Astronomers spot supermassive black hole duo that's the closest to Earth yet

One day they'll combine into a super-duper, super-terrifying and even more massive single black hole.

Eric Mack 17 Dec, 2021 5:30 p.m. PT
AIAA Houston Section  Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History, and 3 Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia Peru; Saturday, 12/04/2021

**Goals and Objectives**

**GOAL 1: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE AIAA COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE INSTITUTE.**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

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**The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

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**Race**

**West Virginia textbook battle shows how GOP turned its image from ‘blue blood to blue collar’**

Before conservatives weaponized critical race theory, a violent 1974 clash over school books helped Republicans rebrand to appeal to white workers

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**Lara Trump claims pricier turkeys are a liberal plot against Thanksgiving**

Ex-president’s daughter-in-law tells Fox News leftwing Americans ‘don’t want us to have any shared traditions’

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**Books**

**US libraries report spike in organised attempts to ban books in schools**

The American Library Association, which monitors ‘challenges’ to books, says social media have amplified protests to the highest number for decades

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**AIAA Statement on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion from AIAA Executive Director Dan Dumbacher, Written Monday, 2 June 2020.**
‘The gooey overlay of sweetness over genocide’: the myth of the ‘first Thanksgiving’

Some members of the Wampanoag Nation mark Thanksgiving as their National Day of Mourning

Indigenous activists want to change a California town’s racist name. Officials are pushing back

Zendaya on her YouTube channel, “Zendaya at the Women’s March on Washington,” 4 years ago, which includes part of a recording showing her much younger self reciting a poem, ‘Black Statue of Liberty.’ This YouTube video duration is 4m 22s. Near the end she says, “We’re sittin’ here now, and I feel like so many people are so afraid to go outside of the box, people like, “Oh, that’s bad! Oh, like if I protest, what are people gonna think of me,” and this, this and this, and I’m like, Yo! People just assume that that like, just was OK, like it was just normal, you know what I’m sayin’? It’s not normal, you have to go against the grain and make people angry and make people mad, and you’re gonna make enemies, like you’re gonna make people mad at you and people are gonna be angry with you because they don’t agree with you yet, but that’s all part of the process. … That’s how change happens.” [Douglas Yazell, November 28, 2021]
The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Diversity and Inclusion are widely recognized within the AIAA community as essential to the mission and vision of the Institute.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Eos Science News by AGU

Racist Slurs in Place-Names Have to Go, Say Geoscientists

An open letter from geoscientists supports a bill to remove racist slurs from federally recognized lakes, creeks, canyons, and other small landforms.

By Jenessa Dunce 19 March 2021

These 11 everyday words and phrases have racist and offensive backgrounds

From the ice cream truck song to words like “peanut gallery” and “freeholder,” our language comes with the baggage of history.

The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Remarks by President Biden at Signing of an Executive Order on Racial Equity

JANUARY 26, 2021 • SPEECHES AND REMARKS

“... in the weeks ahead, I’ll be reaffirming the federal government's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and accessibility, building on the work we started in the Obama-Biden administration.”

“I hope it is clear that opposing whiteness is not the same as opposing white people. White supremacy is an equal opportunity employer; nonwhite people can become active agents of white supremacy as well as passive participants in its hierarchies and rewards. One way of becoming an insider is by participating in the exclusion of other outsiders.” [George Lipsitz, in his 1998 book, The Possessive Investment in Whiteness, How White People Profit from Identity Politics.]
Climate crisis
Climate denial is waning on the right. What’s replacing it might be just as scary

The wrapping of ecological disaster with fears of rampant immigration is a narrative that has flourished in far-right fringe movements in Europe and the US.

Seascape: the state of our oceans
Coral
Nobel-winning stock market theory used to help save coral reefs

Portfolio selection rules on evaluating risk used to pick 50 reefs as ‘arks’ best able to survive climate crisis and revive coral elsewhere

Coral reefs face a dire future. Even if drastic emission reductions ensured global heating was limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels – which would require almost halving global CO2 emissions by 2030 from 2010 levels – 70% to 90% of today’s corals would vanish.

