, I started my PhD studies at the University of Amsterdam under the supervision of Michiel van der Klis. In April 2008 I got my PhD degree and a few months later I started my first Postdoc also at the University of Amsterdam. How the story will continue... I do not know. What I do know is that these last five years at the Anton Pannekoek institute have become wonderful memories I will never forget.

I thank all the API people for this...
Diego

(November 2008)



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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

The astronomy bug bit early, in high school, and the infection ran deep. After graduation in Astrophysics from the University of Calgary ('84), I spent a marvelous year touring Europe with a bicycle and a tent. Then the bike racing bug bit, and that infection was deep as well. After the year in Europe, and also hoping to study Space Shuttle Technology at Florida Tech in Melbourne, I and all foreign nationals were banished from Cape Canaveral for those classes after the Challenger incident, so my graduate program defaulted back to a more generalized Space Science degree ('87). I also started bicycle racing in earnest at this time, eventually making the Canadian National Team and attending the Olympic Trials for the '88 Seoul Olympics.

That not entirely successful bid led me to find work in Baltimore, MD at the Space Telescope Science Institute, where I worked on HST scheduling and orbital constraints -- quite tricky! After some of that, I bopped out to Berkeley and got Piled high and Deep working on heuristic scheduling algorithms for the Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE), as we were attempting to engage fast slews to the then newly discovered objects called Gamma Ray Bursters. This had me engaged with some very clever people at NASA Ames. Never worked, however, mostly because demand for TDRSS relays over subscribed the service. Over-subscription details are ... classified.

After completion in Berkeley ('96), I was recruited by Kirk Borne at Goddard Space Flight Center, where I developed asynchronous pipeline drivers for the Rossi Xray Timing Explorer (RXTE), until the fall of 2000, when I moved to Johns Hopkins University to build the data processing pipelines for Holland Ford's science team and the about-to-be installed Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS).

And then I went to Amsterdam...

(September 2011)

Brechtje Anthonisse

MSc 2007 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After obtaining her master's degree in Astronomy & Astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam in 2007, Brechtje started her career at Deloitte Enterprise Risk Services. Her main focus is on Operational Audit, Risk Management and Governance. She performs audits and research for clients in the public sector and also has experience with projects in the financial services industry. In September 2008 Brechtje has started the Executive Master of Internal Auditing at the Amsterdam Business School (UvA).

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I studied Physics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece). In 2010 I obtained a Master degree on Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics from the same University. A few months after my graduation I moved to Amsterdam and started a PhD at the Anton Pannekoek Institute with Dr. Anna Watts. I'm very interested in the physics of Neutron Stars and my research focus on frequency glitches and starquakes in radio pulsars and magnetars.

(September 2011)

Montserrat Armas-Padilla

<p>MSc 2006 – Universidad de la Laguna Phd started 2009 – API m.armaspadilla@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, smiling, standing in a vast field of bright yellow tulips. She is wearing a blue t-shirt under an orange jacket.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

When did I decide to study Astrophysics? I am not sure. But I think I always wanted it. I started to speak very late, when I was four years old. But my mother told me that I was always pointing with my little finger to the sky saying “Luna” (Moon). From this “Luna” until today, it has been a long way.

I was born in La Gomera, one of the smallest islands of the Canary Islands, Spain. There I did my primary and secondary school studies. As everyone from La Gomera who wants to go to the university, I had to leave my beloved island. I moved to Tenerife to study Physics at the Universidad de La Laguna and thank to its strong links with the Instituto Astrofísica de Canarias I had the opportunity to study Astrophysics and do a lot of practices at different telescopes in the observatories of El Teide and El Roque de los Muchachos (La Palma). I also have the opportunity to study one year at La Universidad de Barcelona supported by the SENECA grant program.

During my degree, I started to be interested in the Meteorology world. For this reason, I did a master in this subject: “Retrieval of clouds parameters at global scale using MSG-SEVIRI”. Despite that I liked meteorology, at some point I had to take a decision about how to continue with my career, and finally I decided to move to the Astronomy world.

Thus, in 2009 I packed my stuff and I came to Amsterdam to start my PhD with Rudy Wijnands. I expect to finish my research on very faint X-ray binaries in 2013, and after that... Who knows?

I am having a good time in Amsterdam; I am enjoying my work, and together with several good friends, I am living hundreds of great moments and experiences.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started to study astronomy at the University of Amsterdam in 1982. From the very start I have been attracted by the observational side of astronomy. After obtaining my ``doctorandus'' (MSc) degree I moved to the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Chile where, under the supervision of Hugo Schwarz, I worked from 1988 till 1990 as the first student in the student-fellow programme. I returned to the University of Amsterdam early 1991 where I did my PhD under the supervision of Jan van Paradijs. Shortly after defending my thesis I moved back to Chile where I began working again at ESO, now as a fellow. At the start of 1999 I was appointed team leader of the ESO ``Medium-Size Telescopes'' team in the position of staff astronomer. Unfortunately, the smog in Santiago de Chile was affecting my family too much and we decided to move. Since then we have been living on La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain. On La Palma I first worked as a support astronomer at the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes, where I managed the operations of the INT and JKT telescopes. Since August 2002 I work as the ``Astronomer-in-Charge'' at the Nordic Optical Telescope where I am responsible for all operational aspects related to the telescope and where I manage a team of 18 people including astronomers, engineers, administrative personnel and students.

As far as I have time to do science, my general research interest is mainly centred on studying in general the formation and evolution of (interacting) close binary systems, but also includes more detailed studies of specific (cataclysmic variable and low-mass X-ray binary) systems. Over the past 10 years I have also to varying degree been involved in the study of optical/infra-red counterparts of gamma-ray burst sources.

During my first stay in Chile I met Paola Queirolo-Nigro and we are still together after nearly 20 years. We married on the 19th of August 1994 in Amsterdam. On the 21st of June 1996 (a nice astronomical date) our daughter Charlotte was born in Santiago de Chile. On the 13rd of March 2003 our son Gabriel was born on La Palma.

(November 2008)

Jane Ayal

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I obtained my master's degree in General Linguistics at the University of Amsterdam in 1993. After several jobs through temporary work agencies, I got my first permanent contract at the secretariat of the Astronomical Institute *Anton Pannekoek*. Together with my dear friend and colleague Erica Veenhof I spent a wonderful time at the secretariat. In 2001 I started a new career at Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis as a student nurse. In 2005 I got my bachelor's degree. Three years later I got married and above all I changed my working environment from the hospital to the public health care center for STI's (GGD) and the Prostitution and Health Care Center, P&G292.

(October 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Marieke studied at the universities of Utrecht and Amsterdam. She worked for the Dutch public broadcaster NOS from 1991–2003. After two years working as a freelancer writing on new media issues, she then switched her career to astronomy and communications. She has been a Public Information Officer and Head of Communication at the Dutch Research School for Astronomy (NOVA) since 2005. This top research school is a cooperation between the astronomical institutes of the universities of Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen and Utrecht. The NOVA Information Centre communicates astronomy with the general public, press and schools in the Netherlands. The office is based at the University of Amsterdam and works with two staff members and eight freelancers. Educational outreach has been developing fast since 2010, and features a mobile planetarium, digiboard lessons and exercises for school children. Marieke was the Dutch coordinator for the International Year of Astronomy 2009. She is also the editor of the Dutch astronomy website www.astronomie.nl.

(September 2011)

Lars Baehren

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since moving to the Netherlands in 2004 I have been working on the development and commissioning of the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) -- a novel radio telescope under construction in the Netherlands, but also including international partners from other European countries. My main involvement from 2004 until 2010 was with the High-Energy Cosmic Rays Key Science Project, based at the Radboud University Nijmegen; after spending the first three years of the before-mentioned period at Stichting ASTRON in Dwingeloo, I moved to the Astronomy Department at the Radboud University Nijmegen. The primary focus of my work remained development of LOFAR User Software, including the specification of data standards and their translation into actual pieces of working code.

The AARTFAAC project offered a chance to benefit from some of the ground-work, expanding the capabilities of the LOFAR telescope to gain access to the yet poorly explored realm of short-duration astronomical transients. Thus for a year I joined API, to work on some of the early technical aspects of the project.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

So far change has been the main drive in my choices. I moved from Rome to Bologna, where I picked a Bachelor in astronomy after a high-school stream mostly focused on dead languages and fine arts. I then came to Amsterdam for my MSc out of curiosity for what life and research would have been like in a different country. Finally, I just started a PhD at SRON with quite a switch of topic - from low to high energies. Come what may, change seems to work fine with me.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After studying History and Cultural Travels at the Hogeschool Holland I started working in theater “De Meervaart” in Amsterdam. I started at ticket sales and soon became duty manager. During the holidays I guided Dutch tourist’s trough Israel and Jordan with travel company “Baobab”.

From there I went to youth theater “Stella” Den Haag to do the organization and publicity. This was a great period, especially organizing the tour through the South of France, but it took all my energy. I needed a steady job so my boyfriend from Serbia could finally come back to the Netherlands and wanted to work in a place were people were nice to each other without too much competition.

Then I found a job at the API secretariat. My boyfriend was allowed to settle in the Netherlands and we got married, first in Serbia, 2 years later in Amsterdam. Then I got pregnant and our daughter Julia was born in 2006. Two years later my son Dejan was born. My job as secretary changed over the years, and I still find satisfaction and challenges in it after 10 years.

(September 2011)

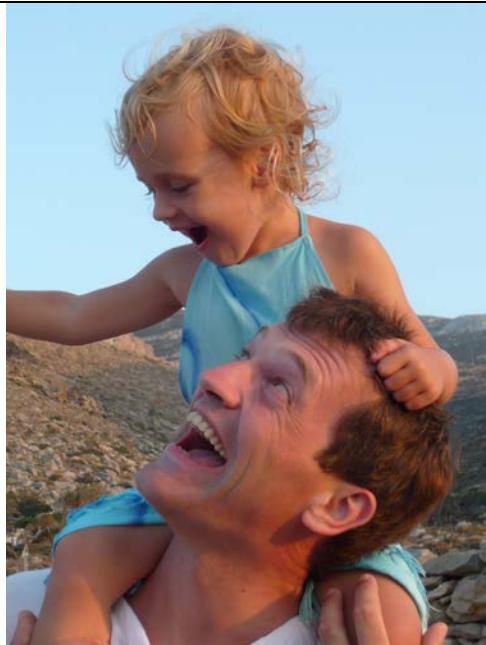


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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Utrecht in 1972 and grew up in Zeist. As long as I remember I've been constructing things. Things from paper, things from plastic, things from wood and iron, and things connected with numbers. During secondary school I was interested in physics and chemistry but also in crafts and architecture. After I had read a popular book about stellar evolution by Ed van den Heuvel, I got fascinated by astronomy. Meanwhile I discovered the beauty of wood and wood turning. At the end of secondary school I doubted whether I should study architecture or physics. I finally chose the latter and went to Amsterdam.

During my first year at university I attended Ed van den Heuvel's introductory lecture of astronomy, which revived my interest in astronomy. Seven years later I graduated on evolutionary calculations of stars in close binaries after a phase of common-envelope evolution. Though I did like doing astronomy very much, I had strong doubts about starting a PhD. During my student days I enjoyed doing different jobs at the opera house as well as working in a wood workshop. As I was afraid of specializing, of not having the opportunity to do different things, I decided first to make a special table in order to celebrate my degree in astronomy. Some three years later, after I had finished the 'Kepler table' - so called because it shows Kepler's three laws of planetary motion -, I found myself employed in my own company in wood projects, called Kepler Acts.

During the summer holidays I went sailing in Greece, where I met my future wife from Poland. She moved to Holland and we got married in Greece a year later. We live in Amsterdam, together with our three-year-old daughter, and I'm still enjoying furniture making. If I have sometimes felt like going back to astronomy, I have also realized that in whatever field I might be working, I would long to return to previous activities that I enjoyed and still enjoy doing. Although running my own company takes a lot of time, it

enables me to combine many different ideas and techniques in my present projects, which is clearly a central theme in my life.

(November 2008)



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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I graduated in August 1988 but kept on working at the institute in my spare time until 2009, during which several articles were published on Herbig Ae/Be/Fe stars together with Herman Tjin A Djie.

In 1989 I started working at SARA, first on the helpdesk and since 1995 in the network department, which was mainly responsible for the SURFnet network, the beginning of the AMS-IX and Netherlight.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in Astronomy really only started in the first year of my study Physics and Astronomy in Amsterdam. I had chosen this study because I had a certain liking for Physics and was reasonably good at it. In my first year of study I took several astronomy courses and got to find out what astronomy was all about. I tuned my successive study years to astronomy, and received my doctoral title in 2007. After my doctoral study I obtained a PhD position in Groningen at the Kapteyn Institute under the supervision of Eline Tolstoy working on chemical evolution and timescales with the use of Color-magnitude diagram analysis.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since I graduated, I have been working as teacher Physics.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After secondary school I went to the University of Amsterdam to study Physics and Astronomy. I had always been intrigued by astronomy, so I wanted to learn more about the universe and mathematics and physics were my best subjects in school. I had a great time during my studies. I studied a semester in Calgary (Canada), which was a great experience and during my master's project I went to California for 2 weeks to work with people at NASA Ames and SETI. One of my favorite courses was the La Palma project and Rens Waters inspired me to study the interstellar medium, which I did under his supervision during my master's project. During my studies I worked at the planetarium at the Amsterdam zoo Artis in the weekends. Here I had the chance to share my enthusiasm about astronomy with the visitors of the zoo and show them the universe in a beautiful and comprehensible way. After I finished my master's degree, I started my current job at NUON (energy company). My job is to predict the amount of energy that the customers are going to need the upcoming days, so that the traders can react on this.

(November 2008)



Ellen Brinksma

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In 2009, I will join ESA/Estec to work on programme management of Future Missions within Earth Observation. An exciting change of career which I am very much looking forward too (albeit with a little trepidation). Currently, I am working at KNMI, where I have been for the past nine years. I am now a staff member in the Weather Section of KNMI, after seven years as project scientist for OMI (an earth observation instrument). Before that, my PhD work was done in New Zealand, where I measured ozone (and other things) with lidar, for the Free University (Amsterdam) and RIVM. And before that, I spent about three years at API working on eclipse mapping of a white dwarf star. I am married and we have two small kids.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In the process of choosing between different study options, I attended an introductory lecture in physics by Prof. Sander Bais at the UvA. The topic of the lecture was special relativity and I found it so interesting and inspiring that the choice became easy. Not much later I therefore started my study in physics at the UvA.

Out of the different topics in physics, I found Astronomy the most interesting. After doing my master's research project with Rudy Wijnands and Nathalie Degenaar on Type I X-ray bursts, I obtained my degree in Astronomy and Astrophysics in 2010. While working on the project, I really enjoyed the challenge and satisfaction that research brings; starting a PhD project was thus the next logical step.

Currently I am in the second year of my PhD research, where I am working under the supervision of Jacco Vink at the Utrecht Astronomical Institute. The first year resulted in my first publication, which is on a core collapse supernova remnant 0506-68. More to follow!

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Although I have had some contact with the Anton Pannekoek institute in my early studies, life at API for me began in 2009 with the start of a master's study in Astronomy & Astrophysics. That the Anton Pannekoek institute is a great place to be is clear. After having received my master's degree in the summer of 2011, I am continuing my life at API as PhD-student.

(September 2011)

Franka Buurmeijer

<p>MSc 2011 – API frankab88@gmail.com Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A portrait photograph of Franka Buurmeijer. She is a young woman with dark, curly hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a dark green plaid jacket over a purple scarf. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with a brick wall and some foliage.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Halfway in secondary school we had to choose a society, economy, health or science profile of which I chose the latter, since that was where my talents seemed to lie. From that point on, also due to strong encouragement and motivation by my teachers, I started to enjoy the 'puzzle solving' in physics and mathematics even more than I already did. After a short detour, the bachelor Architecture in Delft, I decided to study physics and astronomy after all, but then in my hometown Amsterdam. Not familiar with astronomy before, I was pleasantly surprised by this versatile field of research. Even though I do not see myself doing research, my intention is to remain involved in the field. In this way I will hopefully be able to encourage and motivate others in astronomy and science in general.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

From the first year as a B.Sc. physics student I got fascinated by Astronomy. The idea of studying the physical processes in the Universe sounded amazing. And as it turns out, it truly is! Along with a few classmates we started following the path to get us to Astronomy and well... the rest is history. I obtained my M.Sc. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of Amsterdam in 2011. I had a great time in the "Anton Pannekoek" institute and decided to continue in the field. At the moment I am carrying my PhD studies in the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany.

(September 2011)



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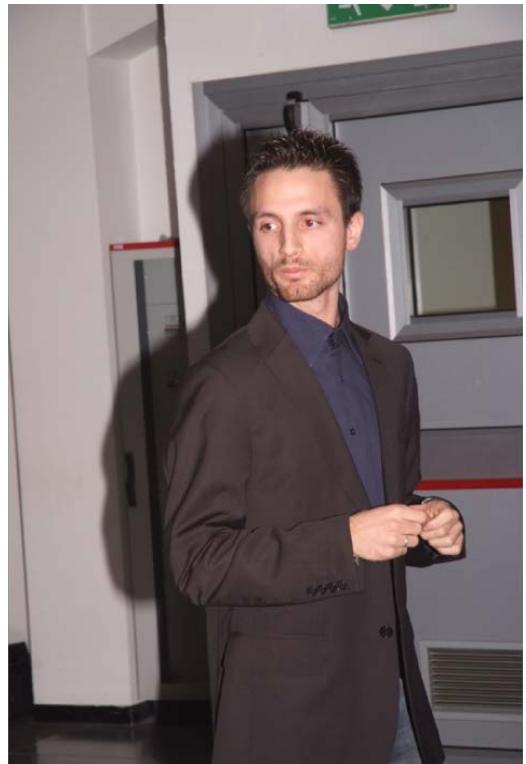
(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since I was 10 I always said I would have made of “the stars” my job. I have always known I would have studied Astronomy, without any doubt. So I got my Bachelor degree in Physics in December 2008 and my Master degree in Astrophysics in March 2011, both at the University of Milan Bicocca.

During my Master degree I took a couple of months to travel around the world, getting a salary for that (not bad...). I worked as astronomer in three tourist resorts: in Berenice (Egypt), Maafushivaru and Vakarufalhi (Maldives). I have been able to combine three of the activities I like the most: travel all over the world, observe the night sky and dive in two of the most beautiful seas.

After that, in August 2011 I moved here in Amsterdam to start my PhD at the UvA in the AARTFAAC project, under the supervision of Ralph Wijers.

(September 2011)



Astronomer at work...

Yuri Cavecchi

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Genoa, Italy. It is a city on the sea and as such has an old tradition of sailors traveling around the world to explore and bringing new influences from everywhere.

Following this tradition I started my journey by going to high school in Genoa and then moving to Padua for university. After finishing my degree in Astronomy, my next stop was Amsterdam for a joint PhD at API and Leiden Sterrewacht studying the hydrodynamics of the explosions in the fluid accreted onto neutron stars.

I am very glad to say that the people that I met at the institute compete to create a heterogeneous environment that stimulates the personal and scientific growth of all who have been here.

(September 2011)

Yvette Cendes

<p>MSc 2011 – Case Western Reserve University PhD started 2011 – API yvette.cendes@gmail.com Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A photograph of Yvette Cendes, a young woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue headband, a blue patterned top, and a green necklace. She is smiling and standing outdoors with a body of water and rocky cliffs in the background.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I don't know a lot of things. I honestly don't. How does a person imagine a universe with no hypothetical situations? What in relativity explains why time goes so fast on a hot date, but so slowly on the dull ones? Why is there something instead of nothing in the universe, and why is so much of it on my desk? And if we were to look for radio transient sources in low frequencies what exactly would we find? Luckily it turns out there are many people who don't know the answer to the last question, and so I joined the AARTFAAC group under Ralph Wijers as a PhD student in September 2011 in hopes that we can find the answer.

I am a Hungarian-American astronomer and obtained my Physics B.S. in January 2009 and Physics M.S. in August 2011 from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, and my adventures in science so far have involved studying cosmic rays with the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina, searching for alien signals at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, and freelance writing for *Astronomy* magazine. I have had many adventures outside science too traveling around the world, and these have involved tackling the Himalaya to reach Everest Base Camp, living a semester in New Zealand, and getting punched by a wild mountain gorilla.

I might not know a lot of things, but I believe we can find the answers to many of them and I'm thrilled to be at API for this adventure of discovery!

