

Solar Physics Division Annual Report: 2002-2003

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 3, 2003 stood at 104 affiliate, 57 emeritus, 337 full, and 36 students, plus 3 who are *ex officio members* from the AAS for a total of 537 members. Annual dues are \$8 for AAS members and \$10 for affiliates.

In 2002, Ed DeLuca was elected as Vice-Chair, and Sarah Gibson and Alphonse Sterling were elected to the SPD Committee, replacing K.D. Leka and Thomas Rimmele. David Alexander and Dana Longcope continue as Committee members through 2003.

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

The 2002-2003 Nominating Committee consists of Yuhong Fan (Chair), Joe Hollweg and Carolus Schrijver. 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 Terry Kucera (chair), Charles Kankelberg, Julia Saba, Curtis Suplee, and David Webb. A. Gordon Emslie chairs the SPD Studentship Committee. SPD members Tim Bastian and John Mariska serve as scientific editors for the *Astrophysical Journal*.

The SPD sponsors the George Ellery Hale Prize, awarded to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to solar physics. The 2003 Hale Prize is being awarded at the 202nd Meeting of the AAS, to Bob Howard of the National Solar Observatory for "for his pioneering discoveries of fundamental properties of solar magnetic and velocity fields; initiating modern instrumentation and archiving methods for long-term solar observations; and selfless mentoring, collaboration, and leadership of solar physics research programs and institutions." In 2002, the SPD initiated the Karen L. Harvey Prize "for a significant contribution to the study of the Sun early in a person's professional career" honoring the many years of dedicated service which Karen devoted to the SPD and the international solar physics community. The prize will be presented for the first time in 2003 to Dana Longcope [Montana State University] "for his significant contributions to the study of the Sun's magnetism in the areas of separator reconnection and flux tube physics".

The sixth annual SPD Popular Writing Awards, initiated to encourage public education about the Sun and heliosphere, were presented at the 2002 SPD meeting. The 2002 awardees for articles appearing during CY 2001 in Professional scientist category were Carolus J. Schrijver and Alan M. Title, for their two-part article "*Today's Science of the Sun*," Part 1 in *Sky and Telescope*, February 2001; Part 2 in March 2001. The winners in the science writer/journalist category were Ron Cowen, "*Stormy Weather*," *Science News*, vol. 159, 13 January 2001, pp. 26-28 and Sid Perkins, "*Pinning Down the Sun-Climate Connection*."

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

The 2003 Annual Meeting will have 30 invited oral, 60 contributed oral, and 168 posters and late papers, with sessions on "*Helioseismology and the Changing Solar Interior*", "*the Photosphere and Chromosphere*", "*the Corona, Coronal Mass Ejections*", "*Solar Wind and Heliosphere*", "*Transequatorial and other Coronal Structures*", "*RHESSI Results*", "*Flares and Microflares*", "*Instrumentation*", "*Data Analysis Challenges*", and "*Beyond SDO*". In addition, there will be four "*Parker Lectures*" to provide a broad, tutorial background to various aspects of the science featured at the meeting, and a special emphasis on outreach activities.

The following students received awards with financial support from the SPD to attend the Annual Meeting at JHU/APL: Paula Balciunaite (University of California, Berkeley), David Byers (Smithfield, UT), Amir Caspi (University of California, Berkeley), Steven Christe (University of California, Berkeley), John Kwan "Jake" Lee (University of Alabama in Huntsville), Wei Liu (Stanford University), Loraine Lundquist (University of California, Berkeley), Drew Medlin (University of Memphis), Ivy Merriot (Montana State University), Gelu M. Nita (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Phil Oakley (University of California, Berkeley), Emily Rauscher (University of California, Berkeley), Jason Scott (Montana State University), Albert Shih (University of California, Berkeley), and Linghua Wang (University of California, Berkeley)

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>.