

## Solar Physics Division -- 2001-2002 Annual Report

John W. Leibacher, 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 as of April 26, 2002 stood at 97 affiliate, 54 emeritus, 337 full, and 51 student, plus 3 who are *ex officio* members from the AAS for a total of 542 members. Annual dues are \$8 for AAS members and \$10 for affiliates.

In 2001, John Leibacher became Chair, Judy Karpen became Vice Chair, Joan Schmelz became Treasurer, and Steve Walton was re-elected as Secretary. David Alexander and Dana Longcope were elected to the SPD Committee, replacing Mark Giampapa and J. Todd Hoeksema. K.D. Leka and Thomas Rimmele continue as Committee members through 2002.

The SPD liaisons continue: Thomas Ayres (stellar astronomy), James Chen (plasma physics), Victor Pizzo (solar-terrestrial physics), and Vahé Petrosian (high-energy physics).

The 2002 Nominating Committee consists of Markus Aschwanden (Chair), Yuhong Fan, and Barbara Thompson. The Hale Prize Committee consists of Shadia Habbal (Chair), Terry Forbes, Leon Golub, John W. Harvey, and Barry LaBonte. The Popular Writing Award Committee consists of Jeff Brosius (chair), Mark Giampapa, Terry Kucera, Curtis Suplee, and David Webb. The SPD Studentship Committee is chaired by A. Gordon Emslie. SPD member John Mariska continues to serve as scientific editor for the *Astrophysical Journal* and John Thomas is just concluding his second term.

The SPD sponsors the George Ellery Hale Prize, awarded to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to solar physics. The 2002 Hale Prize is being awarded at the 200<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AAS, to Eric Priest of the University of St. Andrews for "for his seminal contributions to investigations of the role of the magnetic field in solar activity, and for his tireless advocacy of solar physics in all corners of the world."

The following students received Studentship awards with financial support from the SPD to attend the Albuquerque meeting: Mark Ammons (NSO),

Peter Hubbard (U. Memphis), Ju Jing (NJIT), Ana Rosas (Catholic U) and Meridith Wills-Davey (Montana State).

The fifth annual SPD Popular Writing Awards, initiated to encourage public education about the Sun and heliosphere, were presented at the 2001 SPD meeting. The 2001 awardees for articles appearing during CY 2000 were Curtis B. Suplee, for his article "Sun Studies May Shed Light on Global Warming" (*The Washington Post*, October 9, 2000) and Paul M. Bellan (Caltech), for his article "Simulating Solar Prominences in the Laboratory", that appeared in the *American Scientist*, March, 2000

In 2002 and 2004 the SPD will be meeting jointly with the AAS in Albuquerque and Denver, respectively. In 2003, the SPD will meet by itself at the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.

The 2002 Annual Meeting will have 105 oral presentations and 150 poster presentations; it will feature special sessions on "First Results from RHESSI", "Solar Internal Structure and Dynamics of Chromospheres", "Helioseismology and the Solar Interior", "Understanding Solar Magnetism, the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope", "New Frontiers in Solar and Space Weather Radiophysics", "Structure and Dynamics of Chromospheres", and "The Magnetic Structure of CMEs".

The SPD electronic newsletter, *SolarNews*, continues to be distributed twice per month. The SPD Secretary, 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://www.gong.noao.edu/SolarNews>. Further information about the SPD, and an online membership application form, can be obtained from the Division's WWW site at <http://www.spd.aas.org>.