(September 2011)

Jan Cernohorsky

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Astronomy and the night sky had awed me from primary school. Perhaps it was the pretty photographs or the dizzying scale and structure of the ‘final frontier’. Sometime around age 14 I remember thinking that if I should prove academically bright enough, I’d really like to study astronomy. As the final exams neared, I proved to be bright enough. Considerations of practical applicability combined with pressure from my engineer father to do something that would ‘feed a family’, led me to compromise and look to physics instead. It seemed more ‘applicable’ than astronomy, but to the last I was wavering between physics and following my elder brother’s parentally approved path into medicine. My physics teacher helped me to cut that knot with the words: “...medicine, you? What a waste of talent that would be...” I found the sheer arrogance of that irresistible. I had to be part of the physics club. I enrolled at the physics department at the UvA in 1982 as the first cohort of the “2-phase structure”. The first year was common for physics and astronomy, and in the second year I still followed all the astronomy lectures in addition to the physics program, just to keep the door open. I only flunked out of the astronomy practicum. In the first year I had found that I really hated that, and I was inexorably drawn to the theoretical side of physics. I graduated from the Theory Institute in 1986 on a topic in QCD, as one of the first ‘2-phase students’. My MSc supervisor Prof. Van Weert put his broad shoulder under trying to get me a PhD position at the UvA, which succeeded on a topic of “Cooling Neutron Stars”, as a joint venture between Theoretical Physics, NIKHEF-H, and API, as part of the newly formed 2nd-phase ‘Centre of Excellence’ CHAEF, with ultimate supervision shared between professors van den Heuvel and Gaemers. Leo van den Horn and Chris van Weert were responsible for day-to-day supervision. In a roundabout way, Astronomy was back in my life. A bit to my surprise, I was welcomed by the astronomers in their midst as one of their own. This project culminated in October 1990 in a thesis entitled “Neutrino Driven Neutron Star Formation”. A month later I was off to my first 2-5 year post-doc position at the Max-Planck Institut fuer Astrophysik (MPA) in Garching. In early 1991 I was given the opportunity to partake in Ed van den Heuvel’s Compact Binary workshop at the ITP in Santa Barbara. This proved decisive. On a long weekend off from the ITP, I rented a car and drove up to the San Francisco Bay Area and visited Berkeley. I fell in love with the

place. So when on the one year anniversary of my PhD defense I got an invitation from prof. Glendenning at Lawrence Berkeley Labs to apply for a post-doc with the Nuclear Science Division theory group, I knew I had to go. Prof. Hillebrandt at the MPA kindly offered to suspend my position with them after two years, do my thing at LBL, and then come back to MPA for another 2-5 year stint. I still consider the two years at Berkeley amongst the best of my life, only marred by having my girlfriend back in Munich. As the contract with LBL drew to a close in 1994, the end of the Cold War and German Unification extracted a price. I got word that the MPA was forced to drastically reduce the number of their tenure-track positions, so our gentleman's agreement was off. The best that MPA would be able to honour was a 1-year post-doc position on my return. With the SSC being canned that same year, the market awash with bright and cheap Russians; it was a bad time for being a physicist looking for an academic career. Fate intervened one Sunday morning with a phone-call from an ex-colleague with whom I had hung out and shared an office for a few months at the ITP in Santa Barbara. In the meantime, he had graduated from Columbia and had followed his dreams into Investment Banking, with a job as FX Options trader at Deutsche Bank. Deutsche were expanding their operations and were looking for people for their Quant desk. They flew me to New York and Frankfurt for interviews and then offered me the job, starting in Frankfurt am Main. With my romantic interest still in Munich, the probability of finding any, let alone an academic, job around Munich within the year's breathing space that the MPA was offering close to nil, and despite Frankfurt not being Munich, this seemed like a solution. Frankfurt being closer to Munich than the USA, and so I accepted the offer. I started work as a 'Rocket Scientist/Propellerhead' at Deutsche's fledgling FX Options trading desk in Frankfurt in late 1994. The Bavarian girlfriend dumped me a month later, but I had turned a corner and inertia continued me down the new path. It made the decision to move with Deutsche's FX Derivatives business to London when the opportunity arose in mid 1995 quite easy. It turns out that a Quant's job revolves around computer software and the Diffusion Equation. I was familiar with both. In 1997 I left Deutsche for a quant job at an Interest Rate Derivatives trading desk at AIG Trading, and in early 1998 to a position as Head of FX Derivatives Product Development at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. I have been there since, although the shop has changed names twice and ownership once. It currently is called Dresdner Kleinwort, and is (still) owned by Allianz. In late 2005 I changed the Quant hat for a more commercial position in FX Derivatives Structuring, and since early 2008 I am the global head of the FX\Emerging Markets Structuring desk. Lately, Dresdner has again been sold, this time to its rival Commerzbank. In January 2009 the name above the door is about to change. A 'right-sizing' of the business by its new proprietors will follow. The banking industry is in turmoil and decline, and the future in Investment Banking is fragile. In late 2007, as a consequence of a birthday present gifted to me by my wife of five years I have taken up flying, and am now on weekends training to be a pilot. If I survive the present industry downturn it will be a fun hobby. And if not, it may perhaps evolve into a third career. At the flight-school at Biggin Hill, the instructor's tacit assumption seems to be for everyone to aim for going commercial. So who knows. Eleven years ago I met the true love of my life in my Basque wife Lucia through fencing, an activity I started as a physics student in Amsterdam in 1982. We got married in San Sebastian in 2003. We have two small daughters. Ainoa was born in 2005 and Lenka in 2007. They are now center stage, and I find my life dedicated to them. I daily skim the Astrophysics Preprints, and I still like looking out into the night sky and be awed.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since I was a child, I was very curious for science subjects and the Universe in general. However, at that time, I was sure that I was going to be a paleontologist some day. During high school, though, I started to be very interested in Physics and exact sciences and I decided that I would like to study the Physics of stars.

Accordingly, in 2003, I started my bachelor studies in Astronomy at the Observatorio do Valongo, the astronomical institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Afterward, I continued my studies in Astronomy by entering the master program at the same institute. During this time, my area of research was already defined to be Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB) stars and their envelopes. The work I did back then was mainly related to modeling the dust content of the AGB stars' wind.

At the end of 2008, near the conclusion of my master thesis, I was sure that I wanted to continue in the same field for my PhD and I was also sure that it would be fruitful for me, both from the academic and personal point of view, if I could go abroad for this next step. Consequently, I started to hunt PhD positions available in this area. From the ones I found, the one that really captivated me was that to work here in Amsterdam on “unveiling the physics and chemistry of AGB stars envelopes” with Rens Waters, Alex de Koter and Leen Decin, from Leuven. For that, new and exciting data of molecular emission, from the HERSCHEL satellite would be the main source of new information. Fortunately, after a long and perspective selection process, I was awarded the position.

Besides the happiness for being able to pursue my academic goals, a slightly-scared-first-time-in-Europe version of me was very pleasantly surprised by the warm reception and general very good social atmosphere at the Anton Pannekoek Institute.

With still 2 years and 8 months until the end of my PhD contract, I am very happy to be here in Amsterdam and really feel that this time at the API is going to be an experience that I will remember always with fondness.

(September 2011)



At the La Palma telescope

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As a kid I collected rocks and fossils and wanted to become an archaeologist or dinosaur hunter - that and I played with LEGO a lot. After high school I went to the University of Amsterdam to study physics or astronomy. There I meandered through the physics and astronomy program and finally did my Master's research with the LOFAR Transients Key Project. Whilst at the UvA I also developed a large interest in cinema which resulted in me working as a projectionist for a few years during my master program. After graduating in early 2008 I spent a year doing freelance programming and screening films. In April 2009 I joined the API to do a PhD in astrophysics studying pulsars with LOFAR.

(September 2011)

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(November 2008)

Nick L.J. Cox

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I studied physics & astronomy at Utrecht University where my interest in astronomy was truly kindled. Near the end of my studies I seized the opportunity to do my master research project in Sydney, Australia. My research, under supervision of Richard Hunstead, was on giant radio galaxies. It was a very exciting time and I learned a great deal (also about astronomy).

After returning from Sydney and getting my doctoraal (and MSc) diploma I decided that I liked to do research but I wanted a change of astronomical scenery and that's why I joined the Universiteit van Amsterdam (in 2002) to work on a project that was aiming to unravel one of astronomies oldest standing spectroscopic mysteries, the diffuse interstellar bands.

My project was funded by NOVA and I was supervised from different corners of the Netherlands: Pascale Ehrenfreund (Leiden), Lex Kaper (Amsterdam) and Marco Spaans (Groningen). I spent four great years at API (making regular visit to Leiden) researching the diffuse interstellar bands. At the end of which I was awarded a PhD for my efforts (even though I did not solve the DIB mystery).

After that I moved to sunny Madrid, Spain to work as a research fellow at the European Space Astronomy Centre of ESA. Again, changing somewhat my scenery I am now also looking into evolved stars and their connection to the ISM.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in everything outside our tiny earth environment began in the late 60's, when I started to collect every newspaper publication on the Apollo project. I started my study at the University of Amsterdam in 1978 and graduated in 1985. My doctoral thesis was on the UV emission of Gamma Cassiopeia and Beta Cephei, and was excellently supervised by Huib Henrichs. After my graduation, I immediately started at a PhD position with Jan van Paradijs and Ed van den Heuvel on the X-ray burst behaviour of low-mass X-ray binaries. The first year of my PhD project was spent in Leiden and Garching, because the UvA didn't have the necessary VAX/VMS computer available that was needed to analyse data from the EXOSAT satellite. After a year, Jan managed to get funding to buy our own computer and I returned to Amsterdam. In 1986, I married Maria Hogema and our first son, Sietse, was born in 1988. In May 1990 I received my PhD degree as one of the first (probably the very first) PhD students of Jan van Paradijs, who by then had become professor in astrophysics. This was less than three weeks before our youngest son, Matthijs, was born. I decided not to plunge into the US or UK post-doctoral circuit, but instead was very lucky to find a post-doc position at the department of radiotherapy of the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) on a research project aimed at quantifying lung damage due to irradiation for cancer. During this four-year project, I started a training to become clinical physicist. Since 1995 I have been working as a clinical physicist and researcher at NKI. The combination of clinical work and research is very stimulating and satisfying. Improving the radiotherapy of lung tumours has remained the main topic of my research, resulting in several project grants from the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF) and the successful supervision over a couple of PhD students. Maria and I are still happily married and looking in amazement at how our two sons develop. They are the perfect mixture of the two of us: one is in art (music), the other just started his study in physics and astronomy at the UvA.

(November 2008)



Caroline D'Angelo

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Toronto, Canada, and grew up in a town close by. After contemplating several alternative career ambitions (ballet dancer, paleontologist, archeologist, novelist), at thirteen I decided to become a theoretical physicist after reading an article in a science magazine about quantum mechanics, and figuring it was about as close to science fiction as you could get while still being real. Somehow I stuck with it, and got my Bachelor's and then Master's degrees in Astronomy and Physics at the University of Toronto. After that, I decided to combine further education with adventure and moved to Munich, Germany, where I did my PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics. Since February 2011 I have been living in Amsterdam and doing a post-doc with Anna Watts to try to understand the emission produced by Magnetars, one of Nature's truly weird objects.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After finishing a Bachelor in Physics at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, I transferred to the University of Amsterdam in 2004 to start a Master in Astronomy. I really loved the amazing atmosphere at the Anton Pannekoek Astronomical Institute, so I decided to stick around after my Master graduation and embarked on a PhD program with Rudy Wijnands in 2006, to work on observations of sub-luminous X-ray binaries. After 4 years of pure fun I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to remain at API for one more year as a postdoctoral researcher. However, now the time has come to leave this wonderful place: as of 2011 December 1, I will be working in the USA at the University of Michigan on a Hubble fellowship. But, maybe (hopefully), one day I'll be back.

(September 2011)

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Jasinta Dewi

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I did my PhD with Ed van den Heuvel and Onno Pols on the formation of double neutron stars. After my PhD, I received a Talent Fellowship from the NWO to go to Oxford for one year, where I worked with Philipp Podsiadlowski. This was followed by a 3-year postdoc position with Chris Tout at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge. While in Cambridge, I took a basic course in counselling, and I joined several non-profit organizations: Centre 33, which provides supports to young people (a politically-correct term for teenagers), ranging from practical information, free pregnancy tests and chlamydia tests, housing advocacy, to counselling service; and the Samaritans, which provides emotional support for people in distress and despair, including those who are suicidal (in thought or in progress), either on the phone or face-to-face. This experience convinced me that my call is to work with and for people. So, from the evolution of the stars and binary systems, I now move to the evolution of human mind and behaviour, by pursuing a BSc degree in Psychology at the Open University. One day, who knows, I might study the psychology of the astrophysicists. Mother of Tiwi (now 15!!), I'm married to a fellow astrophysicist, Marc Freitag.

(November 2008)

Salome Dibi

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I got a Bachelor degree in Physics from Joseph-Fourier University (Grenoble) with the idea of studying Astronomy and Astrophysics later on. In France there is no Astronomy or Astrophysics program before the second year of Masters, so one has to study Physics for quite a while before applying for the Astrophysics specialization. But besides mandatory Physics classes I could follow some introduction to Astrophysics presented by voluntary and passionate teachers. I also participated in astronomy clubs as a hobby and could use some of my experience during my summer job (observing the sky with the naked eye or with telescopes, building small rockets), to share this hobby with children in scientific summer camps. During my last year of Bachelor I applied for an exchange program in order to study abroad for one year, and I did my first year of Masters (still in Physics to get the French equivalence) at the University of Florida. When I came back to France I integrated the Astrophysics curses at the "Astrophysics laboratory of Grenoble" with 5 other master students. Classes have been very intense but I was finally spending all my time studying what I had aimed for. It was really great, the formation gave more focus on MHD and plasma physics, but we also had low energy astrophysics training and spent a week of observational practice at the "Observatoire de Haute Provence". To complete my Master degree I went for a research experience at Clemson University (SC) under the supervision of Dieter Hartmann, a teacher I had met while in the US. I made a toy model of an exploding star to study the dynamics and the radiative processes of Supernovae remnants. I am currently doing my PhD at the University of Amsterdam under the supervision of Sera Markoff, in a European Network Collaboration studying Black Hole Physics in general. My project consists in developing theoretical models to better understand the Physics of accretion and jet formation around Black Holes. I am still enjoying my work very much, also because of all the nice people I met at the Anton Pannekoek Institute.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My Interest in Astronomy was created almost overnight at the age of 12, when I was reading “Children of the Universe” by the German science journalist Hoimar van Ditfurth, who put the thought that we are made of the matter of stars already very early into my thinking. I became active in the local planetarium and went to study physics at the Technical University in Berlin. After the diploma in physics, I stayed on for a PhD in Astronomy with Erwin Sedlmayr and worked on the formation of dust in the winds of red giants. A conference visit brought me into contact with Xander Tielens who invited me to apply for a National Research Council grant to come to the USA. So I spent two postdoc years in the USA at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. The ISO satellite and a project to work on debris disks brought me back to Europe, to work in Leiden with Harm Habing. After a few years I moved to Amsterdam where I now hold an UHD position at the API, alongside with a special professorship on Exoplanets at the Radboud University Nijmegen. My research subjects are in the field of star formation, circumstellar disks, and planet formation and spans theory, observations, and instrumentation.

(September 2011)

Samia Drappeau

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since this day in kindergarten when, with my best friend, we decided to become astronaut when we grew up, I knew stars will be part of my life. Time went by but my fascination for the Universe didn't fade away. Throughout the course of my studies, I discovered the great world that is Physics and the one even greater of Astrophysics!

I made most of my study at the University of Lyon 1 where I graduated in 2007 in Particle Physics. Then I obtained a second Master degree in Theoretical Physics at the University of Aix-Marseille II in 2008. After that I've been offered a PhD position at the API by Sera Markoff, which I gladly accepted and began in September 2008.

(November 2008)

Georg Drenkhahn

PhD 2002 – API

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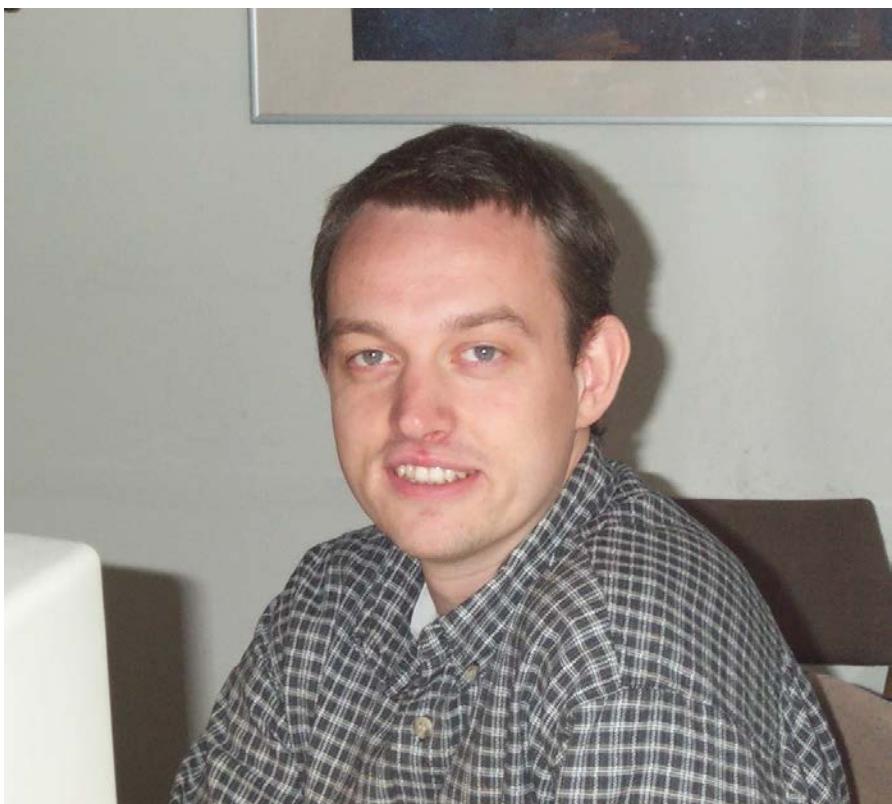
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

At some point during my teenage years I started to be interested in science, especially maths, physics, and computers. So I chose to study physics in Aachen (Germany) in 1993. I got in touch with astronomy in my second year and decided to focus on it. I went to the University of Bonn (Germany) where I did my diploma thesis about calibration of type Ia supernovae luminosities for distance measurement under supervision of Tom Richtler in 1998. My interest in theoretical aspects in astrophysics emerged during this work which I pursued on a PhD position at the Max Planck institute for astrophysics in Garching (Germany). My adviser was Henk Spruit who is associated with the API and in 2002 earned my PhD degree from the AvU for my work on magnetically powered gamma-ray bursts. At that point I decided to not follow a career in science further but to settle down with my family and change into the software industry. I started to work as a embedded software engineer in the automotive industry. Since 2005 I am a team manager at Elektrobit Automotive GmbH in Erlangen (Germany) were we develop software for electronic control units in vehicles.

(November 2008)



Chris Elenbaas

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Being unhealthy curious by nature, I have always suffered from a wide range of interests. Before turning my attention to astrophysics, I studied cinematography at the Dutch Film Academy and Theoretical Philosophy at Utrecht University. Only a couple of month's ago, I received my Bachelor in Physics & Astronomy at Utrecht University and started the Master A&A at the UvA. Even though I have not been part of the Anton Pannekoek Institute that long, I must admit that it has been an enjoyable experience so far and believe that this will also be true in the upcoming years as a master student. Currently, I look forward to getting some telescope experience on the Mercator Telescope at La Palma and perhaps even doing a bit of real science with the observed data.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Lucas Ellerbroek studied Theoretical Physics at the UvA. His thesis titled "Hunting for micro black holes", supervised by Erik Verlinde, was awarded a Shell Stipend in 2009. In 2010, he commenced a PhD project with Lex Kaper, in which he studies massive star formation with the new spectrograph X-shooter on the Very Large Telescope. Aside from astronomy, he spends some of his time playing the violin.

(September 2011)

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USA



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After graduating in Physics at the University of Milan, I left Italy to commence a PhD in Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam, under the guidance of Rob Fender. As a graduate student, I worked on relativistic jets powered by stellar mass black holes in X-ray binary systems, with the primary aim of quantifying the jet importance for the overall energetics of the accretion process and as a source of energy input into the interstellar medium. I obtained my doctorate in September 2005, and shortly after left Europe to move the United States of America. I had been awarded a Chandra Postdoctoral Fellowship, which I choose to take to the University of California, Santa Barbara. There, I kept pursuing X-ray binary research making use of NASA Great Observatories - Chandra, Spitzer and Hubble- as well as radio interferometers focusing on low-luminosity black hole binaries powered by radiatively inefficient accretion flows. Prompted by the diverse lines of research carried out at the University of California, I became interested in broader aspects related to the physics of accretion, namely the role of super-massive black holes in galaxy evolution. I am currently involved a large observational campaign, whose goal is to constrain the level of accretion-driven emission from the nuclei of nearby, formally inactive, spheroidal galaxies. This project was awarded a 2008 Hubble Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Space Telescope Science Institute. On November 1, 2008, I started my appointment as a Hubble Fellow at the MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, in Boston.

(November 2008)

Paul Goudfrooij

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PhD 1994 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised in Amsterdam. My choice to pursue a career in astronomy became crystal clear during his junior year in high school, when I followed a "Teleac" TV course on modern astronomy during which I was totally blown away by the sheer beauty of astronomical images and the opportunity to learn exciting information about the distances and ages of stars, the history of the universe, and the origin of the chemical elements. I studied Astronomy at the University of Leiden, graduating in 1988. I accepted a Ph. D. studentship offered to me by Prof. Teije de Jong at the the University of Amsterdam, where I obtained my Ph.D. in 1994. My thesis work entailed an extensive optical survey of dust and ionized gas in elliptical galaxies. I then spent 2.5 years as postdoctoral fellow at the European Southern Observatory in Garching near Munich, Germany, before jumping onto the opportunity to join the scientific staff of STScI in Baltimore in 1996, first as ESA astronomer and switching to an AURA scientist position in 2002. Last but certainly not least, I met my wife Karen in Baltimore. We married in 2003 and currently (2008) enjoy the company of a toddler son. Since I became acquainted with the exquisitely sharp eye of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), much of my research has focused on globular clusters in external galaxies, because HST allows one to study these clusters in detail even in distant galaxies. Globular clusters are among the few observable fossil records of the formation of galaxies, and hence their properties can tell us very interesting information about how galaxies were assembled.

(November 2008)

Yan G. Grange

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My choice for studying physics was driven by an interest in exact sciences. During the first four years I participated in the student politics at al levels. For some reason, choosing the master of Astronomy and Astrophysics felt very natural to me. After the "Master fair", I started to question myself whether I should go for A&A or the master of particle physics. I ended up doing both. I got the best of both worlds. During my studies I was involved in testing some parts of the ATLAS detector, which seems to work well at the moment of writing. My thesis was on the detection of highly inclined particle induced showers using LOFAR. Therefore I am very excited about the outcome of both experiments. I hope more students will follow the example in the future, even though the geographical conditions may be less valid then. It is just seven months ago that I finished my Masters education at the API. Therefore the part of my biography that treats my further life will be rather short. After graduating, I started as PhD student in X-ray spectroscopy, at SRON in Utrecht. For knowing how the rest of my career turned out, you will have to wait for the next alumnifest.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In 1982 I started my studies in Astronomy at the University of Utrecht, where I did my research project with Prof. Henny Lamers on the winds of O-stars. I graduated "cum laude" in 1988. From mid-1989 onwards I was employed as "onderzoeker-in-opleiding" by NWO based at API doing research on the topic of asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars under the supervision of Prof. Teije de Jong. The Ph.D. degree was awarded 28 September 1993.

After that my international career started. From November 1993 to October 1995 I was working at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris (IAP), and then moved to the Max-Planck Institute fuer Astrophysik (MPA) in Garching for 5 years, and 1 year at ESO, Garching. From October 2001 until January 2008 I was employed by the Instituut voor Sterrenkunde of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) in the Flemish part of Belgium. Since February 2008 I hold a permanent research position at the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB). I continue to work on the evolution of AGB stars, mass loss and their circumstellar material, but current instrumental developments make it now possible to study these objects in the Magellanic Clouds and other Local Group galaxies. Since the release of Hipparcos data about a decade ago, I also started to work on the distance scale in the local universe, by studying cepheids, RR Lyrae, eclipsing binaries, etc, to understand better the rungs of the cosmic distance ladder.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After having obtained my PhD degree at the Anton Pannekoek Institute with Jan van Paradijs on the topics of optical afterglows to gamma-ray bursts, eclipse mapping in accretion disks and variability surveys, I went to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics as a CfA fellow. Early 2002 the Radboud University Nijmegen decided to restart their Department of Astrophysics and appointed Jan Kuijpers as chair and myself as an assistant professor. The new department was to provide the astronomy curriculum in the physics bachelor and master, at a similar level as at the other Dutch universities offering astronomy & astrophysics, and to do scientific research. The department joined NOVA, the Dutch Research School for Astronomy as a fifth member. In October 2006 I took over as chair of the department, which currently hosts four permanent staff members. My research is focused on the Galactic population of compact binaries and to enable this research I am very strongly involved in the European Galactic Plane surveys to map, for the first time ever, the plane of our Milky Way in optical colours, as well as in the X-Shooter spectrograph for the Very Large Telescope. With both projects starting to produce science at full steam in 2008/2009 this is a very exciting time.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest for astronomy dates back to my elementary school years, when my teacher used to show us beautiful images of the Solar system. I studied Physics at the University of Milano in Italy and chose to focus on the dynamics of star clusters for my master degree. The admiration for the work of Simon Portegies Zwart brought me to Amsterdam for my PhD, where I learned the art of numerical simulations. I then moved to Rochester for my first postdoc to work with David Merritt on the dynamics of galactic nuclei.

