

The SAO/NSF Latino Initiative Special Seminar

Work, Life, and Family Balance Issues for STEM Professionals: Speaker Presentations and Panel

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Phillips Auditorium

Speaker Presentations

2pm - 3pm

Panel Discussion

3pm - 4pm

Refreshments will be served



Dr. Silvia Torres-Peimbert

Professor Emeritus, Instituto de Astronomía at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
President of the International Astronomical Union (2015-2018)

Ms. Sheryl Bruff

Head of Human Resources, Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)

Mr. Reinier Moquete

CEO, Advopt Technology Group
Co-Founder and Board President Latino STEM Alliance

Dr. Erin Reilly

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Social and Community Reintegration Research at Bedford VA Medical Center

The SAO/NSF Latino Initiative Special Seminar

Work, Life, and Family Balance Issues for STEM Professionals: Speaker Bios



Dr. Silvia Torres-Peimbert

Professor Emeritus, Instituto de Astronomía at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

President of the International Astronomical Union (2015-2018)

Dr. Silvia Torres-Peimbert studied physics at the Faculty of Sciences of the UNAM and a doctorate in astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a Mexican researcher notable for being the first woman nationwide to obtain a Ph.D. in astronomy. She is an emeritus researcher of the Institute of Astronomy of the UNAM and the National Researchers System. Her research has been focused on determining the chemical composition of the regions of stellar formation and gas thrown by intermediate mass stars in our galaxy and other galaxies, and the determination of the primordial helium abundance.

She has been editor of the Mexican Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Also, she has been Director of the Institute of Astronomy, Vice President of the International Astronomical Union, Counselor of the American Astronomical Society and member of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Among other distinctions, she received the National Prize of Sciences, L'Oreal-UNESCO Award for female scientists in Latin America and the Hans A. Bethe Award of the American Physical Society. She is an active member of the Mexican Culture Seminar.



Sheryl Bruff

Head of Human Resources, Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)

Since 2004, Ms. Sheryl L. Bruff has partnered with leaders in every area of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) to develop a workforce of diverse attributes, talents, backgrounds, expertise, and perspectives to sustain and enhance the institute's work. More importantly, she has worked with senior leaders and staff to build and foster a workplace that is inclusive and supportive. Ms. Bruff provides human resources consultation to the corporate office of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA). She is an expert in human resources program and policy development, project management, operations, and employee relations.

Before joining the institute, Ms. Bruff served in human resources leadership roles at several corporations where she managed full-service human resources that ranged from 250 to 800 employees. She also had the opportunity to establish and manage human resources departments from the ground up; lead organizations through significant shifts in business and changes in leadership; develop and lead proactive recruitment and retention strategies; and create and run ongoing professional development programs.

She has served as a workshop presenter and trainer at the American Astronomical Society, as a panel member for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, as a trainer at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, and as a board chair and an affiliate on several committees for the American Heart Association.



Reinier Moquete
CEO, Advoqt Technology Group
Co-Founder and Board President Latino STEM Alliance

Reinier is CEO for Advoqt Technology Group, pronounced “advocate”, a next-generation Systems Integrator and Managed Services company that provides Application Development, Cloud Migration, and Cybersecurity expertise to mid-market businesses. Advoqt recently built and is working to commercialize proprietary software that uses Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence to address Information Security risks.

Reinier is also the Co-Founder and Board President of Latino STEM Alliance, a non-profit that teaches kids how to build robots and is designed to inspire underserved youth to pursue careers in STEM. After recruiting a Board of Directors and an Executive Director, the organization has scaled rapidly to over 17 locations across Boston and Lawrence and serves hundreds of kids each week. Additionally, Reinier is active in other initiatives including the Latino Legacy Fund at The Boston Foundation, the My Brother’s Keeper advisory committee at the City of Boston, and Tech Hire Boston at the Boston Private Industry Council, among others. In the past, Reinier has served within the Massachusetts Governor’s STEM Advisory Council and as President for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (Boston Chapter), among other volunteer activities.

Reinier lives in the Greater Boston area with his wife Ylira Pimentel-Moquete, a Psychotherapist and Wellness Coach, and their three children.



Dr. Erin Reilly
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Social and Community Reintegration Research at Bedford VA Medical Center

Dr. Erin D. Reilly (PhD: Counseling Psychology, M.Ed: Quantitative Methodology) research draws from her background in both clinical psychology and educational/health technology, with a particular on women in STEM and their stressors, coping, and work-family choices. In her therapeutic work and research in the Department of Veteran Affairs, Dr. Reilly has developed and investigated the use of mobile health technology, socially-assistive robotics, and the clinical utilization of embodied conversational agents to support physical and mental health initiatives. At the same time, she has drawn from her own experience and observations in STEM to investigate workplace discrimination, stereotype threat, and work-family integration issues, with her dissertation focusing on work-family interface, role negotiation, and coping strategies for female caregivers in STEM fields. Dr. Reilly’s publications have appeared in professional journals such as the Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology, Journal of Career Development, Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation, Psychology of Men & Masculinity, Self and Identity, Psychological Services, and Online Learning. She has also written several Op-Eds in major media outlets including the Houston Chronicle and Chronicle of Higher Education on subjects ranging from the use of AI in educational technology to the importance of supporting new mother’s mental health during their post-partum period.