

Solar Physics Division Annual Report: 2005-2006

James A. Klimchuk, Chair

The Solar Physics Division (SPD) is healthy and vibrant. Its purpose 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 SPD Treasurer. 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 18, 2006 stood at 352 full, 46 associate, 70 emeritus, 33 junior (student), and 65 affiliate for a total of 566 members. Annual dues are \$8 for AAS members and \$10 for affiliates.

The SPD officers are James Klimchuk (Chair), Edward DeLuca (Vice-Chair), Neal Hurlburt (Secretary), and Joan Schmelz (Treasurer). The regular Committee members are Thomas Ayres, Douglas Braun, Gordon Holman, John Leibacher, and Harry Warren.

The Nominating Committee consists of Therese Kucera (Chair), George Fisher, and Ron Moore. The Prize Committee consists of David Hathaway (Chair), Lyndsay Fletcher, Steven Keil, Philip Scherrer, and Aad Van Ballegooijen. The Popular Writing Award Committee consists of Rachel Howe (Chair), Peter Foukal, Joan Burkepille, Mark Linton, and Ellen Shortill. John Leibacher chairs the SPD Summer School Committee; Gordon Emslie is in charge of the SPD Studentship Awards; and SPD members Tim Bastian and John Mariska serve as scientific editors for the *Astrophysical Journal*.

An Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Exploratory Committee, chaired by Emilie Drobnes and including David Alexander, Craig DeForest, Dave Dooling, Zoe Frank, Cheri Morrow, and Thomas Zurbuchen, was created to make recommendations on a permanent committee for E/PO. A proposal describing the goals and objectives of such a committee, including a mission statement and charter, was approved by the SPD Committee, and a standing E/PO Committee was formally created. The members of the new committee have not yet been selected.

The SPD sponsors several prizes. The George Ellery Hale Prize, awarded for outstanding contributions to solar physics over an extended period of time, was given to Peter Gilman of the High Altitude Observatory "for his unique insights and substantial scientific achievements in understanding the dynamics of the solar convection zone and the mechanism of the Sun's magnetic dynamo and for his leadership and support of solar physics research programs." The Karen L. Harvey Prize, awarded for a significant contribution to the study of the Sun early in a person's professional career, was given to Steven Cranmer of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics "for his major theoretical and observational

contributions toward understanding the roles of waves and turbulence in heating and accelerating solar wind plasma." The Popular Writing Award winners are being selected at the time of this writing.

The 2005 annual meeting of the SPD was held jointly with the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in New Orleans on May 23-27. Many excellent oral and poster presentations were given on a wide range of topics, including the solar dynamo, helioseismology, sunspots, coronal loops and heating, flares, coronal mass ejections, the solar wind, and new instrumentation. The program listed 214 SPD general contributions, but many other presentations by SPD members were given in AGU special sessions on solar and solar-related topics. The following students received awards with financial support from the SPD to attend the meeting: Lokesh Bharti (Mohanlal Sukhadia Univ., India), Na Deng (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Yanwei Jiang (Stanford Univ.), Rui Liu (Rice Univ.), Jennifer Roames (Univ. of Memphis), and Anne Sandman (Rice Univ.). The SPD will have a stand-alone meeting at the University of New Hampshire in 2006 and will meet jointly with the AAS in Hawaii in 2007.

This year marked that beginning of the annual SPD Summer Schools. The objective is to present solar physics to young professionals who might be considering a career in solar physics by giving them a crash course in some area of specialization. The target audience is incoming graduate students, but participation will probably be broadened to include graduate students at any level and recent PhD's. The inaugural summer school concentrated on helioseismology and was hosted by the High Altitude Observatory and Advanced Study Program of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. It took place July 24-29, 2005 in Boulder, Colorado and was by all accounts a huge success. The next summer school will be sponsored by the University of New Hampshire on the topic of high energy solar physics.

The SPD electronic newsletter, *SolarNews*, continues to be distributed twice per month. Current and back issues are available at <http://solarnews.nso.edu>. Further information about the SPD and an online membership application form can be obtained from the Division's WWW site at <http://spd.aas.org>.