(November 2008)

M. Atakan Gurkan

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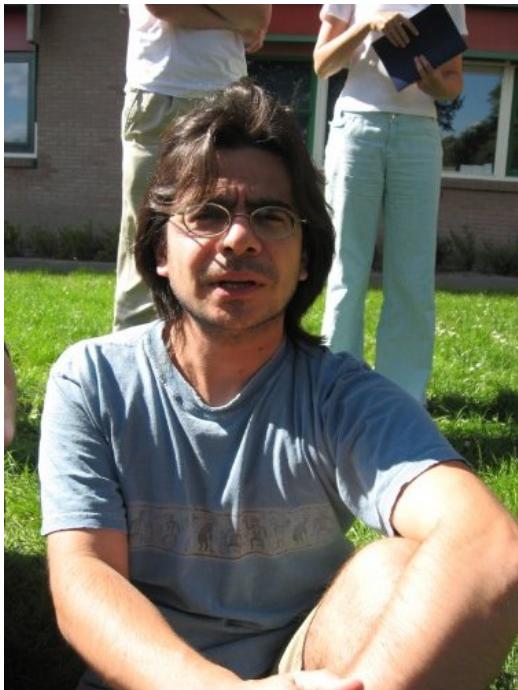
SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As far back as I can remember, I had a love for mathematics. In time, I also developed an interest in physics and chemistry, but my life took a turn when I was admitted to Ankara Science Lycee, after secondary school. This is the place where I first looked at the Moon and the Planets through a real telescope, and in the second semester of my first year, to the question of our maths teacher "What do you want to be when you grow up?", I gave the answer "Neutrino cosmologist!" I had no idea what that meant back then, but it sounded really cool; years later, it still does.

After high school, I entered the Physics Department of Middle East Technical University. At the end of my undergraduate studies, I realized that I had nothing better to do than to go on with academia. I was very impressed by Ali Alpar's quantum mechanics lectures, so when I needed to choose a Master's project, I decided to work with him, on neutron star physics. Later on, I went to Northwestern University in the United States, to work with James Sauls (who is actually a condensed matter physicist) on neutron star interiors, for a Ph.D. degree. However, things did not go as expected, and I changed my thesis topic and advisor on my fourth year. I started working with Fred Rasio, on computational star cluster dynamics. Completing my studies took another three years, most of which was spent in front of a computer rather than behind a telescope.

After spending seven years in the US, I wanted to come back to Europe. Amsterdam was a natural choice, as it is the most significant centre for stellar dynamics in Europe, thanks to the group of Simon Portegies Zwart. I applied for a European Union Fellowship, which was granted, and it allowed me to spend my past two years in API. Recently I was granted an NWO Fellowship that will allow me to continue to stay here for another year. Then, I will be in Leiden Observatory for two years, but I plan to keep a strong relationship with API.

(November 2008)



Sjoerd R. Hardeman

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† 7 July 2011



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I spend the first 18 years of my life in Hengelo, where I went to primary and secondary school. At the age of 18, I moved to Amsterdam to start studying physics and astronomy at the UvA. I obtained my kandidaats in Physics and Astronomy in 2005 and Master's in Theoretical Physics and Astronomy in 2007. In 2008, I've started a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics at the Lorentz Institute of the University of Leiden.

Besides my study, I have spent and am still spending way too much time on my great hobby rowing at rowing club Skøll. Having done it myself actively during my youth and first year in college (freshmen's eight), after that I went into organizing rowing races and coaching others. Having spent 4 years on coaching junior men, currently I am involved in coaching a freshmen's eight.

I learned to love Astronomy via the youth association for astronomy, the JWG. I have spent many good weeks on meetings and summer camps from this club, and still assist this club in organizing activities.

(November 2008)

Olga Hartoog

<p>MSc 2010 – API O.E.Hartoog@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A photograph of Olga Hartoog, a young woman with curly brown hair and glasses, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace. In the background, there is a whiteboard with some writing and a window.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Astronomy always felt like a very natural choice for me. Of course it is a nice and interesting application of physics, but there is more. Something special. It may be the fact that, since we know so little, there is so much room for fantasy: that reality sometimes turns out to be more fantastic than all the crackpot theories together. Or maybe it is because astronomy is so extremely well suited to explain and discuss among non-specialist, or around a campfire under a clear starry sky. It is not so difficult to let other people share in our love and interest for things that are far, big, hot, fast, massive, luminous, dense or any combination of these extremes - or their opposites!

While following the bachelor's programme in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam, I had the opportunity to see the Anton Pannekoek institute from the inside by doing my second years and bachelor's project on an astronomical subject. Even at that level, students are already part of the community. I liked the research topics, the atmosphere, and the people very much, so I decided to do my master's in Astronomy here as well. This I finished in 2010. In December of that year I started as a PhD student under supervision of Lex and Ralph. My business is to study the structure and evolution of galaxies from an observational point of view, for example with help of gamma-ray burst afterglow spectra.

So far I have already had the pleasure to experience many exciting aspects of being an astronomer including traveling to universities abroad, visiting conferences, teaching and observing at impressive facilities like the VLT. I am looking forward to continue my research and widen my skills in this highly inspiring, yet relaxed environment.

(September 2011)



Brynmor Haskell

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Postdoc since 2010 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As an undergraduate I studied Physics in Pisa and worked for my Master's thesis on gravitational waves (tesi di Laurea) in Rome with Valeria Ferrari. After graduating I moved to Southampton in the UK for a PhD under the supervision of Nils Andersson. I then stayed in Southampton for a postdoc, and continued to work on neutron star structure. During this period I was a long term visitor of both the Institute Henri Poincaré in Paris and the Department of Physics of the University of Milan. I am currently a Marie Curie Fellow at the API, where I am working with Anna Watts' group.

(September 2011)

Martin Heemskerk

MSc 1988 – API PhD 1994 – API M.H.M.Heemskerk@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands	 A portrait photograph of Martin Heemskerk, a young man with light brown hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My first acquaintances with astronomy were the "Teleac" courses on television. Initially they were mainly about the American and Russian space missions. Besides history, they covered the latest findings about the planets in our solar system. In a later course called "Modern Astronomy" several astrophysical phenomena and objects were discussed. After seeing one of the episodes, I decided I wanted to know more about binary stars. Therefore in 1982 I started studying astronomy at the "Anton Pannekoek" Institute in Amsterdam. This was the place to be for binary stars research. For my masters I reduced observations of LMC X-4 and wrote a program to analyze its optical light curve. The main problem was to take into account the effects of the precession accretion disk in this binary system on the optical light curve. During my masters I went to Chili twice for observations with the "Dutch Telescope" (92 cm). I was very lucky that I observed the cataclysmic variable TV Col going into an outburst twice in one week. TV Col hadn't shown such outbursts in the years before. After graduating in 1988 I started a more theoretical PhD, also at the "Anton Pannekoek" institute. I studied the stability of gaseous discs around stars. This included the studies of the transport of energy and angular momentum via waves by global non-axisymmetric modes; the growth of an instability in a self-gravitating disc as a mechanism to make binary stars and predicting the properties of an instability in a disc around a fast rotating Be star, showing up as variations in asymmetric emission line profiles coming from the disc. Our model predicted that such an instability in the disc around a Be star moves through the disc in the same direction as the gas moves in the disc. This was confirmed by observations of the variability of line profiles of emission lines from such discs. After getting my PhD in 1994 I took a course to become familiar with relational databases, fourth generation computer languages (e.g. Sq, pl/Sq) and tools to build and develop database applications for companies.

In 1995 I worked for Usoft, a company that make one of these tools. After discovering the ten rules of life (1 - have a lighting candle on the table, 2 - be yourself, 3 - share, you know the other ones...), I went back to the "Anton Pannekoek" institute. Since 1995 I am working as a scientific software engineer, comparable with the character "The Wolf" from the movie "Pulp Fiction". To make things clear, I am not a system administrator ;-)

(September 2011)



Saskia Hekker

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PhD 2007 – Leiden Observatory
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After five+ wonderful years at the Delft University of Technology, in which I studied Applied Physics, I graduated in the Fluid dynamics group of Professor Hanjalic. After that I found a PhD position in Astronomy at the Leiden Observatory on a project concerning radial velocity variability in red-giant stars. Under the inspiring supervision of Ignas Snellen and Conny Aerts (Leuven, Nijmegen), I started to work in the field of asteroseismology in which I am still active. Following my PhD I worked as a postdoc at the Royal Observatory of Belgium and at the University of Birmingham, UK. In January 2011, I started as a Veni-fellow at the Anton Pannekoek Institute.

(September 2011)

Pierre Hendrix

MSc started 2011 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started with my A&A master study only a few weeks ago, but i already feel at home at the API. I am looking forward to all the opportunities that await me, such as the upcoming La Palma project and working with the huge telescope on the roof of the university. My interest in physics awakened when i (gradually) noticed that the concepts we use to describe the world we live in stem from everyday experience, but need to be revised. Although a theoretical approach might get you far and working in a laboratory yields valuable information, i am mainly interested in (observational) astrophysics. Since i only have (very) limited experience with observing, i hope to learn in the next two years how to use our universe as a large laboratory and playground, armed with a telescope.

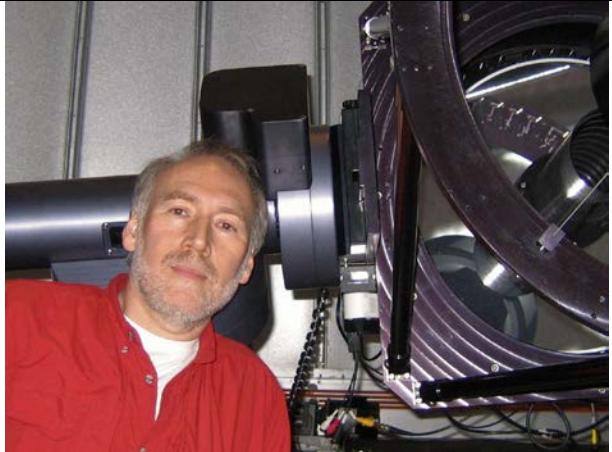
(September 2011)

Huib Henrichs

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

At the age of 15 I constructed my first telescope at home in Haarlem with lenses borrowed from my fathers' photographic cameras. I went to the UvA in 1968. I liked observing the night sky as a hobby, but never considered being an astronomer as a serious job, even after I completed in 1976 both doctoral exams in experimental physics (UV spectroscopy at the Zeeman laboratory) and astronomy (cum laude) at the UvA.

It was Ed van den Heuvel who immensely inspired me to become an astronomer and with whom I completed a PhD in 1982 on Massive Stars & X-ray Pulsars. With a Niels Stensen fellowship I went to JILA, Boulder Colorado for two years to work with Peter Conti and the late John P. Cox, which significantly expanded my horizon. My research on variable winds of massive stars with the IUE satellite was extremely successful, which still continues until today. During my following 5-year NWO Christiaan en Constantijn Huygens fellowship I went for two years to the Universitäts Sternwarte in Munich to work with Rolf Kudritzki in his very inspiring institute. I returned to Amsterdam in 1991.

My main current interest is in massive stars, including pulsations, winds and in particular magnetic fields since my discovery in 1998 of the magnetic field in beta Cephei at the Pic du Midi, a really exceptional place for observing. In the mean time I guided more than 20 undergraduate students (Lex Kaper was one of them), and supervised 8 PhD's (Lex was the first one), and enjoyed very much teaching the solar system and giving popular lectures. Since 2002 I also teach at the Free University, first as an adjunct professor, but since 2004 as a (part-time) full professor, which is a nice combination.

Since the last 15 years I have been working on the design and implementation of the now-called Anton Pannekoek Observatory, the most advanced observatory in the Netherlands, with a nearly professional environment. To build such an observatory, the experience obtained during my sabbatical year in Nijmegen in 2007 with Paul Groot and Jan Kuijpers was crucial. This stay even inspired me to compose the Dwarf Planets for piano, which I played in Nemo during the International Year of Astronomy and in Felix Meritis, an exciting experience indeed.

(October 2011)

Godelieve C.M.J. Hensberge

PhD 1977 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in 1950 in The Flemish part of Belgium. I started my university studies in Mathematics at the University of Antwerp, where I attended an introductory course in Astronomy of a very enthusiastic lecturer, Prof. Velghel, the then director of the Royal Observatory at Ukkel, Brussels. From then on, I selected as many astronomy courses as was allowed for, among which the excellent courses given by Profs. Kees de Jager and Ed van den Heuvel. I will always remain very thankful to Ed, who offered me a PhD position under his supervision at Utrecht University, after I got my Licentiate in Mathematics in 1972.

I then took part in the most exiting years of research of X-ray binaries after the launch of the first X-ray satellite UHURU. This resulted in 1977 in my PhD thesis “Optical and Ultraviolet Studies of X-ray Binaries and Magnetic Stars” at the University of Amsterdam. From then on, I enjoyed the privilege of witnessing the growth of the institute to the scientifically very productive and at the same time warm-hearted API, dividing my time in research on X-ray binaries, teaching duties and family matters.

(September 2011)



Wim Hermsen

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PhD 1980 – Leiden University

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Graduated from University of Amsterdam in Physics, 1972
Doctor in Physics in 1980, Leiden University; title thesis "Gamma-Ray Sources"
(Promotor H.C. van de Hulst)
Project Scientist Cosmic Ray Working Group, Leiden, July 1972 – June 1987
Deputy Director Laboratory for Space Research, Head Astrophysics Division, Leiden, July 1987 – February 1994
Deputy Head High-Energy Astrophysics Division of the Space Research Organization Netherlands (SRON), Utrecht; Space Science Coordinator SRON,
March 1994 – August 2000
Head High-Energy Astrophysics Division SRON from September 2000
Professor in Space Research, Astronomical Institute "Anton Pannekoek", University of Amsterdam, from January 2004

The early scientific work of Wim Hermsen was focused on high-energy gamma-ray astrophysics. From 1972 till 1985 he was Co-Investigator on the successful ESA gamma-ray mission **COS-B**. He derived the first catalogues of high-energy gamma-ray sources, the COS-B 1CG and 2CG catalogues, containing e.g. the first quasar detected at high gamma-rays, 3C273, and introducing the enigma of the unidentified high-energy gamma-ray sources. Furthermore, COS-B produced the first map of the Milky Way in high-energy gamma rays.

After the COS-B mission, he was resp. Co-Investigator and Co-Principle Investigator for the imaging Compton Telescope **COMPTEL**, aboard NASA's Great Observatory the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory **CGRO** (1978 – 2001). COMPTEL provided e.g. the first complete all-sky maps in the MeV gamma-ray band, a first catalogue of galactic and extra-galactic continuum and gamma-ray-line emitting sources. Hermsen reported the first detection of quasars at MeV energies, namely 3C273 and 3C279. From 1994 he is one of three European Mission Scientists for ESA's gamma-ray mission **INTEGRAL**.

With his SRON colleague Kuiper he discovered hard non-thermal X-ray emission from Anomalous X-ray Pulsars, one of two manifestations of the so-called magnetars.

Wim Hermsen has served the Committee on Space Research (**COSPAR**) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) since 1988 in various capacities. E.g., he has been member of the COSPAR Bureau 1990-1998, Vice-President of COSPAR 2002-2010, and as Chair of the Finance Committee he remains member of the Bureau since 2010.

(September 2011)



Jason Hessels

PhD 2006 – McGill University
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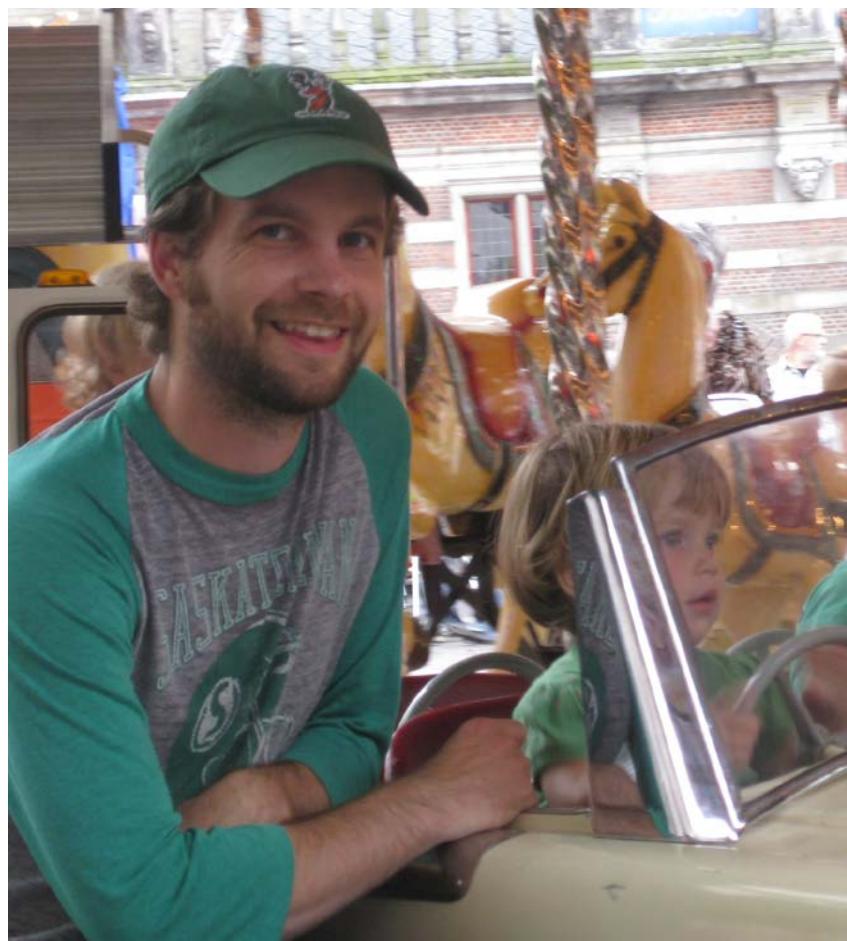
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After completing a PhD at McGill University, I left the fair city of Montreal in late 2006 in order to pursue my passions for both cheese and astronomy in the Netherlands. It turned out to be an excellent choice. The API was my gateway into Dutch astronomy, and I worked there from 2006-2008 as a postdoc under the very capable supervision of Ben Stappers and Michiel van der Klis. I made lots of dear friends at the API, but soon, however, I found myself tiring of life in the big city and moved up north for a position as a Staff Astronomer at ASTRON, the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy in Dwingeloo. Three years later, I'm still toiling away in the LOFAR salt mines, but still loving it. You can still find me at the API most Fridays, where I'll either be talking transients with LOFAR or working with students.

(September 2011)



Ed van den Heuvel

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I got interested in astronomy in my highschool days thanks to a little popular book from the 1920s by Utrecht astronomy professor Nijland. It was given to me by my former primary school teacher Juf Joon who was clearing out her loft. Lucky enough we were with four boys in my highschool class interested in science, and the wonderful astronomy lessons of Miss van Rijckevorsel at my Amersfoort HBS (a 5-year highschool) stimulated us to continue as students in physics and astronomy at Utrecht University, where we started in 1957. Here we got inspired by the wonderful lectures of Professor M. Minnaert, a most wonderful teacher, whom I still see as my example for life. I was his last master student before he retired in 1963. For my PhD I continued with Professors Kees de Jager and Anne Underhill. The year 1968 was special: Anne Mike Remmen and I got married, a few month later I obtained my PhD (on a study of stellar rotation and peculiar A stars), we moved to California, where I got a postdoc position with Peter Conti at Lick Observatory (UC Santa Cruz), and later that year our daughter Marleen was born. After a fantastic year at Lick, where I learned to observe with large telescopes, we returned in the fall of 1969 to Utrecht, where I was on the staff until 1974, when I moved to Amsterdam. In the meantime, in 1970, I had succeeded Professor Kees de Jager part-time professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, which lasted until 1980. (In my PhD time I had held a half-time assistantship in Brussels with de Jager, the other half of my job being in Utrecht). Everything moved fast in the early seventies. Coming to Amsterdam, I was extremely happy with the people there, my dedicated colleague Pik Sin The, and the Amsterdam graduate students Jan van Paradijs and Roelf Takens (an eternal graduate student and a genius). Godelieve Hammerschlag came with me from Utrecht and she, together with Jan van Paradijs (after his PhD on cool stars) formed the start of the X-ray group, while Gertjan Savonije and I started with stellar evolution in Amsterdam. All what came after that is history. I probably stayed on far too long as a director – for 31 years. I am very thankful that in all these years, with the exception of a 12-year break, Lidewijde Stolte was my great support. It is wonderful to see how the institute has been faring under my successors.

(September 2011)

Beike Hiemstra

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

"Beike in a nutshell": Since I was a small girl of 12 years old, I have known that I wanted to study Astronomy, and especially the exotic objects like black holes and neutron stars had my particular curiosity. After the many years of high school, at the age of 21, I finally started my study Physics and Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam. Everyday, I studied during the hours in the train in between Eindhoven (my home town) and Amsterdam. Although the study was not always easy and it did not smoothly agree with my working activities, I finished my bachelor and master studies within 5 years (cum laude). Following my 'dreams', I gladly started my Ph.D. research in Groningen in November 2007, in which I study the high-energetic characteristics of black holes and neutron stars in our own Galaxy.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, where I got a Masters Degree in International Economic Relations. After this I worked for many years in the financial industry. Life took me by surprise to Canada, where I discovered the academic world as well. It was a very interesting change and experience. I had the opportunity to work for two different universities at their Astronomy Departments and I really enjoyed it.

After 8 years in Canada I moved back to Europe and came to live in the Netherlands. At first I thought it was time to go back to the real world, but I quickly realized that this is not really what I wanted. I was looking for a nice work environment and I wanted to be surrounded by people who are excited about what they are doing.