Extreme Makeover: Human Activities Are Making Some Extreme Events More Frequent or Intense

By Alan Buis,
NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory

The combination of models and observations, informed by the unique view that space provides, imply that almost all the current multi-decadal trends we’re seeing in climate are the result of human activities. In addition, there’s increasing confidence that human-induced climate change is making extreme events statistically much more likely.

This doesn’t mean every extreme event has a substantial human contribution. But with extreme events such as heatwaves, wildfires and intense precipitation, we’re seeing, in event after event, a very clear human fingerprint.

The Bottom Line
AIAA Houston Section sister sections

France-USA: www.3af-mp.fr
France: Francis Guimera, preceded by Alain Chevalier
Houston: Douglas Yazell

Ethiopia-USA:
Ethiopia: Tulu Besha Bedada, PhD and Berhan Gessesse, PhD
Houston: Thomas Haregot

Peru-USA:
Houston: Jackelynne Silva-Martinez
Peru: Julio Valdivia, Saul Perez

AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC)
Chair: Douglas Yazell

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Opinion  France

The rise of Éric Zemmour shows how far France has shifted to the right

Didier Fassin

The far-right media pundit is now a presidential candidate—and his toxic ideas have ever more mainstream support

"Indeed, he has said that parents should only be allowed to give their children “traditional” French names,..."

Cementing ties with France, UAE places $19 billion order for warplanes, helicopters

By John Irish
Emperor Haile Selassie I visit to USA, October 1, 1963, Noon. Image credits: JFK Library.

One link I use for current events: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia.
Emperor Haile Selassie I visit to USA, October 1, 1963, Noon. Image credits: JFK Library.

One link I use for current events: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia.
Emperor Haile Selassie I visit to USA, October 1, 1963, 4:33 PM.
Image credits: JFK Library.

Here is a link to the 22-page newsletter article about the AIAA Houston Section Ethiopia-themed dinner meeting, including four guests of honor; Dr. Tulu Besha Bedada and Dr. Berhan Gessesse of the Ethiopian Space Science Society and Their Imperial Highnesses Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie, and Princess Saba of Ethiopia.
Emperor Haile Selassie I visit to USA, October 1, 1963, 4:33 PM. Image credits: JFK Library.

One link I use for current events: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia.
Emperor Haile Selassie I visit to USA, October 1, 1963, 4:33 PM. Image credits: JFK Library.

One link I use for current events: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia.
On 28 July 2021, Pedro Castillo was sworn in as the new President of Peru after a narrow win in a tightly contested run-off election. The new Peruvian president Castillo appointed Guido Bellido, a member of Marxist–Leninist Free Peru Party, as prime minister.
AIAA Region VII (International) and Region IV (four states + Mexico)
The territorial evolution of Mexico after independence, noting the secession of Central America (purple), Chiapas annexed from Guatemala (blue), losses to the U.S. (red, white, and orange) and the reannexation of the Republic of Yucatán (red).

The third major piece in the true story of the formation of the United States as a nation was the takeover of half of Mexico by war—today’s Southwest. This enabled the U.S. to expand to the Pacific, and thus open up huge trade with Asia—markets for export, goods to import and sell in the U.S. It also opened to the U.S. vast mineral wealth in Arizona, agricultural wealth in California, and vast new sources of cheap labor to build railroads and develop the economy.

The United States had already taken over the part of Mexico we call Texas in 1836, then made it a state in 1845. The following year, it invaded Mexico and seized its territory under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. A few years later in 1853, the U.S. acquired a final chunk of Arizona from Mexico by threatening to renew the war. This completed the territorial boundaries of what is now the United States.
Robert Jay Lifton convinced me that nuclearism is denial of reality. He was doing a 2017 book tour for The Climate Swerve. [Douglas Yazell, November 27, 2021]