



Department of Astronomy

4055 McPherson Laboratory  
140 West 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1173

Phone (614) 292-2022

Fax (614) 292-2928

E-mail [peterston@astronomy.ohio-state.edu](mailto:peterston@astronomy.ohio-state.edu)

Web [www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~peterston](http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~peterston)

22 June 2009

Mr. Preston M. Burch and Dr. David S. Leckrone  
NASA GSFC, Code 440  
Greenbelt, MD 20771

Dear Preston and Dave,

On behalf of the Space Telescope Institute Council (STIC), please accept our heartiest congratulations on successfully completing what was arguably the most challenging of the five *Hubble* servicing missions and, indeed, probably the mission with the most challenging set of EVAs of the STS era. As a group, we have been following the project from inception through cancellation, reinstatement, and finally flight and completion, and we know well how complex this mission has been. We are very grateful to you for your willingness to consult with us and the Space Telescope Users Committee on science priorities and for keeping us abreast of mission planning throughout the entire process. Your presentations to STIC were always among the highlights of our regular meetings.

Several STIC members are *Hubble Space Telescope* users and thus count ourselves among the most obvious and immediate beneficiaries of the work that was done on STS-125. We are deeply grateful to you and everyone at NASA who has supported the crews who have deployed, repaired, and refurbished the *Hubble Space Telescope*. Again, congratulations to both of you on a job well done. Please convey our thanks to everyone involved in the SM-4 mission.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley M. Peterson  
The Ohio State University  
STIC Chair

Daniel J. Larson  
Pennsylvania State University  
STIC Vice Chair and Chair-elect

STIC Membership:

Jonathan Bagger, Johns Hopkins University  
Julianne Dalcanton, University of Washington  
P. Tim de Zeeuw, European Southern Observatory  
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Roberta Humphreys, University of Minnesota  
Michael Knoelker, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Eugene H. Levy, Rice University  
Robert Shelton, University of Arizona  
Michael Skrutskie, University of Virginia  
William Smith, AURA (ex officio)  
Giovanni Fazio, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (member elect)  
John Peoples, Fermilab (member elect)