And this I found at the Astronomical Institute Anton Pannekoek. I came to API in spring 2010 and since the beginning I felt at home. I brought with me the great experience from working in a scientific environment in Canada and I combined it with the new challenge of polishing my Dutch skills. Everyone has been fantastic and I'm really enjoying the "API family", which I'm hoping to be part of for the years to come.

(October 2011)

Sake J. Hogeveen

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Sake J. Hogeveen (1952) holds a BSc in Electronics and Telecommunications, and obtained his PhD in Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam in 1991, after an inspiring period of working with Ed van den Heuvel and Jan van Paradijs. Since 1992 he is working as a science software engineer at the Astronomical Institute of Utrecht University.

Initially, he was mainly concerned with information processing, developing software. But rapid developments in information and communication technology (ICT), in the early 1990s, got him involved in scientific information resources as well. Organizing and arranging scientific information resources and processing facilities, into a transparent and efficient working environment for scientists, currently poses the main challenge in his work. About these matters, he wrote several publications.

He is of Frisian origin, and likes jazz.

(November 2008)

Alan G.S. Hollander

MSc 1991 – API
PhD 1998 – Van der Waals-Zeeman Institute, UvA
MBA 2003 – Rotterdam School of Management

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The Netherlands

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

It was my interest in cosmology that led to my registration in 1984 at the University of Amsterdam as an astronomy student. A number of wonderful years followed, with as highlight a working visit to the ESO La Silla observatory in Chile. Notwithstanding several distractions I managed to graduate in 1991 under Jan van Paradijs with a thesis based on Walraven photometry of cataclysmic variables. The results were published in a number of papers, partly written during a brief stint as a physics lab assistant. Throughout this period I also enjoyed popularizing astronomy at the planetarium of Amsterdam. Judging astronomy as somewhat too theoretical for my talents, I changed my interests to experimental physics. I had again a wonderful time at the Van der Waals-Zeeman Institute where, supported by the profound wisdom of Klaas Prins, I studied the molecular motion of condensed matter using nuclear magnetic resonance. This led to my PhD in 1998.

Wanting to break away from an academic career and in fact achieve more tangible results I joined Nortel Networks in 1999 as an optical fiber network architect. The rise and decline of the Internet bubble has offered me an interesting insight in the dynamics of the telecommunications industry. In this period I persuaded my former graduate student Imke Modder to join me professionally, as well as personally as future wife. While working on exciting international projects I obtained my MBA in 2003 from the Rotterdam School of Management. Still working at Nortel, I recently changed from a Benelux technical sales leader role to being responsible for the global pricing strategy for the WAN product portfolio. However, all these achievements pale in comparison of trying to be a good and proud father for my daughter Noor and son Luit, currently 4 and 7 years old, respectively.

(November 2008)

Frank van der Hooft

MSc 1993

PhD 1998 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I graduated in October 1998 on a PhD thesis on black hole X-ray transients. Although I enjoyed the period of research and being part of the astronomy community, I decided to make the step to the business world. Therefore, I joined McKinsey & Company in Amsterdam as a management consultant. This was a great and stimulating introduction into a new and different world. The experience of being part of a temporary, very professional team, which is solving a difficult objective in only a few weeks time, was as being in a roller-coaster! The speed, diversity and impact; there could not be a greater difference to everything I was used to in the academic world.

After a few hectic years at McKinsey, I joined utility company Nuon. Again a period of learning and new experiences, since I was not an energy expert. But right from the start at Nuon I was involved in all kind of projects, with different levels of responsibility. To name a few: I headed the team which acquired a medium size power production plant, was responsible for the wholesale of district heat in the Netherlands and have been involved in all major restructuring projects of Nuon during the last few years. In my last function I was responsible for splitting the company in two new companies!

Is everything so great in business compared to astronomy? No, at times it can be extremely hectic and impactful, my current work has much less international focus than what I was used to in astronomy, and I truly miss the observing nights at telescopes in Chile! All in all, I do not regret the step into the business world, and still enjoy each single day 10 years of academic training and research!

(November 2008)

Leo J. van den Horn

PhD 1982 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As a student of theoretical physics at UvA, my interest in astrophysics was strongly stimulated by the young professor Ed van den Heuvel. This proved decisive for the focus of my PhD research on the relativistic kinetic theory of neutrinos in stellar collapse. It was carried out at both the Institute for Theoretical Physics (ITFA) and API, and in line with its interdisciplinary nature, my doctorate (1982) featured two 'promotores', theoretical physicist S.R. de Groot (deceased) as well as astrophysicist E.P.J. van den Heuvel. After subsequent research in the USA (Stony Brook, Yale), and back at ITFA through the FOM Foundation, I became associate professor at the UvA in 1987, the position I hold today. I was closely involved in setting up the Center for High Energy Astrophysics, a collaborative effort between astronomers and theoretical physicists at API, ITFA and NIKHEF, which from a present perspective can be seen as an important stepping stone for the much broader current and future focus on astroparticle physics. In the past decade, part of my curricular activities were directed towards shaping a double 'doctoraal', now double master track, in the Physics and Astronomy & Astrophysics programmes. This has attracted, and continues to attract, a substantial number of highly motivated and talented students (the 100th API-doctor among them!).

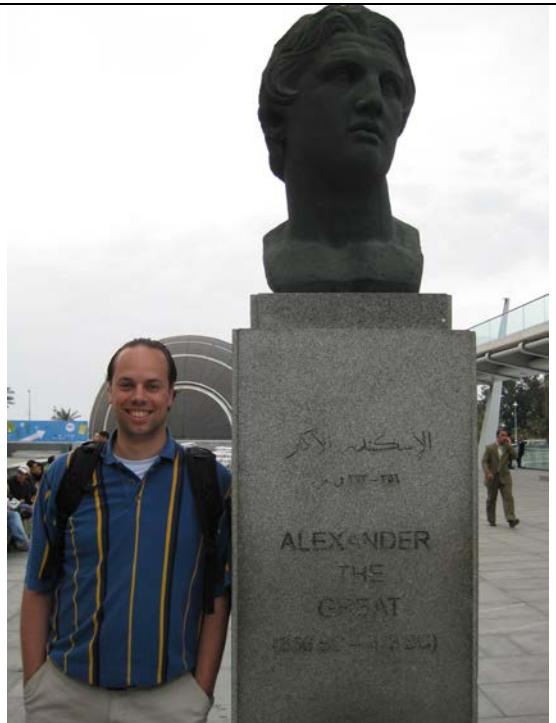
(November 2008)

Alexander van der Horst

MSc 2003 – API
PhD 2007 – API
Postdoc 2007–2001 – Huntsville

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Science Park 904
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be an astronomer. I was reading books about astronomy from a young age, and when I was 8 years old my parents drove me every Saturday morning to the public observatory Simon Stevin for an astronomy introduction course. From that point on I knew for sure that I wanted to study astronomy, and I started at the University of Amsterdam in 1997. I enjoyed astronomy and theoretical physics, and graduated in both in 2003 with a Master's thesis on gamma-ray burst blast waves and broadband modeling. Ralph Wijers gave me a chance to continue this work when he offered me a PhD position, and under his supervision I started to branch out to radio observations of gamma-ray bursts and other transients. After I had successfully defended my thesis in 2007 (number 100 at the API), I moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where I became a NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellow in the Fermi Gamma-ray Burst Monitor team. After the excitement of being part of a new scientific instrument in space and four years of studying different transient sources at the extremes of the electromagnetic spectrum, I recently moved 'back home' to the API to continue my scientific quest with the possibilities offered by the new LOFAR radio telescope.

(October 2011)



Joop W. Hovenier

MSc 1963 – Free University Amsterdam
PhD 1970 – University of Leiden

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Science Park 904
1098 XH Amsterdam
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

1955 - 1963: Free University, studies in Physics and Mathematics, and University of Amsterdam, studies in Astronomy

1963 - 1970: University of Leiden, studies in Astronomy and PhD research

1970: Thesis entitled "Polarized light in planetary atmospheres"
Thesis adviser: Prof. Dr. H. C. van de Hulst

1963- 2001: employed by the Free University as, successively, research assistant, associate professor and full professor in astronomy

1999 - 2001: employed by the University of Amsterdam as full professor in Astronomy

2001 till present: professor emeritus working at the institute "Anton Pannekoek" of the University of Amsterdam

(November 2008)

Daniela Huppenkothen

<p>MSc 2010 – API PhD started 2010 – API</p> <p>d.huppenkothen@googlemail.com</p> <p>Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A head-and-shoulders portrait of Daniela Huppenkothen. She is a young woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a black top. She is smiling at the camera.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I came to Amsterdam from Germany, where I did my undergraduate degree in Geosciences and Astrophysics at Jacobs University Bremen. Upon completion of my degree, I was sure I'd rather study stars than the Earth, so following a recommendation, I enrolled for the Master's programme in Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam, taught by the API staff. I enjoyed my time here so much, especially the great atmosphere, that in fact I decided to stay for my PhD, working under Anna Watts' supervision on magnetar crust breaking models and timing analysis of recurrent flares of Soft Gamma Repeaters. I still very much enjoy working in astrophysics, and am still equally happy to be part of the API.

(September 2011)

Frederik Huthoff

MSc 2001 - API
PhD 2007 – University of Twente

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Department of Water Engineering &
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As part of his Master degree in Astronomy, Fredrik conducted a research project on the formation of wind bow shocks around runaway stars at the Astronomical Institute 'Anton Pannekoek'. Also, as part of the BIS student-exchange programm, he was involved in a project on cosmology at the School of Physics at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

After graduation from university, Fredrik worked for a year as software developer at Net,Fotworks in Haarlem, before starting in 2002 as consultant river management at HKV Consultants in Lelystad. In cooperation with HKV Consultants Fredrik conducted a Ph.D. research on modeling of hydraulic resistance in rivers at the Department of Water Engineering and Management (Faculty of Engineering Technology) at the University of Twente, Enschede, from August 2003 to August 2007. Following the Ph.D. defense in October 2007, Fredrik continues to work as consultant at HKV, and as assistant professor at the University of Twente.

(November 2008)

Rosina Cornelia Iping

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

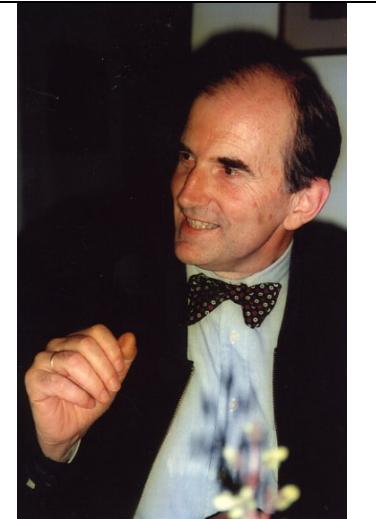
Rosina Iping is currently a research associate at the Catholic University of America, working at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt MD. She is the PI on several FUSE and Spitzer proposals. She received her Doctoral Degree in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 1989.

Area of expertise: Modeling of X-ray Binaries with Advisors Ed van den Heuvel & Jan van Paradijs(UVA). From August 1990 until August 1999 she taught Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Meteorology, and Geology first as an Assistant Professor and since August 1995 as a tenured Associate Professor with the University of Guam in the Pacific. In 1980, she was Instructor of Physics, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro New Mexico, USA. From 1976-1979 she was a Teaching Assistant Physics and Astronomy with the University of Amsterdam.

Rosina Iping worked for many years with J. A. Petterson on the modeling of X-ray binary systems. Since August 1999 until 2008 she has been a member of the FUSE Science Team working on the analysis and calibration of FUSE spectra of the ISM, hot stars and planetary nebulae.

(November 2008)

Teije de Jong

<p>MSc 1968 – Leiden University PhD 1972 – Leiden University t.dejong@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A black and white photograph of Teije de Jong, a man with short hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned bow tie. He is smiling and holding a small bouquet of flowers in his left hand.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Teije de Jong is emeritus professor of Astrophysics at the Astronomical Institute "Anton Pannekoek" of the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Educated at Leiden University he has held appointments at Leiden Observatory (the Netherlands), Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) and Space Research Organisation Netherlands of which he was Deputy Director from 1990-2001. He has held visiting positions at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (Boulder, USA), University of California (Berkeley, USA), Université Joseph Fourier (Grenoble, France) and Brown University (Providence, USA). He is (co-)author of over 200 research papers. His research covers the fields of Interstellar and Circumstellar Matter, Late Stages of Stellar Evolution, Star Formation, Structure and Evolution of Galaxies and the History of Astronomy.

His present work concerns the History of Astronomy and includes the usage of ancient solar and lunar eclipses for chronological studies, dating Greek horoscopes, the interpretation of Babylonian observations of heliacal rising and setting of stars and planets, the origin and development of Babylonian lunar and planetary theories and the chronology of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt.

(September 2011)

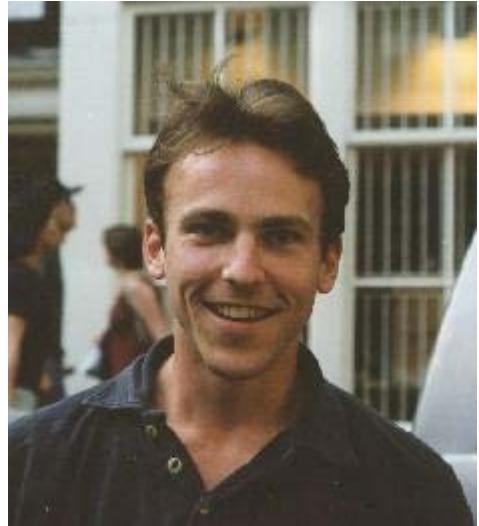


Peter G. Jonker

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PhD 2001 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After obtaining my masters degree in astronomy in Utrecht in 1997, I was offered a PhD position at the Anton Pannekoek Institute with Michiel van der Klis in 1997. After my PhD I went to Cambridge, UK on a Marie Curie grant to work for two years in the group of Andy Fabian. A Chandra Fellowship drew me to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in "the other Cambridge" as it is sometimes called. As it became more and more difficult for me and my, then girlfriend now wife, to live close together (a two hour flight from Boston to Chicago was close) we decided to move back to the Netherlands, where I started out at SRON, the Netherlands Institute for Space Research as a post-doc first, later with a Veni grant, and now with a Vidi grant and tenure track position, although I still hold via a research associateship at the CfA.

(November 2008)

Maithili Kalamkar

<p>MSc 2008 – University of Pune PhD started 2009 – API m.n.kalamkar@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands</p>	 A portrait photograph of Maithili Kalamkar. She is a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing glasses and a light-colored, patterned top. She is smiling at the camera.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I obtained my Master's degree in Physics from University of Pune, India in 2008. I worked as a lecturer and later as a Junior Research Fellow at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India till 2009. I joined as a PhD student in 2009 with Prof. Michiel van der Klis. I work on accretion disk properties in low mass X-ray binaries.

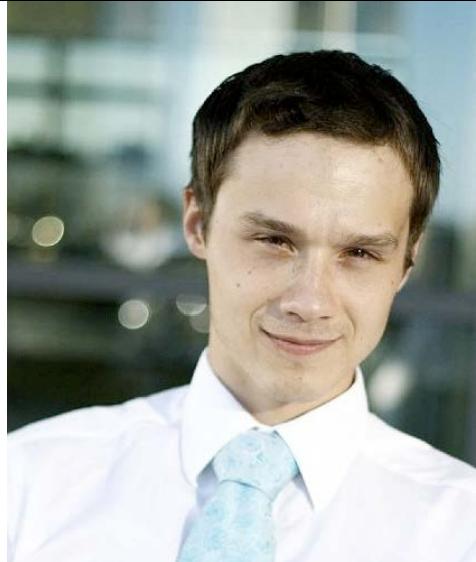
(September 2011)

Mihkel Kama

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PhD started 2008 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1984. In 2006, I obtained a Bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Tartu, and in 2008, I graduated cum laude from the Astronomy & Astrophysics programme at the University of Amsterdam, where I am presently doing my PhD research in the field of star- and planet formation.

(September 2011)

Atish Kamble

MSc 2001 – University of Mumbai
PhD 2007 – Raman Research Inst.
Postdoc 2008 – 2010 – API

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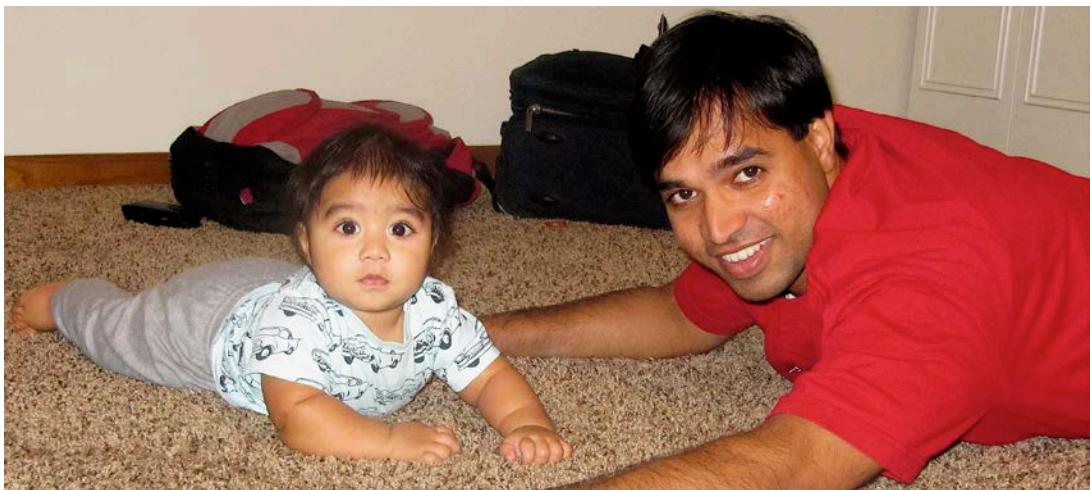
SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I came in touch with an enthusiastic group of amateur astronomers during the summer of 1993 in my home town Kalyan near Mumbai in India. What followed were starry nights, planets, a couple of comets, Milky-way and most importantly tireless reasoning for all things apparently magical - as a high-school student still, I was convinced that astrophysics is what I really wanted do! And life had been kind to me since!

After masters in physics I chose to do PhD in astrophysics at the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore under the supervision of Dipankar Bhattacharya. I landed in Amsterdam in 2008 to take up my post-doctoral fellowship with Ralph Wijers at the Anton Pannekoek Institute (API) of the University of Amsterdam. After having worked on a specific type of astronomical transient sources, I have moved across the Atlantic to work on radio transients in general with David Kaplan at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee since fall 2010.

I am in eternal love with the beautiful city of Amsterdam and the people at API. My best wishes for a long and bright future as you celebrate API's 90th B'day!

(September 2011)



Lex Kaper

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PhD 1993 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My grandfather took me by bike from Zaandam to Haarlem to visit Teyler's museum; there a large historical collection of physical experiments and fossils inspired my interest in natural sciences. On the way back we searched for fossils in the mining waste that was used to strengthen the shores of the North Sea channel. Only in the final year at high school I realized that astronomy is fitting to my broad interests; attending the lectures by Ed van den Heuvel during the first year at the UvA confirmed my choice. Then API was at the Roeterstraat with the coffee table on the 10th floor. Nicole van der Blieck and I organized one of the first alumni reunions in 1988, attended by, among many others, Peter van der Kamp who suggested in 1960 that planets orbit Barnard's star based on radial-velocity measurements. I carried out a "master project" under supervision of Huib Henrichs, who was just returned from a post-doc at JILA, Boulder, USA, and graduated in 1989. I continued my research project on "Variability of O-star winds" with Huib, Ed and Henny Lamers (Utrecht) as a PhD student (OIO). In 1991 we moved to our new building at the Kruislaan, officially opened by Ed van Thijn, the mayor of Amsterdam. In 1993 I finished my PhD at the UvA and moved to Garching near Munich for a fellowship at the European Southern Observatory Headquarters. There I became involved with the preparations for the Very Large Telescope; the VLT first light in May 1998 was my last day at ESO, and my first day as a Royal Academy fellow back at API in Amsterdam, working on massive stars: their formation, evolution and fate. I got involved with the thesis work of Paul Vreeswijk and Evert Rol (their supervisor Jan van Paradijs died in 1999) and supervised the PhD projects of Arjan Bik, Nick Cox, Thijs Kouwenhoven and Arjen van der Meer. In 2005 I got appointed as an adjunct professor at the Vrije Universiteit. Post-doc Matthew Horrobin supported my work on the new (and successful) VLT instrument X-shooter, commissioned in 2009. Currently I am involved with the PhD projects of Lucas Ellerbroek, Olga Hartoog, Frank Tramper and Julija Bagdonaitė.

(September 2011)

Ramanpreet Kaur

MSc 2003 – Guru Nanak Dev University
PhD 2009 – Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences
Postdoc since 2009 – API

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Anton Pannekoek Institute
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Physics was never one of my favorite subjects till I started working on Astrophysics. I got my first exposure to Astrophysics in 2002 when I was a master student in India which inspired me to opt the same for my doctorate also. I mainly enjoy working on multi-wavelength data of compact binaries. My first opportunity to work at the University of Amsterdam was during my PhD when I got a small project with Rudy which finally became a major part of my thesis. After finishing my thesis in India, I got a postdoc position at the University of Amsterdam in April 2009 and it continues till now.

(September 2011)

Ciska Kemper

PhD 2002 – API

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and Astrophysics
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(October 2011)

Marten H. van Kerkwijk

MSc 1988 – API

PhD 1993 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I grew up in Haarlem (The Netherlands) and obtained my MSc (1988; with Ed van den Heuvel) and PhD (1993; with Jan van Paradijs) at the University of Amsterdam. In the next years (1994-1996), I broadened my horizons as a Hubble Fellow at Caltech and, a bit briefly (1997 to mid-1998), as a postdoc at IoA. After that, I was first junior and then senior lecturer/researcher at Utrecht University. In 2003, I moved to the University of Toronto as a full professor. This allowed my wife and me to live together again (we met at Caltech), and be in a wonderful department, university, city, and country. We now have two children.

My interests focus on compact objects, stars and binaries, their structure, formation and evolution, and their use to infer fundamental physical properties. My research is based on observations, but includes interpretation, theory and numerical modelling as required. I generally try to make progress using key observations and/or physical considerations of individual, carefully selected objects. Currently, I am particularly excited by the possibilities of using neutron stars to study high-density and high field-strength physics, in conditions out of reach of terrestrial experiment (and theory, as yet), and to solve associated astronomical puzzles. At Toronto, I have also started in a new direction, in which I try to tackle problems associated with the formation of stars, in particular binary stars.

