

Solar Physics Division -- 1999-2000 Annual Report

Judith T. Karpen, Chair

The purpose of the Solar Physics Division (SPD) is the advancement of the study of the Sun and the coordination of such research with other branches of science. Any member of the AAS may join the SPD by application to the Treasurer of the SPD. Affiliate membership is provided for persons who are not members of the AAS but who are members of another recognized scientific society with interests related to solar physics. Membership in the SPD at the end of 1999 stood at 377 full and emeritus members, 51 nonaffiliate student members, and 84 affiliate members (including affiliate students) for a total of 512 total members. Annual dues are \$8.00.

In 1999 J. Todd Hoeksema and Mark Giampapa were elected to the SPD Committee, replacing Terry Forbes and Phillip Goode. At the 1999 SPD meeting, Judy Karpen became Chair and Stephen Kahler became the Vice Chair. Officers continuing their terms through 2000 are Stephen Walton, secretary; Dale Gary (Treasurer); John Thomas (Out-Going Vice Chair); and Committee members Karen Harvey and Peter Gilman.

The 1999 Nominating Committee consists of Gary Chapman (Chair), Julia Saba, and Thomas Bogdan. The Hale Prize Committee consists of Ernest Hildner (Chair), A. Gordon Emslie, Barry LaBonte, Shadia Habbal, and Eric Priest. The SPD Studentship Committee is chaired by Gordon Emslie. The SPD liaisons are Thomas Ayres (stellar astronomy), James Chen (plasma physics), Victor Pizzo (solar-terrestrial physics), and Vahé Petrosian (high-energy physics). Craig DeForest is the public relations officer. The Popular Writing Award Committee consists of Jeff Brosius (chair), Leila Belkora, Mark Giampapa, David Smith, and Aad Van Ballegooijen. Two SPD members, John Thomas and John Mariska, are scientific editors for the *Astrophysical Journal*. One SPD member, John Leibacher, was elected to the AAS Nominating Committee for the term 1999-2002.

The SPD sponsors the George Ellery Hale Prize, awarded to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to solar physics. The 2000 Hale Prize is being awarded to Loren W. Acton of Montana State University for his pioneering instrumental and analytical work in soft x-ray observations of the sun and for his unstinting and active support of research and researchers in solar physics in the U.S. and abroad. In January 2000 the AAS Council approved the following changes to the SPD by-laws regarding the disposition of the Hale Prize:

In Paragraph X.1, remove "normally to be awarded every two years" from the first sentence, remove "joint" and "and the Division" from the second sentence. In Paragraph X.1.f, delete the first sentence.

The proposed changes will be voted on by the SPD membership before the 2000 SPD meeting; if they are approved, the Hale Prize will henceforth be given annually instead of every two years.

The following students received Studentship awards with financial support from the SPD to attend the Chicago meeting: Thomas J. Spirock (NJIT), Michelle B. Larson (Montana State), J. Andrew Markiel (U. Rochester); Demitri Muna (CSUN); Elizabeth J. Noonan (Montana State); Richard T. Scopes (U. Memphis); and Brian Welsch (Montana State). The Studentship funds were greatly augmented by generous contributions from two

donors: Mrs. Dorothea Brueckner, in honor of her late husband Guenther; and longterm SPD member Harold Zirin.

The third annual SPD Popular Writing Awards, initiated to encourage public education about the Sun and heliosphere, were presented at the AAS/SPD meeting. The 1999 awardees for articles appearing during CY 1998 were Adam Frank (scientist, U. Rochester) for his article "Blowin' in the Solar Wind," which appeared in Astronomy magazine (v26, n10, p60); and Kurt Loft (science writer/journalist, Tampa Bay Tribune) for his article "Solar Sentry: The Most Sophisticated Platform of Instruments Ever Built to Study the Sun Could Help Scientists Predict Violent Solar Storms."

The 1999 annual meeting of the SPD was held jointly with the 194th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Chicago, Illinois, May 30-June 3, celebrating the centennial year of the Society and the thirtieth anniversary of the SPD. A well-attended SPD tour of Yerkes Observatory took place the first day of the meeting. The Hale Prize, previously given only in even-numbered years, was awarded to John W. Harvey at this meeting to recognize the important role of George Ellery Hale in the history of both the AAS and solar physics. The scientific organizer was SPD vice chair Judy Karpen; 3 special sessions were organized by convenors Richard Canfield, Joseph Davila, and Philip Scherrer. The SPD portion of the program consisted of 244 papers in the regular and special sessions. SPD activities and solar physics in general were successfully promoted throughout the meeting by the SPD booth, which was set up and staffed by Zoe Frank (Lockheed) with occasional relief from various SPD volunteers.

In 2000 the SPD will hold a separate meeting June 18-23 at Caesars Tahoe in Stateline, Nevada, to be hosted by the solar group of the Lockheed-Martin Corporation. This meeting will have 68 oral and 176 poster presentations, and will be highlighted by an all-day program dedicated to NASA's Living with a Star Initiative. The four LWS sessions will consider the program of LWS and the future of solar physics; the solar connections to other disciplines; the space weather aspects of solar physics, and the solar-stellar connection. Other special sessions will be focussed on waves as a tool in solar physics, solar chromospheric models, the structure of the transition region, and near-future instrumentation. In addition, a public lecture will be given by CY2000 Hale Prize winner Loren W. Acton.

In 1999-2000 the frequency of the SPD electronic newsletter, SolarNews, continued to be two regular issues per month. The SPD Secretary, Stephen Walton, who is the editor, also produced a number of special issues of SolarNews, containing timely items, in addition to the regular bimonthly issues. Current and back issues of SolarNews are available at <http://helios.tuc.noao.edu/SolarNews/>, which is a WWW site maintained by John Leibacher (NSO). Further information about the SPD can be obtained from the Division's WWW site at http://umbra.nascom.nasa.gov/aas_spd/, also accessible from the AAS web site. The SPD WWW site is maintained by Joseph Gurman (GSFC).