(November 2008)

Do Kester

MSc 1975 - API do@sron.nl Boslaan 64 9801 HH Zuidhorn The Netherlands	 A photograph of Do Kester, a man with glasses and a red jacket, smiling against a brick wall.	
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started out studying mathematics in Amsterdam as at that time (1967) there was no bachelors (kandidaats) in astronomy at the University of Amsterdam. After discovering that math was not really my thing (too abstract) I switched to the newly started kandidaats astronomy. In 1975 I moved to what later became SRON in Groningen, in principle to work on a PhD based on ANS data. Especially the combination of high tech tinkering and science appealed to me. However too much tinkering and too little focus did me in: I never wrote a thesis. I doodled some time in Science, Society and Philosophy. But when the opportunity came to go back to SRON to write software for the IRAS satellite I grabbed it with both hands. I never left. I am still at SRON, writing software for IRAS, then ISO and Akari and now for Herschel/HIFI. As these satellite data are very expensive my ambition is to squeeze the last bit of information out of it. Knowledge of the instruments and of the astronomical questions to be answered, need to be combined with smart and advanced algorithms. It still keeps me happily occupied. One working life lasts 4 satellites.

(November 2008)

Michiel van der Klis

PhD 1983 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Michiel van der Klis received his PhD (with Ed van den Heuvel and Johan Bleeker) at UvA in 1983. He went to work for ESA, where in 1985, using ESA's X-ray satellite EXOSAT, in the course of searching for accreting millisecond pulsars he discovered quasi-periodic oscillations (QPOs) in X-ray binary stars, for which he received the 1987 AAS Bruno Rossi Prize and the 1990 COSPAR Zeldovich Award. He returned to UvA where he became full professor in 1993 and in 1996, with NASA's Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer (RXTE), discovered the relativity-probing kiloHertz QPOs. In 1998, while visiting professor at Berkely, with Rudy Wijnands he discovered the long-predicted accreting millisecond pulsars. In 2004 he received the NWO Spinoza award, and in 2005 he succeeded Ed van den Heuvel as API director, a position he held until 2011. In the same period he chaired the Netherlands Research School for Astronomy (NOVA) and the national strategy board Nederlands Comite Astronomie. In 2010 van der Klis was installed as KNAW Academy professor, which has since allowed him to refocus his work mostly on his research activities.

(September 2011)

Peter Kok

MSc 1990

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(November 2008)

Georgi Kokotanekov

MSc started 2011 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I graduated from Jacobs University Bremen in 2011. My major was Earth and Space Sciences and I specialized in Astrophysics. I have been most interested in solar and radio astronomy but I am open to many fields of contemporary astrophysics. On top of my studies I am interested in trains and railways, as well as volleyball.

(September 2011)

Alex de Koter

PhD 1993 – Utrecht University A.dekoter@uva.nl Anton Pannekoek Institute Science Park 904 1098 XH Amsterdam The Netherlands	 A photograph of Alex de Koter giving a presentation. He is standing in front of a projection screen displaying astronomical data, including a plot of stellar mass versus radius. The text "Brott et al. (2011a)" and "M _★ Friedrich et al. (in pre" are visible on the screen. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In search for an exiting and fundamental topic for my master thesis research at Utrecht University I was fascinated by Kees de Jager to work on Hypergiants, the brightest of the bright stars. This topped the offer by Henny Lamers to study Supergiants. Henny countered though, by offering me a PhD position to research the extremely unstable Luminous Blue Variable stars.

In the year of my thesis defense, 1993, the astronomical world was in the grip of the servicing mission of Hubble Space Telescope, successfully executed in December of that year. I was offered a post-doc position at Goddard Space Flight Center in the group of Sally Heap to be one of the first to analyze the breathtaking data that came out. I vividly remember the excitement of seeing the first images of the Tarantula Nebula and of Eta Carinae's Homunculus, and the immediate realization that this would change our field forever. My life partner Ria Verberk and I lived in Washington for four years. Our oldest of two sons was born there, in hectic circumstances during the Big Blizzard of 1996.

After a long talk with Rens Waters, walking over the lava beds in Kilauea Caldera, Hawaii, I accepted an offer to become a post-doc at API and to work with him on the science harvesting of the Infrared Space Observatory mission. In 1999, about a year after my arrival in Amsterdam, I was appointed assistant professor at API. An appointment as associated professor followed in 2004. In 2008 I became professor by special appointment in astrophysics at Utrecht University.

The brightest stars keep exerting an irresistible pull and remain the leading thread in my research until this day. Using the Very Large Telescope at Paranal, Chili, and Hubble Space Telescope, I have started looking for them in distant galaxies.

(September 2011)

Thijs Kouwenhoven

MSc 2002 – Leiden University
PhD 2006 - API

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Beijing 10087
P.R. China



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in the village Kwintsheul, the Netherlands. Kwintsheul is a small village in Holland's largest agricultural areas Het Westland. During my early youth I spent most of my time in between the flowers in our greenhouses. My interest for astronomy and space exploration emerged at during the first years of elementary school.

After finishing my elementary school in Kwintsheul and secondary school in Naaldwijk, I decided to study astronomy at Leiden University (Netherlands). In Leiden I worked with Martin Bureau on an optical/HI study of the Magellanic dwarf galaxy ESO396G029, and with Ellen Verolme and Tim de Zeeuw on the globular cluster NGC5139 (omega Centauri).

Three days after obtaining my undergraduate degree I started my PhD at the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands). In Amsterdam I worked with Lex Kaper, Anthony Brown (Leiden) and Simon Portegies Zwart on recovering the Primordial Binary Population in the nearby young association Scorpius-Centaurus (Sco OB2). During the four years of my PhD I lived in Amsterdam-Bijlmer. The Bijlmermeer was a fantastic place to live! At 27 September 2006 I graduated, and started my first postdoctoral position at the University of Sheffield (UK).

My current work focuses on star clusters, from their birth (young massive star clusters) to their adolescence (globular clusters). In particular, I study the mechanisms responsible for the dissolution of young star clusters (infant mortality). I mostly work with Richard de Grijs and Simon Goodwin.

(November 2008)

Sebastiaan Krijt

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PhD started 2011 – Leiden University
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The Netherlands



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

During my high-school years in Voorburg I discovered I was interested in exact sciences rather than say musicals or experimental dance. This came as no surprise to my parents, who often remind me of the 'experiments' I conducted around the age of 6, testing the strength of glass objects with a hammer. The astronomy courses I took during the physics bachelor made it clear to me I wanted to get (or stay) in astronomy. At the end of 2010 I finished my thesis under the supervision of Carsten Dominik, and went on to start a PhD under Xander Tielens in Leiden early 2011.

(September 2011)

Fieke Kroon

kroonfe@gmail.com

Secretary at API
March 1 2000 - August 31 2005



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After my studies in French Language and Literature (finished in 1992) I was a French teacher at Highschool for 13 years. In 2000 I longed for more and other experiences than 'school'. Next to my work as a teacher, I found this fantastic part-time job at the secretariat of API. It was a wonderful time; I had adorable colleagues at the secretariat, learned lots about astronomy from the inspiring staff and had much fun with students, PhD's and Postdocs. In the meantime I studied museology and found indeed a job after finishing my studies in June 2005. Now I work as 'educator' in the oldest museum of the Netherlands: Teylers Museum in Haarlem with great enthusiasm, but I'll always remember my five years at API with warmth.

(September 2011)

Chael J. H. Kruip

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After completing my BSc in Physics at the Vrije Universiteit I was looking for a master that would allow me to keep involved with physics in general, not 'just' quantum mechanics or optics etc. I'm still indebted to fellow student and friend Nathalie Degenaar for pointing out that a master in Astronomy was the thing I was actually looking for. After two pleasant years at API I concluded my Masters thesis on the mass and composition of dust in the Homunculus nebula around Eta Carinae, supervised by Alex de Koter and Michiel Min. During the last stages of this research, Ralph Wijers introduced me to Vincent Icke with whom I am currently working on my PhD project that focuses on observational consequences of radiation hydrodynamics.

(November 2008)

Nicole van de Kuinder

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Zo rond m'n 44ste dacht ik, "ik heb een beetje genoeg van dat zangles geven, het lijkt me best leuk om er wat bij te verdienen en wat collega's te hebben. Via een uitzendbureau werd ik een tijdelijk part-time secretaresse bij het Anton Pannenkoek Instituut. Ik heb er nooit spijt van gehad. Het was een ontzettend fijne tijd en mijn privéleven is er ook erg door verrijkt. Na deze periode heb ik nog een tijd als secretaresse voor een advocatenkantoor gewerkt, maar dat vond ik als beroepsgroep gewoonweg vreselijke mensen. Inmiddels ben ik weer aan het zingen geslagen en heb snabbels met mijn vijfmansband en geef vocal workshops in the UK. Ik woon samen met een sterrenkundige, die ik destijs heb leren kennen in Amsterdam. Dank je wel Anton Pannenkoek!

(October 2011)

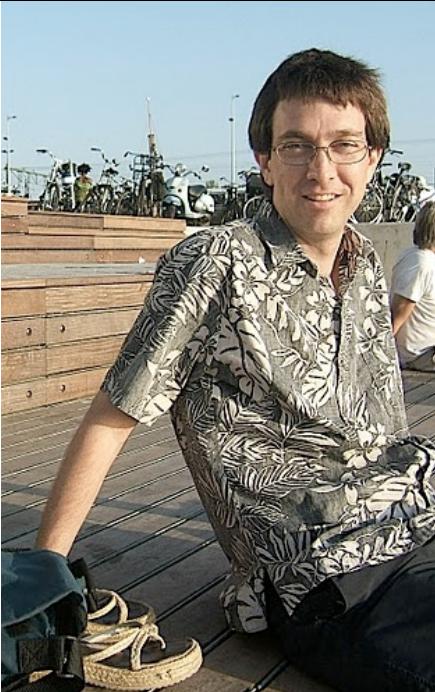
Casey J. Law

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised in Hawaii, home to dark skies and some of the largest optical telescopes in the world. In my research at Boston University, the Center for Astrophysics, and Northwestern University, I had an opportunity to work with the Chandra X-ray Observatory, Very Large Array, and Green Bank Telescope. The latter is ten times bigger than the biggest optical telescopes back home, which is part of what makes radio telescopes such exciting places to do research. My time at UvA was spent working on LOFAR, an instrument that is amazing for its flexibility and computational capacity, rather than its size. Now I work at UC Berkeley and focus my research on fast radio transients and polarimetry. I also occasionally brew beer and play football (soccer).

(September 2011)

Joeri van Leeuwen

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Joeri van Leeuwen is a science staff member at ASTRON, and affiliated with API. After a PhD in theoretical astrophysics from Utrecht and a stint as a world-record rower, Van Leeuwen was a post-doc focusing on pulsar observing with the GBT and Arecibo at UBC Vancouver. From 2007-2008 he was a Stensel fellow at UC Berkeley, where he built a pulsar machine for the Allen Telescope. Van Leeuwen works on radio pulsars and transients: populations studies, emission physics, and surveys with LOFAR, WSRT and basically all other telescopes he gets his hands on.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Learning about natural sciences, mathematics and geometry was one of the few things I found interesting while in secondary education. Born and raised in Athens, this was also the city where I got my Bachelor degree, in Physics (specialization Astrophysics). During these studies I got my first exposure to research, realizing it was a stimulating process that I could, but also wanted to do. This realization led me to Amsterdam where, as a member of the "Anton Pannekoek Institute", I obtained my Masters in Astronomy & Astrophysics in 2008. Since then I have been pursuing my PhD under the supervision of Ralph Wijers.

(September 2011)

Rik van Lieshout

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Before Rik came to the API, he studied at the University College Utrecht, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in 2008, and spent a few months at the Braunschweig University of Technology, Germany, to work on cometary activity. He completed his master's at the API in 2011 with a thesis on debris disk modelling, and continues to work there as a PhD student, under the supervision of Carsten Dominik.

(September 2011)

Dave J.P. Lommen

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in astronomy started when I received "Mijn eerste boek over het HEELAL". I must have been about eight years old. It was an exciting time, with Chriet Titulaer presenting "Wondere wereld" on television, and Wubbo Ockels going into space as the first Dutch astronaut.

In high school, it was clear that I should go on in either astronomy or aviation and space sciences. However, regular university didn't immediately work for me, and I ended up a working man, studying computer science on the side. After four years, I went to the Universiteit van Amsterdam after all. Starting out with mathematics and physics, I graduated five years later as an astronomer. Michiel van der Klis and Ed van den Heuvel taught me how to do science, Rens Waters got me interested in hands-on observational astronomy and young stellar objects, and I'm now doing my Ph.D. under the supervision of Ewine van Dishoeck at Leiden University.

Being a Ph.D. student can have many unexpected benefits, and while on a school in Manchester, I met a cute little Singaporean girl. Not two years later, I convinced her to come to the Netherlands, and since May of this year, Cara Chew is my wife.

Before, during, and after my studies at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, I have always been an athlete. While working on my Master's thesis with regular API guest Lev Yungelson, I still managed to train for the Amsterdam Marathon, which I finished in 2:40. During my Ph.D., I ran a few more marathons, and then went on to do triathlons as well.

(November 2008)

Jacco Th. van Loon

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in a small village at the Eastern fringes of The Netherlands, but moved with my parents to (North) Holland when I was still a toddler. Despite a failed attempt to build a rocket to fly me and my friend to Pluto, my heart and mind were lost forever to the wonderful realms of outer space. After having graduated in Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam many years later, and having spent some time on my own walking in the Andes, I went on to have a great time in Garching bei Muenchen as an ESO student before returning to Amsterdam to obtain my Philosopher's Degree, in 1999 - the most important year of my life in which I also moved to delightful Cambridge (UK), obtained my driving license (in the UK), and above all married my beloved wife Joana. We took the opportunity to move together to Keele University, in 2001, where I started as a lecturer and now am a reader. We live in a beautiful village in the peaceful Cheshire countryside; we are frequented by a number of cats none of which is ours.

(November 2008)

Jan Lub

MSc 1971 - API PhD 1977 – Leiden University lub@strw.leidenuniv.nl www.strw.leidenuniv.nl/~lub/ Sterrewacht Leiden Niels Bohrweg 2 2333CA Leiden The Netherlands	 A portrait photograph of Jan Lub, a man with a full grey beard and glasses, wearing a suit and tie.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

As an highschool student I became fascinated with astrophysics especially due to Fred Hoyle's 'Planeten, Sterren Melkwege', and this fascination with the development and fate of stars and galaxies endures to the present day. After finishing Gymnasium Beta at what was then called the 'Cartesius Lyceum' in Amsterdam in 1964, I started my studies in astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam. From 1967 till 1971 I was an assistant to Professor Bruno van Albada, which meant that I had a rather theoretical inclination (I had never ever looked through a telescope), and I got my doctoral degree (MSc) cum laude in early 1971. I fondly remember the early times in this cosy school room at the old Sterrenkundig Instituut at the Roetersstraat, with Floris Takens, Jan van Paradijs, Friso Olnon, Claas Oosterbaan and Hans de Ruiter, to name only a few. Jan and Takens were experts at manipulating all these rolls with spectral registrations from Koelbloed's densitometer.

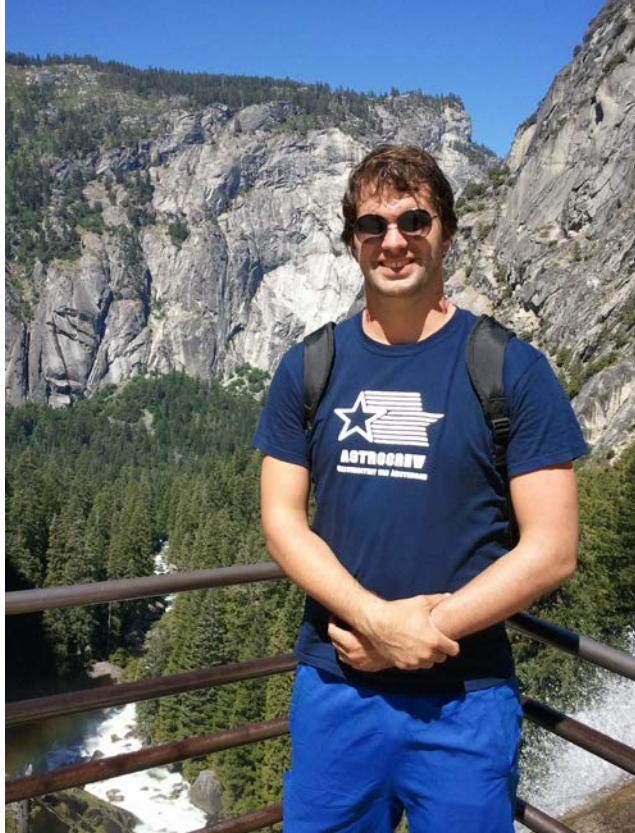
With the arrival of Pik Sin The in 1968/9 an observational impulse was given to the institute and I spent two periods in september in 1971 and 1972 observing with the van Straten kijker in Stefanion on the Pelopponesus in Greece. Meanwhile I had started on a PhD project with van Albada, but this was cut short by his unexpected death, shortly after stepping down as director of the institute in december of 1972. Thanks to Pik Sin The who went to get advice with Jan Oort, I ended up in Leiden, whereas one other PhD student, Winardi Sutantyo, came under the supervision of ED van den Heuvel, who shortly afterwards took over the Institute.

In Leiden I worked with the large photometric study of RR Lyrae stars in Walraven's VBLUW photometric system, which Gijsbert van Herk had started at the Leiden Southern Station. I was supervised by Tjeerd van Albada from Groningen, because Walraven was in South Africa and Adriaan Blaauw was still mainly involved with ESO.

Towards the end of 1976 I was invited by LO Woltjer to take up a postdoc position at ESO's scientific group, then established at CERN in Geneva. I defended my thesis on the 'Local Population of RR Lyrae Stars' in april of 1977 in Leiden. At the end of the two years in Geneva I moved to ESO La Silla, among other things to take charge of the Dutch Telescope, the Leiden Lightcollector which was to be moved from South Africa to Chile. Between 1979 and 1991 a large percentage of all astronomy students in the Netherlands went observing with the Walraven photometer at the 'Dutch' at La Silla, later this was extended with another 10 years with a CCD camera provided by ESO. At La Silla I became an ESO staff member in charge of several of the (rather inferior) instruments then available to the European Community, and in the spring of 1982 I ended up in Leiden again, as a kind of successor to Walraven in the field of stellar astrophysics. While at Leiden I spent two long periods, between 1987 and 1993) as staff member at the Anglo-Dutch observatory (now known as ING) at La Palma, as part of the commissioning team of the WHT (William Herschel Telescope) and finally as director.

(November 2008)

Koen Maaskant

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

During the 2nd WW, my grandfather was a physics student. He had classes of Jan Hendrik Oort and spent a significant time learning about the universe while he was ‘literally’ hiding. When I became interested in astronomy as well, he was always very happy to learn the new discoveries and insights of astrophysical research. This made me realize what a privilege we have to work as astronomers made possible by the huge leaps forward in instrumentation and telescope technology. I am already curious what ‘our’ grandchildren will learn us. Now for my PhD thesis I am studying dust crystals in protoplanetary disks using observations of the Herschel telescope. These protoplanetary disks are believed to be the site of planet formation and we hope to learn more of the process towards mature planetary systems. So far I really enjoy studying it and I am grateful to work with great advisors and colleagues here at API.

(September 2011)



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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I have always enjoyed traveling and working in different countries, so it is no surprise that I have ended up in the Netherlands, although I am originally from the USA. I obtained my BSc in Physics from MIT in 1993, but then was torn between further studies in cosmology or astrophysics. I had the opportunity to pursue a cosmology project at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a year, so my first research experience overseas was there in 1993-1994. Cosmology at that time was a bit boring though, before the discovery of dark energy, so I decided to return to high-energy astrophysics, and did both my MSc and PhD at the University of Arizona in the Theoretical Astrophysics program, finishing in early 2000. My research focused on modeling high-energy hadronic particle collisions and making predictions for the broadband spectra of several types of objects in the Galactic center. For my first postdoc, I received a German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, which I brought to the theory group at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn. During those years I became more interested in the extreme processes occurring in relativistic jets from black holes. In 2002 I returned to M.I.T. for my second postdoc, as a (U.S.) National Science Foundation Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow. There I also encountered my partner, whom I managed to lure to the Netherlands where we both started positions in astronomy in January 2006.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of the API, which everyone reading this booklet already knows is a very special place. I first visited during my postdoc time, and made several friends already on that visit, plus was introduced by Martin to the L&B Whiskey Bar, which basically sealed the deal for me. I was thus very excited when a job opened up just as I was on the faculty market, and even more excited when I actually got it! Since coming to the API I have built up a research group, mostly focusing on understanding the processes driven by accreting black holes, jets in particular.

Beyond modeling work, I am also active on the observational side, as part of the Transients Key Science Project of the new LOFAR facility, and the next generation TeV gamma-ray telescope, CTA. Finally, I am the Director of the MSc A&A program since 2011, and am part of the new GRAPPA (Gravitation and Astroparticle Physics Amsterdam) institute associated with a new “focal point” of the UvA in astroparticle physics.

(September 2011)

Arjen van der Meer

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After my PhD defense I started working at a company called ABF Research. ABF consists of different parts, divided into sister companies: ABF Research, ABF Software, ABF Valuation and ABF Culture. At ABF Research the national population prognosis of the CBS is further divided to a regional level, and the construction plans for housing are connected to it. Combining this with questionnaires on what type of housing people desire, discrepancies between the needs and the plans can be visualized. Since 7 years ABF Research started to connect these prognoses with numbers on health care for elderly people, to predict the impact of the aging population (“vergrijzing”). I started to work on a software-tool that is able to calculate different scenarios using a set of parameters given by the end-user. Later on I also got involved in a product with which health care organizations can compare their production with the production of others on a regional level and see how this ratio will develop in the nearby future. Since half a year I’m initiator of all health-related products at ABF.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Because I found it hard to decide between all possible directions one could choose on a University level, I decided to apply for a one year study at the Institute for Interdisciplinary studies. This study is known as Beta Gamma, and aims at connecting ideas between different academic disciplines. Eventually, in the last trimester of the first year, I was obliged to make a choice and not surprisingly I chose physics and astronomy. After 1 year of bachelor, I already felt I was missing something. So I decided to apply for an exchange program, which would practically allow me to continue in a interdisciplinary fashion. Although it was by no means encouraged by anyone associated with the physics bachelor program, I still did it and I had a great time, both socially as well as intellectually. And, I have to admit, I believe that it saved me from leaving the field.

After my adventure I decided I did want to continue in physics, but I was convinced that neither astronomy nor physics could completely satisfy my interests. I decided to do a combined masters (astrophysics and theoretical physics), and focus my research on cosmology. I wrote my Master thesis with Ralph Wijers (API) and Jan Pieter van de Schaar (ITFA / KdVI) on observable relics from cosmological inflation. Fortunately, it went so well I received a grant to continue this research as a PhD. I finished my PhD in 2011 and I am currently hired as a Postdoc at the Princeton Department of Astrophysics, where I work with David Spergel and others on topics in Cosmology, predominantly inflation and the cosmic microwave background.

(October 2011)

Joke Meijer

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In 1997 I decided to study astronomy as it would incorporate all the exact classes I liked so much in high school; physics, maths and chemistry. I was very disappointed when the chemistry part in the astronomy colleges turned out to be very small. When I later heard that there was more chemistry in infrared astronomy (a specialism not taught at Utrecht University) I came to Amsterdam to do my PhD in 2003. There I learned that what I like to do most is creating a computer model and testing it. So after I got my PhD in 2007 I went to the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) to do just that with a ozone profile retrieval algorithm. When I am finished in 2009 I want to use my acquired skills on a planetary atmosphere model.

(November 2008)

Evert Meurs

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Na mijn schooltijd op het Vossius Gymnasium in Amsterdam begon ik in 1968 met de studie natuurkunde op de GU (nu UvA). Sterrenkunde, wat ik altijd al wilde, werd mogelijk ook voor het Kandidaatsexamen per 1969, dus daar ging ik toen direct naar over. Na mijn Kandidaatsexamen Astronomie (wat later deed ik ook nog het Kandidaats Natuurkunde) werd ik student-assistent op het Instituut en werkte voor Pik Sin The. Mijn 'groot onderzoek' deed ik bij Ed van den Heuvel. Na het Doctoraalexamen in 1976 leek er weinig kans op een voortzetting in Amsterdam te zijn en ging ik naar Leiden voor een promotie onderzoek bij Harry van der Laan (Seyfert stelsels met Westerbork); extragalactisch werk had me sowieso altijd gefascineerd.

Na Leiden ben ik postdoc geweest op het MPIA in Heidelberg, IoA in Cambridge, ESO in Garching en MPE in Garching (dat laatste vooral omdat ik wat genoeg had van die internationale verhuizingen). De Amerikaanse maatschappij had me nooit kunnen beïndrukken en ik wilde mijn verdere heil beslist in Europa vinden. Er volgde (1994) een aanstelling als Senior Professor en Directeur van de sterrenwacht in Dublin (Dunsink Observatory). Het werken in Ierland, waar een elders achterhaald establishment vigeert, leverde al gauw problemen op en leidde in 2007 tot een gerechtelijke schikking in mijn voordeel, waarbij ik de facto mij in een bevriende universiteit (Dublin City University) kon vestigen, verder het Directeurschap van Dunsink liet schieten, maar wel werknemer bleef van mijn onderzoeksinstuut.

In de loop der jaren heb ik meerdere spektrale vensters benut: radio, optisch, IR, roentgen. Naast mijn extragalaktische activiteiten (AGNs, ihb) heb ik altijd een van oorsprong Amsterdamse lijn in sterevolutie aangehouden. Ik ben vooral geïnteresseerd om hier een vruchtbare synthese na te streven. Daarnaast heb ik immer een grote belangstelling voor wetenschapsgeschiedenis en ook zou ik wat graag nog eens als cultuurfilosoof te boek staan.

Vooral in mijn tijd in Garching kon ik mijn interesses in hardfietsen en vioolspelen uitoefenen. Mijn permanente partner Laura is nu Lecturer in Observational Astronomy aan dezelfde universiteit (DCU) en ons zoontje leeft zich uit op de piano.

(November 2008)



(1970)

James C.A. Miller-Jones

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Postdoc 2004-2007 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I received my undergraduate education at the University of Oxford, where I read Physics at St. John's College, graduating in 2001 with an MPhys degree. During my final year, I developed an interest in high-energy astrophysics, which motivated my decision to stay at Oxford to do a doctorate, working on X-ray binary jets with Katherine Blundell. I successfully defended my doctoral thesis in 2004, after which I moved to Amsterdam to start a postdoctoral position working with Rob Fender and the LOFAR group. As well as exposing me to the wonderful world of transients and low-frequency radio observations, my time at the API allowed me to develop more of an understanding and appreciation of X-ray astronomy, not to mention all things Dutch. After three very enjoyable years as a postdoc in Amsterdam, I moved countries once again in 2007 to start a Jansky Fellowship at NRAO Charlottesville. I continue to work on X-ray binaries and transient science, complementing low-frequency radio data at one end of the angular resolution scale with VLBI observations at the other.

(November 2008)



Rohied Mokiem

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

The API is one of the most stimulating environments when it comes to science and personal growth. I truly enjoyed working with everybody and consider my PhD at this institute as one of the best experiences of my life.

After obtaining my PhD I decided to leave science and pursue a career in more "earthly matters". I now work as a consultant at OC&C Strategy Consultants and help the board and senior management of large companies resolving their most pressing issues and realizing their ambitions. In the past few years I have worked on a rich variety of problems that companies face and have seen many different industries that range from private equity to animal feed production and from publishing to public transport. More importantly, I have lots of fun doing this and like in science I get the opportunity to continuously learn and to be amazed by how the world works.

(November 2008)



Frank Molster

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PhD 2000 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since primary school I am interested in astronomy, because it allows the study of the extreme environments in nature, which often cannot be recreated on Earth. The decision to study physics and astronomy was therefore an easy one, and because of several (mostly practical) reasons it became the UvA. I got my doctoraal (MSc) degree in 1995. I continued my presence at API with a PhD research on crystalline silicates, which were just discovered with ISO in dust around stars, under the supervision of Rens Waters. In 2000, I defended my PhD and went with a Talent scholarship from NWO to Atlanta (Georgia, USA) for 1 year, to make a link between dust in the Solar System and dust around other stars. In 2001, I came back to the Netherlands to work at ESTEC/ESA as a research fellow on the Rosetta mission. After that period I came to the conclusion that I like science, but that I do not need to do it myself. Creating the right environment for scientists, so that they are able to do their work is where I find my satisfaction. With this in mind I became coordinator for the physical sciences in ESA's microgravity section in 2003. In 2005 I got a phone-call from NWO if I was interested to work on ASTRONET (a collaboration of European funding agencies to shape the future of European astronomy). This sounded like a great opportunity and since 2006 I work for NWO, partly as program manager on all kinds of ASTRONET related issues and partly placed at NOVA as project manager for METIS (thermal-IR instrument for the E-ELT).

(October 2011)

Gijs Mulders

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Apart from wearing black T-shirts and growing long hair, I also have a broad scientific interest best described as "big history". It ranges from the beginning of time in the big bang to the formation of galaxies, stars and planets all the way through the origin of life, evolution, the emergence of hominids, agriculture and civilizations, and eventually via modern science and globalization into the future, where the upcoming discovery of extraterrestrial life brings us back to astrophysics.

Currently I am researching the cradles of planetary systems called protoplanetary disks, an extremely interesting and rapidly advancing field that tries to understand how planets form around young stars. After obtaining my PhD in 2013 I hope to continue this research in a place that will most likely be determined by the postdoc lottery of the current day astronomical job market.

(September 2011)

Reinout P. Nederlof

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ever since I was young, attending primary school, I wanted to become a teacher. The kind of children I wanted to teach depended on the group I was in. But when I went to my secondary school, the Gymnasium Felisenum in Velsen, I discovered that I really wanted to work with students in the age of 14 to 18. But now I had to choose a subject and because I was good at physics, I decided to study Physics in Amsterdam. The easiest way to achieve my first-degree teaching certificate was to specialize in astronomy at the API. After six years I finally reached my goal and immediately started teaching physics at Lyceum Sancta Maria in Haarlem. And now, three years later, I still go to work with great joy, knowing I have made the right choices. Maybe it's a little bit arrogant, but I seem to be popular among the children...

(November 2008)

Gijs A. Nelemans

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After graduating in Astrophysics from Utrecht University in 1996 I worked for a brief period at the internet company Info.nl. I resisted the temptation to stay and took on a PhD position at the API. Then I went to the Institute of Astronomy as a post-doc in 2001 and returned to the Netherlands with a Veni grant to work at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, where I am now an assistant professor.

(November 2008)

Yuen Keong Ng

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(November 2008)

Bram Ochsendorf

<p>MSc 2011 – API PhD started 2011 – Leiden University bramochsendorf@gmail.com Sterrewacht Leiden Niels Bohrweg 2 2333CA Leiden The Netherlands</p>	 A head-and-shoulders portrait of a young man with dark, wavy hair and a small goatee. He is wearing a purple hoodie and looking directly at the camera against a blue background.
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in the midst of the cornfields of Overijssel, I came in contact with the night sky since I was young. My family was both proud and puzzled when I decided to do science, partly because I was the only one showing the slightest competence in mathematics. My passion has always been in astronomy and chemistry and therefore I am pleased that after my bachelor thesis with Rens Waters (2008) and a master thesis with Lex Kaper (2011), I started a PhD in Leiden under the supervision of Alexander Tielens in the field of astrochemistry.

(October 2011)

Pieter van Oers

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After high school Pieter van Oers focused on music for several years, playing in a band and taking on jobs as a producer in his recording studio, while working in the transportation sector during the day. In 2004 he started his studies in Physics and Astronomy at the UvA. For his bachelor thesis he first worked with Dr. Sera Markoff, using her jet model to investigate the black hole binary GRS1915+105. After successful completion of the bachelor he expanded his work on this source. The efforts developed into his first scientific publication, which also became part of his master thesis, that in addition explored several black hole binary phenomena in terms of jet physics (again under the supervision of Dr. Markoff). Graduating cum-laude in 2010 he became a Marie Curie fellow by accepting a PhD position at the University of Southampton, UK, where he is currently working on the subject of black hole grand unification.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ik ben afgestudeerd op het thema Zware röntgendubbelsterren en wegloop-sterren bij Prof. Van den Heuvel. Na mijn afstuderen in 1986 heb ik als vervangende dienstplicht onderzoek gedaan op het Anton Pannenkoek Instituut. In 1988 ben ik met een beurs vertrokken naar de Universiteit van Helsinki en heb ik gewerkt aan de reconstructie van het ster-oppervlak van koele laat-type sterren met hoge rotatie snelheden en sterke magnetische velden. In 1989 ben ik gaan werken bij de Technische Universiteit van Helsinki en hield ik mij bezig met remote sensing technieken. In 1991 ben ik teruggegaan naar Nederland en heb ik bij het KNMI m.b.v. satelliet gegevens ozonbepalingen gedaan en heb ik meegebouwd aan een klimaatmodel. In de loop der jaren raakte ik echter steeds meer uitgekeken op mijn werk; het werd steeds meer programmeerwerk en steeds minder inhoudelijk. Bovendien kon ik mijn draai niet vinden tussen de ingenieurs. Ik besloot het roer om te gooien en ben een studie Maatschappelijk Werk begonnen. Sinds 1997 werk ik bij de Blankenberg Stichting in het Centrum van Amsterdam. Ik ben daar manager schuldhulpverlening en verder coördineer ik ook de schuldhulpverlening in Amsterdam. Ook hier probeer ik net als in de sterrenkunde te begrijpen hoe de werkelijkheid in elkaar zit, zowel onze cliënten die schulden maken als de maatschappelijke dienstverlening in Amsterdam en maak daarbij graag gebruik van meetbare zaken zoals budgetten en kengetallen. Inmiddels ben ik getrouwd met een Canadese en woon – na 7 roerige jaren in een woongemeenschap in Haarlem - rustig in een nieuwbouwwijk in Hoofddorp.

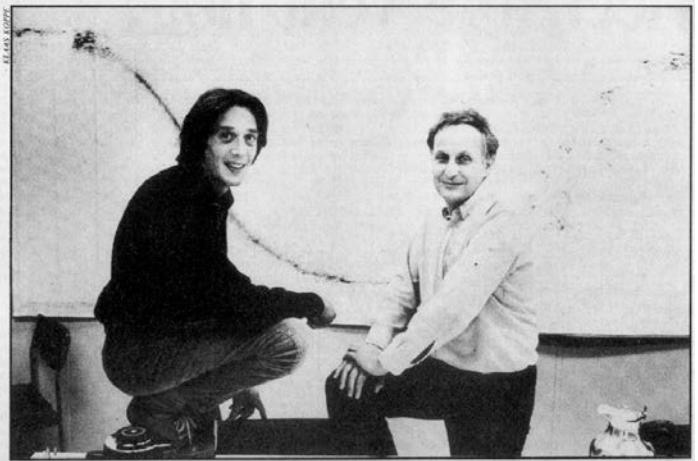
(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in astronomy came late and almost by accident. My teachers advised me to go and do history or something linguistic, but I was more interested in science. Fortunately my parents, both teachers themselves, supported me and so, in 1963, I started to study Physics and Math at the UvA.

I choose astronomy as my prime subject basically because I did not want to choose at all: there were too many interesting directions to go. Astronomy seemed the least specific choice, and it turned out to be a good one.

The Amsterdam Astronomical Institute in those days was not a very lively place. We only had human and mechanical calculators and worked with pen and paper. I still remember us planimetering the spectral line profiles on Koelbloed's endless paper recordings. But it did not temper my enthusiasm for astronomy. In 1971 I went to the thriving Leiden Observatory, where under Harm Habing's guidance I started to study circumstellar matter and stellar mass loss, although at first we did not even know that that was what we were looking at. I did my first observations with the brand new WSRT and graduated in June 1972 in Amsterdam with a discussion of the radio emission from Antares.

After half a year as a desk editor with the Noord-Hollandse Uitgevers Maatschappij Habing got me a research position in Leiden and I picked up my work on mass loss of late type giants and the associated radio masers and infrared emission. I got my PhD in January 1977, went to Bonn for two years, and returned to work in Leiden and live in Amsterdam. More and more our work on extreme OH/IR stars evolved into a study of galactic structure and dynamics. I traveled a lot, participated in radio maser survey campaigns with all the big radio telescopes and coordinated the galactic observations with the IRAS satellite.

That last project was the most fun, but it also meant the end of my career as a researcher. In 1984 Ernst Raimond, with whom I was responsible for the reduction of the spectral data assembled with the IRAS, asked me to come to work in the software group at the Radio Observatory in Dwingeloo. I did, and moved from Amsterdam to Drenthe, never to regret it! In Dwingeloo I finished the IRAS Spectral Atlas, contributed to the home-

grown reduction package for WSRT data, and pioneered in the first AIPS++ development team. In 1994 I hopped from ASTRON to JIVE, and helped building the control system for the new European VLBI correlator in the basement. That system still is my main responsibility, and we may well fade out together.

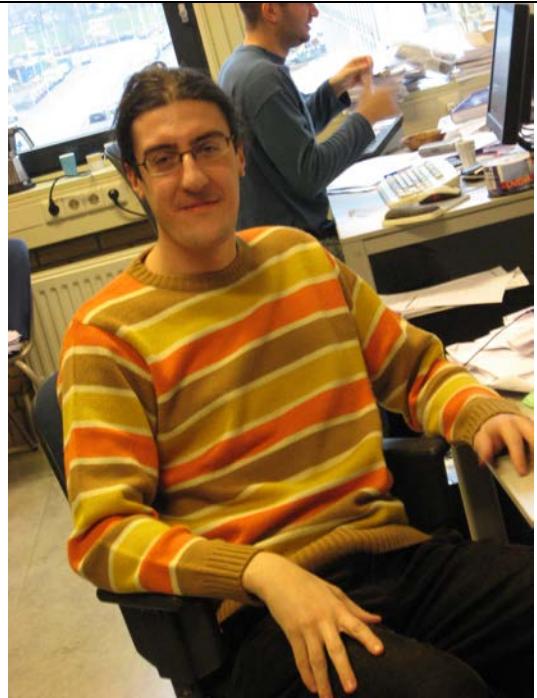
(November 2008)

Alessandro Patruno

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Postoc since 2009 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in astronomy started very early when I was a kid. I still remember when I was four years old waking up in the middle of the night to watch my first lunar eclipse. Since then my mother started wondering what was wrong with me and I bet she still hasn't found a satisfactory answer. The situation became even more disappointing for my parents when a few years later they realized that astronomers look back in the past, whereas astrologists look in the future and they also make much more money. Despite these very reasonable concerns I decided to study astronomy when I became older and I went at the University of Padua in Italy, where I got my Master in 2004. In 2005 I moved to Amsterdam for a Ph.D. with Michiel van der Klis and Rudy Wijnands and I defended in 2009. Soon later I got a Veni fellowship which I am still tenuring at the API.

(October 2011)

Asaf Pe'er

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Postdoc 2004-2007 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After too many years in the Army (obligatory in Israel), during which I completed my Master studies working on experimental projects of chemical HBr lasers, I shifted to high energy astrophysics, in particular to the field of gamma-ray bursts. Between 1999-2004 I was a grad student at the Weizmann Inst. of Science, Rehovot, Israel, working on emission of radiation from GRBs. In 2004 I joined the API, and worked as a postdoc fellow in the group of Ralph Wijers. During this period, I worked on various theoretical aspects of radiative processes, shock wave hydrodynamics, energetic processes and more. As of 2007, I hold the Ricardo Giacconi fellowship of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

(November 2008)

Wilhelmus H. Penninx (Wim)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After growing up in Beek en Donk (near Helmond, Eindhoven) I got my "kandidaats natuur- en sterrenkunde" in Nijmegen. I continued in Groningen where I got my "doctoraal" (MSc) astronomy. Following a course in Utrecht, I saw Jan van Paradijs and Ed van den Heuvel. Jan brought me in contact with Walter Lewin in the summer of 1985. I assisted Walter half a year in Garching and one and a half year at MIT doing research on X-ray binaries (X-ray bursts en Quasi-Periodic Oscillations). After these years, and a holiday visiting the VLA, I continued my research at API, and did many simultaneous X-ray and radio observations, resulting in a PhD in 1990 at API. Changing to ICT I started at the Delft University of Technology in 1991, where I changed from software engineer to responsible of a ICT department in the faculty of Architecture. Between 1998-2004 I worked for a ICT company (Syntegra), a part of British Telecom, where we implemented many small and large scale ICT departments. In 2004 I went back to the University in Delft, where all ICT is now centralized in a Shared Service Center. I work as an ICT architect.

(November 2008)

Wilhelmus (Wim) J. Peters

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(November 2008)

Benjamin Plaggenborg

MSc 2007

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

At the age of 7, I saw Wubbo Ockels become the first Dutch astronaut and his Space Shuttle flight expanded my view of the universe to more than just Earth and Buck Rogers. Of course my first choice of becoming an astronaut was faulted due to my fear of heights and eventual height of 6'6". Astrophysics did become my point of interest as the wonders of the universe dazzled me and my mathematical capabilities already shown at a young age gave me the opportunity to make it to the university.

I graduated, after some bumps on the road ending with a sprint finish, with a thesis about the properties of Be-stars and their anomalous wind variability. It concerned an exhaustive study of the stellar wind properties of early B stars, with special emphasis on the Be stars, based on an archival study of more than 15 years of data obtained with the ultraviolet IUE satellite. One major finding is a new magnetic B-star candidate (σ Lupi), which is described as a full paper submitted to *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

After graduation my university degree and my enthusiasm to develop my mind in not just math I became employed by Talent & Pro, an organization which gave me a traineeship to become a actuarial mathematician while developing my other skills in insurance, pension or banking. Right now I have an assignment at Reaal in Alkmaar, and when this ends at the end of this year, I'll move in with my girlfriend in Eindhoven so hopefully my next assignment(s) will be more in the south of the Netherlands.

(November 2008)

Gerrit van der Plas

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised in Amsterdam, and started my career at the University of Amsterdam in 2000. That year I completed the Beta Gamma Propedeuse Astrophysics and Political Science (A “propedeuse” is the name for the first year of the bachelor program). Between 2001 and 2006 I obtained a bachelor's degree in Physics and Astronomy and master's degree in Astronomy. I was awarded an ESO studentship award in 2006 and started a Ph.D. on Warm Gas in Proto Planetary Disks under the supervision of Dr. M. van den Ancker at ESO in Garching bei Munchen (2006-2008) and Prof. Dr. L.B.F.M Waters and Prof. Dr. C. Dominik at the University of Amsterdam (2008-2010). The Ph.D was awarded on December 7th 2010. In 2011 I started as postdoctoral researcher for the University of Chile in Santiago.

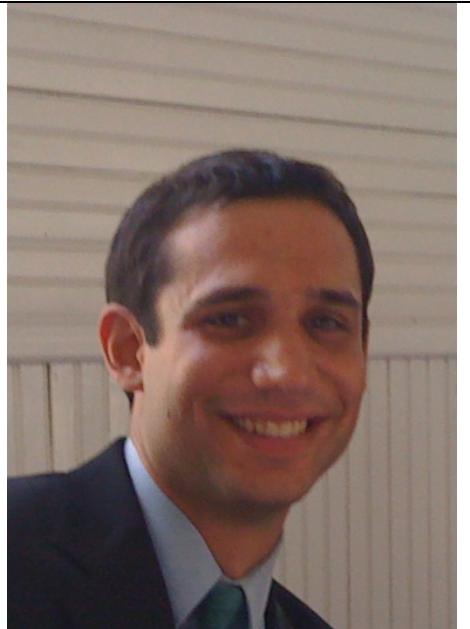
(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Rich Plotkin earned his bachelors degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2003, graduating with honors and a double major in physics and astronomy, and a minor in mathematics. He then performed his masters and PhD work at the University of Washington in Seattle (graduating in 2009), working on BL Lacertae objects and data mining of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey under the supervision of Scott Anderson. Currently, as a postdoc at API with Sera Markoff, Rich's research interests involve relativistic jets, and how accretion physics scales with black hole mass. In his spare time, Rich enjoys playing music, biking along the canals, rollerblading, and watching baseball.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In 2005, I graduated from the University of Groningen in Physics & Astronomy. Since 2008 I am working as a PhD student at the University of Amsterdam. My research focuses on the location of particle acceleration in jets around black holes.

(September 2011)

Onno Pols

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I studied physics at the Free University in Amsterdam between 1983 and 1988, where I graduated in the then-still-existing astronomy group. My API days began in March 1988 when I started my PhD under the inspiring supervision of Ed van den Heuvel, investigating the evolution of binary stars and their effect on star clusters and other stellar populations. This set me onto the fascinating road of stellar and binary evolution, which remains one of my prime research interests. After obtaining my PhD in September 1993 I started several postdoc adventures that took me to increasingly distant (and sunny) places. I spent three years in Cambridge (UK) working with Peter Eggleton, followed by postdocs at the IAC in Tenerife and in Melbourne (Australia), where John Lattanzio introduced me to nucleosynthesis, wine and cricket. In 2001 I was offered a UD position at the Astronomical Institute at Utrecht University, where I continue to teach and do research on stellar evolution, nucleosynthesis and binary stars.

(November 2008)

Saskia Prins

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

During my stay at the Anton Pannekoek Institute I got the wonderful opportunity to visit astronomical observatories around the world. Since then I worked for the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes, and the Nordic Optical Telescope on La Palma, Spain. Currently I am the support astronomer for the Mercator Telescope, which is operated on La Palma by the Institute of Astronomy, KU Leuven, Belgium.

(November 2008)

Thijs van Putten

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I've always been interested in how things work, and nothing is quite as interesting to know this about as the universe, which is why I decided to do my Masters at the API after finishing my Bachelors in physics and astronomy at the UvA. Having spent two years at the API, I did not want to leave, and managed to get a PhD position here as well, which will keep me at the API until 2015. My Masters research was on magnetar atmospheres, while my PhD will be on radio transients, both mainly theoretical. Outside of astrophysics I enjoy running, games (real-life as well as electronic) and reading.

(September 2011)

Marius Püttmann

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(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started my PhD work with Ed van den Heuvel and Gertjan Savonije, end 1984, after I finished a licence in Physics at the Free University of Brussels, where I had worked on the evolution of single massive stars. At API, I investigated, during 4 years, the evolution of low mass close binary systems with a compact component (neutron stars, black holes). At the end of my PhD time at API (09/1988), I returned to Belgium, where one year of obligatory military service was waiting for me. A year later (08/1990), I started my (second) career, as an operations engineer, in a company called Space Applications Services (<http://www.spaceapplications.com>), specialized in all kind of projects related to aerospace. I worked for this company for 16 years (until 11/2006). During this period, I got in touch with many types of activities, worked on various spacecraft & space missions some of which are listed here: European Shuttle Hermes - which never flew, European Columbus module; the European Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) - a cargo spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS), upon which I've worked since the early days; supported, from ground, in Cape Canaveral and later in Houston, the execution of experiments, installed on-board Space Shuttles, docking to the Russian Space Station MIR (3 missions to US); work on Nodes 2 and 3, now attached to the ISS; preparing lessons for ISS astronauts at the European Astronaut Center; Man machine interface technology developments (specific computer interaction displays) - including Virtual Reality aspects; and many many others... During all those years, I've been to ESTEC in Noordwijk many times.

Between 11/2006 and 12/2007, I got the 'opportunity' to recover from the many years of too hard work and managerial pressures... During that period, I found extreme pleasure to rediscover my own PhD work and books - classics - about stellar evolution, started investigating later scientific articles related to stellar evolution in general, and, just for the fun, began writing a 'review' on the subject in all its aspects (single and double star evolution) - something which I'm still trying to do, when time allows.

End 2007, I was contacted by the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) to participate in their space instrument development activities, developed to fly on European scientific space missions. More precisely, I'm currently employed at the Solar Influences Data (analysis) Center at ROB (<http://www.sidc.be>), and my main assignment is related to an Extreme Ultraviolet Imager on-board the European Solar Orbiter mission, an instrument which is in the very early phases of definition. It also allows me to get introduced to the incredibly diverse science of the Sun and some of its derivatives: solar interior & atmosphere, Space Weather, etc...

(November 2008)

Oscar Ramirez Agudelo

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I am originally from Tunia, Colombia. There I did my primary and secondary education, then moved to Bogotá where I did my undergraduate studies in Physics at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Afterward, I continued my studies at Observatorio Astronómico Nacional (enrolled at the same University) where I became a MSc in Astronomy. In March of this year I started my PhD studies in Astronomy at API and since then it has been an amazing experience. Finally, I would say that I am living the dream I always wanted, which is to live in Europe and to continue learning about the Astrophysics of stars at one of the foremost Astronomy institutions in the world.

(September 2011)

Nicole Ranzijn

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started working as a secretary at API in the fall of 2006 for just five months, temporarily replacing Minou van Beurden. As I was only 19 at the time and with not much prior experience working as a secretary, I was of course a bit nervous. But it turned out I did not need to be. Everyone at API was extremely nice and patient and most of all it was a lot fun working there. Even though I was a history student and an *alfa*, I have never felt excluded in any way. Which in my opinion is one of the strengths of the institute: *everybody's welcome, everybody can join in*. In the fall of 2007 I returned to working at API for another year.

I have many fond memories of my time at API and I have worked at different places since then, but I have yet to encounter another workplace that is so socially committed as the institute and I do miss *taari@11.00* and *pizza lunches*. Currently I am finishing off my Bachelor's degree in *History* and I am working at Human Resources department of Atradius Credit Insurance N.V. In February I will start my Master in *American Studies* at UvA.

Thanks everyone at API for the educational and fun experience,

Nicole

(September 2011)

Evert Rol

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Postdoc since 2009 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started my academic career in 1992, studying physics at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. To put an astronomical touch to my studies, I did my graduation project in Joop Hovenier's planetary atmospheres group, measuring the polarisation of light scattered by various type of dust.

For my PhD, I switched from dust to gamma-ray bursts, starting in 1999 at the Anton Pannekoek Institute to study the afterglows of gamma-ray bursts, in the group of Jan van Paradijs. Gamma-ray burst afterglows had just been discovered a year earlier, and there were a lot of interesting new results coming in. Sadly and unfortunately, Jan died the same year I started my PhD. Via Ed van den Heuvel as "intermediate" promoter, I finished my PhD in 2004 with Ralph Wijers.

From there, I spent half a year in Padua, Italy, as a postdoc in an European gamma-ray burst afterglow follow-up network, and then moved to Leicester, when Swift was about to be launched (Leicester having provided the Swift X-ray CCD and Swift being a dedicated mission for gamma-ray bursts). The next 4 years, I have been chasing more afterglows, until in 2009 it was finally time to make another switch, this time to the LOFAR radio wavelengths and back to the Anton Pannekoek Institute. The past years I have thus worked in the LOFAR transients group in Amsterdam, to get the software together to find and chase LOFAR transients.

(September 2011)

Antonia Rowlinson

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PhD 2011 – University of Leicester
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After achieving my MSci degree in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Durham, I pursued a teaching career and obtained a PGCE in Secondary Science Education. I taught general Science and Physics for 4 years and during that time I completed a research project on Inspiring Girls into Physics working in collaboration with the UK Science Learning Centre's and Institute of Physics. This research project made me realize how much I missed academic research, so I decided to return to university to do a PhD in astronomy.

In October 2008, I started my PhD at the University of Leicester working on the progenitors of Short Gamma-Ray Bursts, some of the most powerful explosions in the known Universe. I thoroughly enjoyed working with these extreme transients and the opportunity to complete regular duties as an X-ray Burst Scientist for the Swift Satellite.

In September 2011 I handed in my PhD thesis and started my first PostDoc at the Anton Pannekoek Institute, UvA. I have stayed with transients but moved from gamma rays to radio by joining the AARTFAAC team searching for radio transients in LOFAR data.

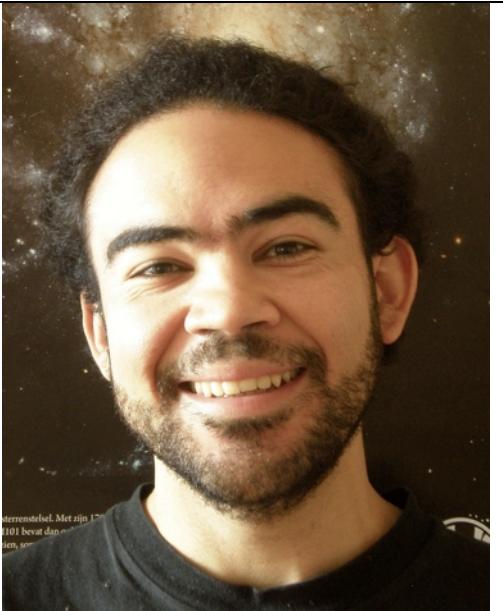
(September 2011)

Eduardo A. Rubio-Herrera

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I am born in *Amatitlán*, a town near *Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción*, commonly known as Guatemala City. I attended primary school and part of my high school at the *San Sebastián* school and the last years of my high school were done in a technical institute named Frederick Taylor. I studied a *Licenciatura en Física* (the Spanish equivalent to a BS in physics) at the National University of San Carlos in Guatemala (USAC), the third oldest university of the American Continent. In 2000 I won the scholarship Teaching for Astronomy Development from the Commission 46 of the IAU in order to spend one and a half semesters doing the research for my BS thesis at the Institute of Astronomy of the National Autonomous University of Mexico-UNAM about variability on T-Tauri stars under supervision of A. Arellano. Back in Guatemala in June 2002, I defended my thesis and in July of the same year I was back in Mexico starting my masters in astronomy, after earning a scholarship from the UNAM. I finished my masters in April 2005 with a thesis about stability of thick accretion discs around compact objects with W.H. Lee as supervisor. Then I had the opportunity to visit the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton New Jersey, where I undertook a short project on Gamma-ray bursts from late July to early October 2005 with E. Ramírez-Ruiz. At the end of October 2005, I came to the University of Amsterdam (UvA) to start my PhD in astronomy on the subject of pulsar searches with B.W. Stappers as supervisor. After completing my PhD thesis in May 2010 I was admitted as "resident astronomer" on board the tall ship bark Europa, from September 2010 to March 2011 crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Halifax, Canada to Antarctica. After that episode of adventures I started a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City working on searches for millisecond extragalactic pulsars. I enjoy doing outreach activities with amateurs and the general public and since May 2009, I contribute with a section about astronomy in the Guatemalan newspaper *Siglo XXI*. I strongly believe that education is the only way to make of our world a better place.

(September 2011)



David Russell

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Postdoc 2007-2011 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was always fascinated by the universe, and my better subjects at school were mathematics and physics, so I naturally found myself pursuing a career in astrophysics. Now I have found a love for astronomical research, and I aim to become one of the world experts in my field, which is jets formed via accretion onto black holes and neutron stars. After finishing my PhD in Southampton, UK, I carried out four years of research as a postdoc (three years as a 'Veni fellow' funded by NWO) at the University of Amsterdam. I am starting a new position at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) in Tenerife, Spain. It is a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship for Career Development and will last from November 2011 until October 2013. This will hopefully help me to obtain a permanent position at a university or research institute.

(September 2011)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Astrophysics began for me in 1998 at the University of Amsterdam: it was a great time for both my studies and friends. I was lucky to go on an Erasmus exchange to Madrid, working together with Ana Ines Gomez de Castro, and having one of the most sunny months of my live there. I decided to start my graduation project with Huib Henrichs and his PhD student at that time, Roald Schnerr, on magnetic O stars in 2005. To search for signs of magnetism, I was to go with Roald to Pic du Midi to observe the Zeeman splitting in these O stars. At Pic du Midi, in the beautiful French Pyrenees, we were unlucky to get a week of snowstorm: and it was there that we decided to go over to radio frequencies. We successfully obtained time at the Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope in Drenthe and I managed to finish my project searching for synchrotron emission in candidate magnetic O stars in August 2006.

Once I had set foot in the radio field, I realized that I was really interested in that and I decided to continue in science and go for a PhD to the Max Planck Institute for Radioastronomy in Bonn, Germany, where I still am today, in my last year of the PhD. As I am still intrigued by the massive stars, the O stars, I slightly changed the field to study the formation of massive stars with Friedrich Wyrowski, using the 100m Radio Telescope in Effelsberg, the 30m telescope in Granada, APEX, the SMA and the VLA.

I am also very much interested in maser emission, and fortunately for me I could start a project with Andreas Brunthaler on measuring distances towards Galactic methanol masers using the European VLBI Network.

(November 2008)

Hugues Sana

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After studying physics at the Namur and Liège University in Belgium, I started my Ph.D. in the High Energy Group at the Astrophysical Institute in Liège. My PhD topics consisted in a multiwavelength analysis of a young open cluster, NGC 6231, with an emphasize on its rich early-type star population. I used the complementarity provided by ground-based optical spectroscopy, mostly from the FEROS spectrograph at the European Southern Observatory (ESO), coupled with X-ray spectrophotometry from XMM-Newton, the large European X-ray observatory, to constrain the physical properties of the O-type star population of the cluster. This led me to discover new colliding-wind binaries and to study the cluster low-mass star population and its star formation history. As an award-winner of a travel grant from the Communauté Française de Belgique, I also spent three months at the Birmingham University to gain experience in hydrodynamical simulations of colliding wind binaries.

After obtaining my PhD in 2005, I was offered an ESO fellowship and I moved to Chile towards one of the most remote place on Earth: the Very Large Telescope at the Paranal observatory. During the 240 nights spent at Paranal, I gained first-hand experience with 8-m class telescopes and instrumentation. First as a CRIRES Fellow, then as the UVES Instrument Scientist, I deepened my knowledge of infra-red and optical high-resolution spectroscopy. When not on duty, I was pursuing my research on massive stars in the Vitacura offices in Santiago. In particular, I studied the multiplicity properties of massive star populations using a variety of observing techniques.

In 2009, for the 4th year of my ESO fellowship, I joined the team of Alex de Koter in Amsterdam where I stayed as an NWO postdoc. Since then, my main task has been to organize, in the framework of the VLT-FLAMES Tarantula survey, the quantitative analysis of one of the largest sample of massive O star ever obtained: multi-epoch

spectroscopy of 350 O stars in the 30 Doradus region. As part of a team of about 40 astronomers from Europe and the USA, our aim is to test theories of massive star evolution and, in particular, the effect of rotation and multiplicity as well as to make a census of the properties of the massive star population of the closest proto starburst with applications to stellar cluster dynamics and distant star-forming galaxies.

(September 2011)

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The Netherlands



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

The decision to study physics was made at a Greek beach, from which the clear skies made a great impression on me. Earlier that year I also followed the Teleac course "From Quatum to Quark", which took away my hesitation to study physics. Some years later I joined Huib's group, had a lot of fun with the API's and graduated in 1997. Until 2005 I worked in the ICT industry, after which Ralph offered me a PhD position in his Transients Project group of LOFAR. Most labour was (and still is) related to getting the data in, and out again, of a solid database at acceptable times. I got my PhD Degree in 2011 and continue working happily in the boundary field between astronomy and informatics at both CWI and API.

(September 2011)

Roald S. Schnerr

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PhD 2007 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I did both my doctorate studies and my PhD in Amsterdam. My masters thesis was on the subject of low-mass X-ray binaries with Michiel van der Klis, and my PhD thesis was titled "Magnetic fields and mass-loss in massive star" and written under the supervision of Huib Henrichs. Currently I am looking at the magnetic features of the Sun at the Institute for Solar Physics in Stockholm, which has the clear advantage of the most beautiful pictures and movies of magnetic activity on stars.

(November 2008)

Maciej Serylak

MSc 2005 – University of Zielona Gora
PhD 2011 – API
Postdoc since 2011 – LPC2E/CNRS

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Station de Radioastronomie de Nançay
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Maciej Serylak started his studies in Physics at the University of Zielona Gora in Poland with the supervision of Dr Kijak. He finished his studies with a study on analysis of single pulses from pulsars with the use of high frequency data obtained with the 100-m Effelsberg radio telescope. He then took a teaching position at the Kepler Institute of Astromy in Zielona Gora.

In 2006 he started his Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Ben Stappers and Prof. Michiel van der Klis at the Anton Pannekoek Institute at the University of Amsterdam through the Early-stage training site for European long-wavelength astronomy (ESTRELA) programme. He successfully defended his thesis entitled: "Modulation properties of radio-emitting neutron stars" in 2011 and shortly after the defence he moved to France to work on low-frequency observations within FLOW (French LOng Wavelength Consortium).

(September 2011)

Reinoud Jan Slager

MSc 1980
PhD 1987

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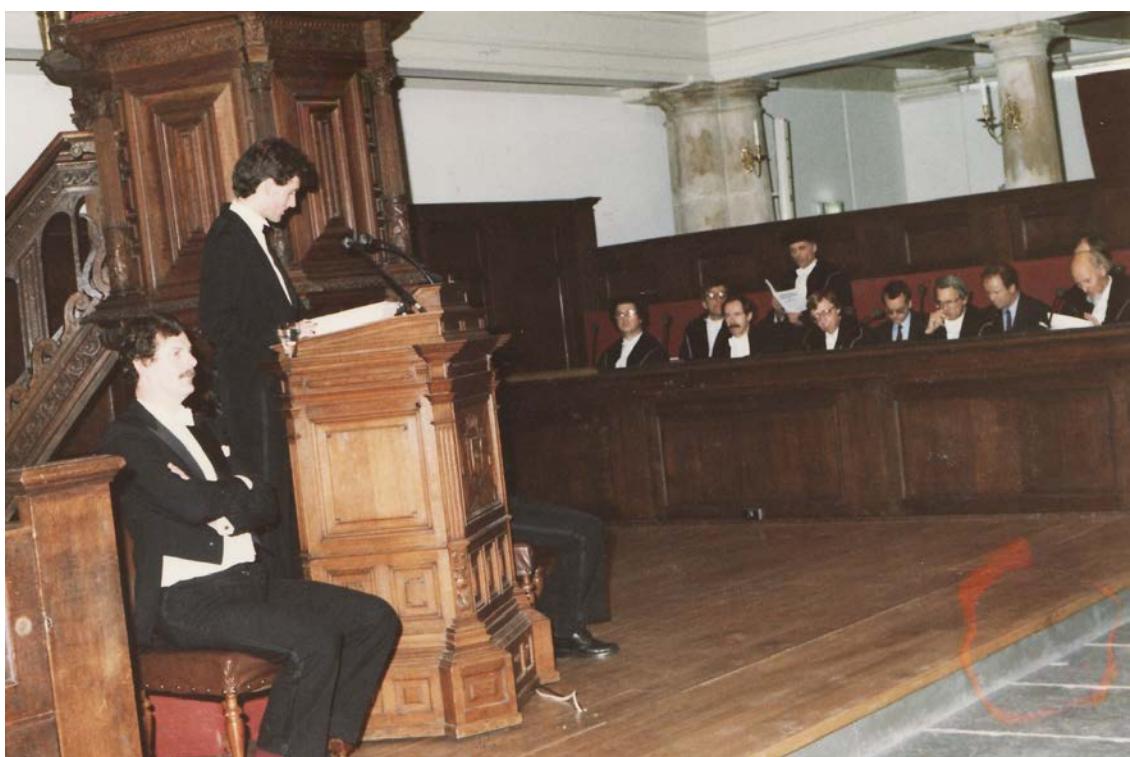
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After my doctoral by prof 't Hooft in Utrecht, I started in Amsterdam a research in cosmology. After my PhD by Prof. Gaemers and Prof. van den Heuvel, I continued my research in the field of compact objects, such as cosmic strings. I have now my own research centre with some other researchers, ASFYON, astronomisch fysisch onderzoek Nederland. Especially the higher dimensional models in general relativity is my favourite subject.

(November 2008)



Sander Slijkhuis

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PhD 1992 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My introduction to astronomy was rather accidental - as everything in my career. In Utrecht, students of physics had to take courses in a second science. The alternatives didn't appeal to me, and so... After buying a second-hand telescope and variable star observing at the university's observatory in Ausserbin, under Hans Heinze, I was hooked. One of my 2 physics graduation projects was ray-tracing design of an X-ray telescope, at the Laboratory for Space Research (LRO, later SRON Utrecht). I started a PhD course in Copenhagen on galaxy evolution, but my request for a residence permit, usually no problem for EU citizens, was arbitrarily rejected. Although having won a Danish science stipend I returned to Holland, and was unemployed for nearly a year. Then a PhD position became available at the UvA, with Teije de Jong whom I had previously met when he visited Copenhagen. I started with a PhD study using IRAS observations of Mira stars. Fortune turned my career again with the visit of prof. Hu Jing-Yao from Academia Sinica in Beijing. He used IRAS observations for detecting proto-planetary nebulae. Teije agreed to change my PhD subject and a fruitful collaboration began between me and Hu, resulting in my dissertation on PPN evolution in 1992. Although astronomy enabled me to travel the world with wonderful experiences at observatories in Switzerland, Israel, La Palma, and China (at that time much less accessible to foreigners than now), I decided against being a science nomad and left professional astronomy. I obtained a position in the Earth Observation department of SRON, Utrecht, on instrument modeling of the Global Ozone Monitoring Instrument (GOME). In 1996 I moved to DLR in Oberpfaffenhofen near Munich, continuing in the GOME project, where I got a fixed position in 2001. I've married Annette Dietrich, we became a daughter, and I've become a weekend commuter between our lovely alpine residence and Oberpfaffenhofen. My interest in astronomy is still vivid, and I'm an active stellar spectroscopy amateur.

(November 2008)



Rhaana L. C. Starling

MSc 1999
PhD 2004
Postdoc 2003-2006 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I came to Amsterdam after MSci and PhD studies in the UK and a short Research Assistant position at Harvard University in the USA. On moving to Amsterdam I began research in what was for me a new field - Gamma-Ray Bursts - under the excellent guidance of Professor Ralph Wijers and as part of a great team. My time at API was a very happy, productive time which has shaped my future in many ways.

I went on to a position at the University of Leicester, UK, supporting the Swift satellite and now hold a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship. While in the Netherlands I met my now husband and we have a son aged 2.

(September 2011)



Guillaume M. Stollman

MSc 1983

PhD 1987

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I did my PhD on the study of accreting and non-accreting neutron stars, which I finished in 1987. After that I joined Philips Electronics. First at the Philips Research Labs, working on high-temperature superconductors. In 1990 I joined Philips Passive Components, where I became product development manager for ceramic multilayer capacitors. In 1999 I went the Philips Centre for Industrial Technology where I worked as a consultant in the field of process improvement. In 2005 I joined Philips Healthcare. Here I work in the BU Cardio/Vascular X-ray as reliability manager.

(November 2008)



De twee pinguins showen
het "rode" boekje, waarin
het wemelt van de sterren.

Lidewijde Stolte

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After 3 years study of Architecture in Delft, I decided to quit university and step into the working world. So, in 1976 I came to work as a secretary at the Vakgroep Sterrenkunde of the Faculty of Physics & Astronomy, as the institute was named in those days. There was a rather small staff in those days, just 1 or 2 postdocs and a few PhD students. As Chair of the Vakgroep, Ed van den Heuvel was the inspiring leader of this group that would grow and prosper to the very successful big institute that it is now. I had the honor to work for him in those early days. It may be nice to know there were no pc's back then and I did everything on a typewriter: letters (with several real carbon copies), scientific papers, syllabi, PhD theses, etc. It was a lot of work for a secretary. However, the benefit of it was that I got to read all that interesting stuff!

In 1980 I moved to Nijmegen and worked there at the Institute for Social Medicine of the university, coordinating a multi-discipline research project on home care for demented elderly. About 10 years later Michiel van der Klis phoned me up and asked me to come back to Amsterdam. That resulted in me being at the API from 1991 till now managing this ever growing group of nice and interesting astronomers!

(October 2011)

John Swinbank

MPhys 2000 – Oxford
DPhil 2007 – Oxford
Software developer since 2006 – API
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After studying Physics (MPhys) and Astrophysics (DPhil) at Oxford, I first visited the API in 2006 to interview for a postdoc in theoretical astrophysics. In fact, that job didn't work out, but it gave me the opportunity to make contact with the LOFAR group, which I ended up joining a few months later. That was a big change for me – I'd previously worked on high-redshift optical astronomy, and suddenly had to worry about relatively nearby radio transients -- but thanks to the great support and atmosphere of the LOFAR group and the whole API I enjoyed making the transition.

Five years later, I'm still here – and hoping to stay for a bit longer yet! As time has gone on, I've moved further from working directly on the science to concentrating on the essential software development and project management tasks, and now I'm leading the software development efforts for Ralph's "AARTFAAC" project. I've loved my time at the API so far & I'm grateful for the opportunities it's given me, and very much looking forward to that continuing in the future.

(September 2011)

John H. Telting

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PhD 1996 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

AIAP --> ING Group of Telescopes, La Palma --> Nordic Optical Telescope
(NOT), La Palma
Current position: Senior Staff Astronomer at NOT

(November 2008)

Christian Thalmann

MSc 2004 – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
PhD 2008 – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Christian started his astronomy career at ETH Zürich in Switzerland, doing some lab and simulation work for a planned second-generation planet-hunter instrument, SPHERE, for ESO's Very Large Telescope. While SPHERE still hasn't made it into the sky, Christian has been busy doing science with present-day instrumentation instead. In his first post-doc at MPIA Heidelberg, Germany, and in the now second one at API, he is looking for exoplanets with high-contrast imaging facilities on Paranal and Mauna Kea. So far, he's only found brown dwarf companions and circumstellar disks, but those are publishable too.

(September 2011)

Ammar Hamilcar Tijani

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My physics high school teacher once told me: “Always choose with your heart”. Best advice ever! Graduated in 2003, then decided on travelling the world the following two years. Eventually I founded my own ICT company in 2005. Still going strong, although I do miss the old days every now and then!

(November 2008)

Herman R.E. Tjin A Djie

MSc 1968 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Herman Tjin A Djie started his studies in Astronomy (Prof. Zanstra) and Physics (Prof. Michels) at the UvA in 1950. He finished his studies with an experimental study of the arc spectrum of H and He under a pressure of 1000 atm. He then moved to the Institute of Nuclear Research in Amsterdam where he was involved with the extension of the cyclotron and the construction of a scattering chamber and where he graduated in 1968 at the UvA on his thesis: "Elastic and Inelastic scattering of 25 MeV deuterons by Nuclei" (promotors Profs. Gugelot and van Lieshout). In 1970 he joined the Astronomical Institute of the UvA (now API) where he started on stellar nucleosynthesis studies with Prof. van Albada and his successor Prof. van den Heuvel. However, computing facilities were very limited in these years so for some time he was involved in teaching physics and assisting at the astronomical practicum. Around 1978 he joined Prof. Thé in his observational studies of pre-main sequence Herbig Ae/Be stars. In addition to the extensive ground-based observations of Prof. Thé at ESO in the visible and near IR, Thé and Tjin A Djie could extend their studies successfully with satellite observations in the UV (IUE), near- IR (IRAS), X-ray (EXOSAT) wavelength regions. After his retirement in 1998 from API, Herman Tjin A Djie is still working on the interpretation of earlier obtained observational data on pre-main sequence stars.

(September 2011)

Phil Uttley

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Postdoc 2006 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was raised in the north of England in the beautiful Lake District, where I went to school and discovered a liking for physics, but I didn't realise that I wanted to be an astronomer until about one year into my Ph.D. at the University of Southampton. Up to that point I thought that I wanted to go into an industrial research – something which a numerical subject like astronomy can prepare you well for. But I found that I really loved doing challenging astronomical research. My Ph.D. was on studying the X-ray time variability of the supermassive black holes in Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), where I had to develop new Monte Carlo techniques to measure the long-term variability of AGN so that we could compare their variations with the much faster variations from their smaller cousins, the stellar-mass black holes in X-ray binary (XRBs) systems and try to figure out what was causing the variability, which comes from very close to the black hole. We were really doing the first systematic work with this kind of data, which made it very exciting and led to a lot of new discoveries. My initial Ph.D. work was continued in a postdoc position at Southampton, which really helped lay a solid foundation for what came later, when I started also to work on XRB variability. I was awarded a US National Research Council Research Associateship to work on comparing AGN and XRB variability at NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center, just outside Washington DC, where I worked for 2 years in 2004-2005.

Working in the US was a great experience, but I decided I wanted to move back to Europe and where better than the API, the 'home' of XRB variability research! I applied for and won a Marie Curie postdoc fellowship at the API, where I spent one wonderful year in 2006, making many new friends in the process. But I left the API halfway through the fellowship because I was awarded a 5-year STFC Advanced Fellowship back at my Alma Mater, the University of Southampton, which also led to a tenured (i.e. permanent) faculty position there. I had a great and productive time in Southampton, where I supervised my first PhD students (promoting one while I was there), and also taught a Bachelors course. But my heart is in my black hole variability research, so when

the opportunity came up I decided that I wanted to move back to the API where I had had such a great time earlier in my career and where there is such a great group and ‘critical mass’ in XRB variability research. So I was lucky enough to be given a faculty job as an UHD in the API, starting in October 2011, and here I am now!

(October 2011)

Patricia Vader

PhD 1981 – API
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

After her studies of physics and astronomy at Groningen University, Patricia Vader came to API in 1977 as the first PhD student of Teije de Jong. She obtained her doctorate in 1981, and subsequently took over De Jong's teaching duties as he spent a sabbatical year abroad. Her next position was an assistant professorship at Yale University where she was promoted to associate professor in 1986. During 1984-1992 she held visiting professorships at CEN-Saclay, France, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Pasadena CA, and the Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore. At STScI she became a staff astronomer, a position she filled from 1992-1994. Returning to California, she married her present husband, radio astronomer Carl Heiles (UC Berkeley). In 1998 she was accepted in the Master of Arts program of the College of the Arts in San Francisco, and upon graduation (2001) became a professional artist. Her paintings and sculptures have featured in exhibitions on both the US West and East Coasts.

(November 2008)



Patricia working on her Giant Bat whose wings used to be test dishes for the Allen Telescope Array (ATA) in Hat Creek, California. Photo October 2008.

Henny Veerman

MSc 2008 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In September 2002 I began my studies in "Natuur- & Sterrenkunde" at the University of Amsterdam. After the first years of college, I chose to do the master Astronomy & Astrophysics from which I graduated in March 2008 on my research titled: "Spatially resolved low resolution mid-IR spectroscopy of Herbig Ae stars". During my research I had great fun and I found my work very interesting! However, after graduation I decided not to look for a PhD position. I thought it was time for something new. I found a job at TNO in the Netherlands, where I work at the department of "Defense and Security" and work on IR observation systems and underwater technology like sonars etc.

(November 2008)

Sjoert van Velzen

MSc 2010 – API
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Sjoert obtained his dual Masters degree in Astrophysics & Astroparticle physics 2010, at the University of Amsterdam. His Master research project took him to New York, where he worked with Glennys Farrar to search for rare flares from super-massive black holes. Currently, he's a graduate student at Radboud University in Nijmegen, working with Heino Falcke.

(September 2011)

Arjan Verhoeff

MSc 2002 – API
PhD 2009 – API
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ever since I was a child I was amazed by the absurdity of this world. One of the most appalling characteristics seems to be the extreme contrast between rich and poor, which I consider to be facilitated by mass deception and global violence. Astronomy offers a serene asylum for the inquisitive mind troubled by such compassions. However, just like Anton Pannekoek I think scientists have a responsibility to stand up for public awareness, peace and equal rights. At the moment I am pursuing the first by trying to set up a project that operationalizes quality criteria of information on the internet.

(September 2011)

Arjan Volp, currently Jim Volp

MSc 2001 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Jim is an astrophysicist by training (University of Amsterdam) after which he obtained a Masters in Space Science from the International Space University. Jim has worked as Planetary Science Operations Engineer since March 2002. His first mission was the ESA Lunar orbiter mission Smart-1, based at ESTEC in the Netherlands. Jim is now co-ordinating the Science Operations of Mars Express at ESAC near Madrid. He is contracted via Serco, largest sub-contractor of ESA where he occasionally assists the Spanish and European Space Business Development groups. Jim worked six months at the Serco Italy office as interim manager of 15 specialists plus 6 sub-contracts of the Earth Observation Data Processing and Quality Control task for ESA/ESRIN.

Jim was a volunteer for Space Generation for more than five years. He organized the first ESA "Students to IAC" program in 1999 in Amsterdam, the Space Generation Congress in Bremen, the first MoonMars workshop also in Bremen and the first IAC Young Professionals Program in Valencia; all of which are now yearly events.

Currently, Jim spearheads an effort to develop a global space student community. Jim acts as the World Space Week Director of Educational Relations and is member of the IAF Committees: Space and Society, Workforce Development/Young Professionals Program, Space Education and Outreach Committee and the Committee for Liaison with International Organisations and Developing Nations. Jim is lifelong member of AIAA. Lastly Jim is working on an initiative to create a comprehensive overview of "Space in Africa". Jim is married with Shelale his love from Azerbaijan and has two wonderful daughters: Ayla Esmeralda and Arife Angelina.

(November 2008)

Hester Volten

MSc 1992 – API
PhD 2001 – Free University Amsterdam

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

In 1986 ben ik begonnen met mijn studie natuur- en sterrenkunde aan de UVA. Al gauw bleek hoe leuk sterrenkunde was, maar experimenteerwerk vond ik ook leuk, dus uiteindelijk ben ik in 1992 afgestudeerd in twee richtingen: Experimentele (laser-) Fysica (Onderwerp: Levensduurmetingen aan AII en BaII) en Sterrenkunde (Onderwerp: Variabele sterrenwinden in O-type sterren). Het is daarom niet zo gek dat ik uiteindelijk in 2001 ben gepromoveerd aan de VU in de experimentele sterrenkunde met als onderwerp: Metingen van lichtverstrooiing door kleine planetaire deeltjes (Proefschrift: "Light scattering by small planetary particles. An experimental study.") Zie www.astro.uva.nl/scatter voor meer informatie. Daarna heb ik als postdoc gewerkt bij het AMOLF en op het API aan hetzelfde onderwerp, dat overigens vaak betrekking had op deeltjes in de aardatmosfeer, de aarde is tenslotte ook een planeet. Sinds 2006 doe ik alleen maar onderzoek aan de aardatmosfeer, als wetenschappelijk onderzoeker luchtkwaliteit bij het RIVM in Bilthoven. Ik woon nog steeds in Amsterdam, samen met mijn vriend Sebastiaan en onze twee heel leuke zoontjes Wander (4 jaar oud) en Doekle (bijna 2 jaar oud).

(November 2008)

Jaap Vreeling

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in Astronomy started at the age of 14. Inspired by the Apollo program and the possibility to obtain a small telescope I started to observe the moon and the planets. I still remember my first view through my own telescope of Saturn! At the age of 16 I started visiting as a participant and leader the IAYC youth camps for Astronomy. Together with some leaders we founded the IWA, the International workshops for Astronomy.

I started my carrier as a Mathematics and Physics teacher in the Netherlands but had the opportunity to work for 5 years in the Caribbean on a small Dutch island. We had to build up a school for secondary education on St. Eustatius. Back home in the Netherlands I was involved in the management of a large school for secondary education.

Three years ago I made a carrier move and started working for NOVA as a coordinator education for the information center. One of my great passions is live interacting educational projects in Astronomy. In 2010 we started a Mobile Planetarium project and that turned to be a great success.

(September 2011)



The NOVA Mobile Planetarium touring the schools in the Netherlands

Anna L. Watts

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in space science dates back to my high school days at Bradford Girls' Grammar, and crystallized after a summer at European Space School in 1991. This set me on the physics path, and I headed off to Oxford, graduating with a first in 1995. At that stage some doubt about a research career had set in, so I joined the Science Fast Stream at the British Ministry of Defence - a five year odyssey that left me with a very high tolerance for bureaucracy and my wonderful husband. In 2000 we realized that a career path as a Whitehall Mandarin was not what we had envisaged for ourselves, so we both took a substantial salary cut and headed for Southampton University to study for our doctorates. I spent three fantastic years in the General Relativity group there, studying gravitational waves and the oscillations of compact stars with Nils Andersson. After this very theoretical start, however, I realized that some observational experience would be useful, and headed for NASA Goddard on a National Research Council fellowship to work on neutron star oscillations and X-ray timing with Tod Strohmayer. Two years in Washington DC were followed by two years in Germany at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Munich - at which point my husband and I were finally able to resolve our two-body problem (four years of transatlantic and trans-germanic commuting!) with a move to the Netherlands, where I joined API in 2008. One year later I made the transition from postdoc to faculty, and am now enjoying the thrills and spills of building both my research group and my family! I consider myself very fortunate to be part of such a great institute, and to be working with such a talented group of students and postdocs to explore the crazy physics of neutron star explosions.

(September 2011)

Tessa M. Weller

MSc 2008 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I started my studies in September 2002 at the University of Amsterdam and started my master Astronomy and Astrophysics in September 2005. I did my masters thesis under the supervision of dr. Rudy Wijnands and graduated in April 2008. I am currently working as a mathematics and physics teacher for Aviation studies at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam.

(November 2008)



Esther Wertwijn

ewertwijn@gmail.com



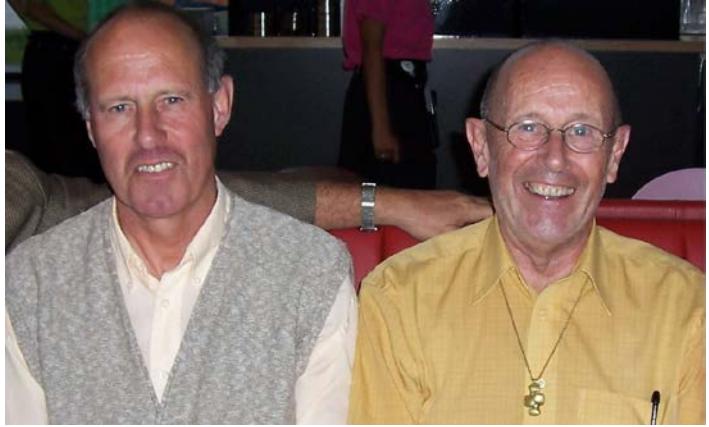
SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Esther worked at the secretariat during the last stage of her master's degree in Philosophy of Language / Philosophy of Mind at the University of Amsterdam. After obtaining this degree she started working at Reed Elsevier as an editor / freelance journalist. Other main interests in her life are drawing and playing the violin.

(October 2011)

Paul R. Wesselius

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Van 1967 tot 1973 heb ik bij het Kapteyn Instituut in Groningen gewerkt, alwaar ik op 10 november 1972 gepromoveerd ben, gebruik makend van gegevens van de Dwingeloo 25 meter telescoop: Neutral Hydrogen in the solar neighbourhood. Daarna heb ik van 1973 tot 2005 bij Ruimteonderzoek Nederland (SRON) gewerkt. Bij de projecten ANS en IRAS was ik verantwoordelijk voor het gebruik van de satelliet instrumenten uit Groningen en voor vele publicaties en diverse proefschriften, gebaseerd op die gegevens. In 1994, volop bezig om het gebruik van ISO voor te bereiden, ben ik benoemd tot divisiehoofd van de divisie LEA (lage energie astrofysica: infrarood en submm). De meeste personen in Groningen behoren tot deze divisie. In 2004 ben ik gestopt met deze functie en in 2005 met vervroegd pensioen gegaan. Van 1998 tot 2007 ben ik betrokken geweest bij het grootste project van SRON ooit: HIFI in Herschel. Daarvan ben ik zelfs een aantal jaren projectleider geweest, naast mijn divisieleiderschap. Ik houd me nu bezig met een Editorschap bij Advances for Space Research van COSPAR, populaire lezingen over diverse onderwerpen, bridgen, fitness en veel wandelen.

(November 2008)

Klaas Wiersema

MSc 2003 – API

PhD 2007 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I did my undergraduate and master studies at the University of Amsterdam from 1997 to 2003, and really liked the atmosphere at the API. So I was very happy to take up the offer of a PhD position in the group of Ralph Wijers, straight after my MSc graduation. In my PhD I worked on observational studies of the environments of long gamma-ray bursts, a hot topic at the time. My PhD defense was in September 2007: exactly 10 years after first arriving at the University of Amsterdam... I got a postdoc position at the University of Leicester, UK (working for Prof. Nial Tanvir) which I started in November 2007, and I am still working there. I still collaborate with people at the API and I always enjoy coming back for work visits! During my PhD at the API I met my wife, Rhaana Starling, and made many friends for life!

(September 2011)



Ralph Wijers

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PhD 1991 - API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My interest in astronomy goes back to my secondary school, the Norbertuscollege in Roosendaal, where I was a member of the astronomy club and a guide at the nearby public observatory "Simon Stevin". From there, I went to study Physics, Math, and Astronomy at Leiden in 1982. Inspired by Vincent Icke, I chose Astronomy with Theoretical Physics, graduating in 1987. Ed van den Heuvel and Jan van Paradijs then offered me a PhD position at API, which I gladly accepted; in September 1991 I got my PhD (the 33rd one granted by API) on research into accretion physics and evolution of neutron stars. In Leiden I also met fellow (anthropology) student Astrid Havinga. We married in 1990 and have walked life's roads together ever since.

Already around the time of moving from Leiden to Amsterdam I became certain that research and teaching were my thing, and thus that I was shooting for a career in academia. The postdoctoral trail first took me to Princeton University Observatory, where Bohdan Paczynski introduced me to gamma-ray burst research. Our elder daughter was born in Princeton, and our younger daughter soon followed, just after we had moved to Cambridge (UK). I was a postdoc at the Institute of Astronomy for four years, working with Martin Rees and Jim Pringle. In 1998 I was appointed assistant professor at Stonybrook University. In 2002, we moved across the Atlantic a fourth time, when I was appointed to the chair of high-energy astrophysics at API.

My research on theory and observations of gamma-ray bursts continues to amuse and excite me, and I am also involved in the great radio adventure that is LOFAR.

(November 2008)



Rudy Wijnands

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PhD 1999 – API

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

When I was young I always was very interested in everything related to the universe and in particular space exploration, rockets and satellites. I collected all kind of stuff related to space. Having a neighbor who worked at ESTEC in Noordwijk (where I was born and raised) helped significantly in obtaining exciting material. In 1990 I finished high school and I had to decide what I would study at the university. Mathematics was too boring, Physics was too predictable and since I was always interested in the universe and the rest I decided to go for Astronomy at the University of Leiden. I graduated in December 1994 after doing my master project with Hans Bloemen involving Comptel data from the Orion Molecular Cloud complex. In January 1995 I started a PhD project with Michiel van der Klis at API and in February 1999 I defended my thesis entitled “Millisecond phenomena in X-ray binaries”. Until August 1999 I was a postdoc at the API, again with Michiel van der Klis but later that year I became a Chandra fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge in the USA. There I had a very good time with Walter Lewin, Jon Miller (who used to be my office mate for two years) and many others. During this time I moved away from rapid X-ray variability and started to work on very faint X-ray binaries. In 2002 I became a teaching and research fellow and later a PPARC Advanced fellow at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK. Scotland is an extremely nice country to live in and I still miss it from time to time. In the spring of 2003 I was offered a faculty position both at the University of Amsterdam as well as the University of St Andrews. Despite that I really liked St. Andrews and enjoyed my time there, we decided to move back to the Netherlands for career reasons. Since January 2004 I am back in Amsterdam and I never regretted that we choose to move back to the Netherlands.

(September 2011)



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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

My PhD research took place at the Dutch national laboratory for space research (SRON), which resulted after 4 years in a thesis on satellite-based X-ray observations from close-binary stars. Subsequently, I worked as research fellow for two years for the European Space Agency on the interpretation of satellite data.

In 1989 I made the first switch in my career and started to work at RIVM on chemistry/transport modeling of the stratosphere in combination with remote sensing observations of the ozone layer. I was deeply involved in the introduction of Remote Sensing of the atmosphere in the Netherlands (Secretary ROAT) and at ESA (GOME Science advisory group). I became one of the main players who coordinated the introduction of Remote-Sensing applications in environmental research at the RIVM as part of the global monitoring activities.

In 1997 I made the second switch in my career and started to work at the Vrije Universiteit in the general field of Remote Sensing of the environment. I became head of the Remote Sensing Unit and responsible for acquisition, project management and scientific output. In this capacity I have build up an extensive project management track record. I have an extremely wide scientific interest, as is shown in the 37 articles and 45 reports that are mainly based on satellite observations from stars, atmosphere, water and land. My main drive is to do high-quality scientific research in order to make Remote Sensing operational.

(November 2008)

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I was born in a rather small countryside city named Taitung in Taiwan. Ever since I was a little girl in school, I have always been interested in natural sciences and have dreamed of becoming a scientist. The beauty and vastness of the universe has always intrigued me. I often lifted my head and looked up at the sky and tried to think about the universe with my common and limited human brain. I always wondered, “What is the beginning of the universe?” “What is the universe made of?” “Are there other lives and creatures out there?” These mysteries deeply fascinated me, and finding out the answers has become my greatest dream. To pursue my dreams, I have undertaken a broad range of science studies, so that I am best prepared to engage in both scientific exploration and research. To broaden my prospect not only for the science but also to learn the different cultures and people in the world, I flied away from home in my early 20th. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, and my Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the United States. After that I went back to Taiwan and worked as a research assistant for three years. During the three years, I decided that astrophysics is the field I truly love and enjoy, and something I would like to work on for the rest of my life. To advance my knowledge and experience on astrophysical research, I am now working on my PhD research here in the Anton Pannekoek Institute.

(October 2011)



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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I've spent in total about 15 very fruitful and enjoyable months in API in 1997 - 2005 doing research with employees and visitors of API: Ed van den Heuvel, Simon Portegies Zwart, Gijs Nelemans, Alex de Koter, Dave Lommen, Ene Ergma. This cooperation is continuing and it resulted up to now in more than 25 papers and conference contributions.

(November 2008)

LOST AND FOUND ALUMNI

Please send us an e-mail to secr-astro-science@uva.nl if you know the contact details of any alumni you find on this list and if you know of people we have missed in this book. Thank you!

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Picture courtesy of Huib Henrichs taken with the telescopes
of the Anton Pannekoek Observatory

THE END