

**Precision Measurement and Fundamental Constants Group Newsletter**  
**No. 29, May 2005**

**Contents:**

*2005 Election Results*

*2005 APS Fellows*

*GPMFC Reception at DAMOP*

*2005 Francis M. Pipkin Award*

*GPMFC Invited Speakers at the APS April Meeting*

*Student Travel Support*

*Minutes of the Business Meeting*

*2005-2006 Executive Committee Membership*

**2005 Election Results**

Just over 25% of our present Group membership of 398 voted in the election. The Executive Committee approved the following results. Eric Hessels was elected Vice Chair, and Kurt Gibble and Christopher Oates are the incoming Members-at Large of the Executive Committee. Terms begin following the DAMOP Meeting. Thanks to all of our candidates, and to Nominating Committee members Tiku Majumder (Chair), Mike Snow, and Steve Rolston (APS Liason) for assembling the slate of candidates. Congratulations to those elected. Tiku Majumder has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee next year as well.

**2005 APS Fellows**

The 2005 Fellowship Committee was chaired by Siu Au Lee, with Steve Lundeen and Larry Hunter as members. Their task has been to nominate candidates for Fellowship in 2006. Siu Au has agreed to assist the Fellowship Committee chair for next year, Vice-Chair-elect Eric Hessels.

The 2005 Fellows were announced at the Business Meeting, with presentation of the Fellowship Certificates by Executive Committee Chair Ron Walsworth. Congratulations to our two new APS Fellows:

Alan Kostelecky, Indiana University, "For his seminal contributions to the understanding and testing of spacetime symmetries and for the development of a theoretical framework for investigations of relativity violations"

John C. Price, University of Colorado, "For measurements setting improved upper limits on submillimeter-range forces"

### **GPMFC Reception at DAMOP**

A GPMFC pizza reception was held at the 36<sup>th</sup> DAMOP Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, May 17 – 21. The reception was Wednesday, May 18 at 6 PM in the Burnham Yates Conference Center Hawthorne Room, following Poster Session Session D6. Thanks to David Weiss and Tim Gay for organizing this reception. At the reception, GPMFC sign-up sheets were made available by Siu Au Lee, to encourage students to join the GPMFC. Twenty-seven of them signed up. By vote of the Executive Committee, their first year membership dues will be paid by the GPMFC. Two participating students were also signed up at the APS April Meeting.

### **2005 Francis M. Pipkin Award**

The 2005 winner of the Pipkin Award was Ronald Walsworth, Harvard-Smithsonian CFA, "For broad investigation in precision measurements involving masers, in particular, for using hydrogen and noble-gas-masers in achieving record sensitivities to violations of Lorentz and CPT symmetry in neutrons and protons, and for innovative applications of masers to imaging". Congratulations to Ron, who presented the Pipkin Lecture at the APS April Meeting.

The Pipkin Award is made every two years. The next chair of the Pipkin Award Committee is Alan Kostelecky. For more information concerning the Pipkin Award, see <http://www.aps.org/praw/pipkin/index.cfm>.

### **GPMFC Invited Speakers at the APS April Meeting**

In a session chaired by Carol Tanner, substituting for Ron Walsworth, the invited speakers were Harold Parks, "The Experimental Determination of the Newtonian Constant of Gravitation"; Barry Muhlfelder, "Gravity Probe B", and Alan Kostelecky, "Theory and Tests of Lorentz Violation". Thanks to Ron Walsworth for organizing this interesting session. The Program Committee is now chaired by Carol Tanner, assisted by Siu Au Lee.

## **Student Travel Support**

The GPMFC was pleased to provide partial travel support to four students attending and making presentations at the DAMOP Meeting this year. Instructions for application for future partial travel support appear on the GPMFC web site.

## **Minutes of the Business Meeting**

There was a gain of twenty in GPMFC membership during 2004-5, to a total of 398.

GPMFC funds as of March, 2005, were \$27,693.75. Income is from member dues, interest investment, and some revenue from the APS April Meeting. Major expenditures are for student travel support, the DAMOP reception, new student member dues, and the Executive Committee lunch (which substituted for a reception at the less-attended (by our membership) April Meeting, with the Invited Speakers, election candidates, new Fellows, and Judy Franz invited). Pipkin Award funds had a balance of \$37,970.58, with a yearly projected investment income near \$2,200 and projected liabilities of about \$2,600 (the award and travel support) every two years.

The Executive Committee approved a recruitment incentive of free first year dues for students who join the GPMFC, to be paid from GPMFC funds.

The new APS Fellows nominated by GPMFC were announced, and Certificates presented to those attending by Chair Ron Walsworth.

At the Executive Committee meeting, several topics were discussed.

The present arrangement of Executive Committee and Business Meetings being held in alternating years at the APS April Meeting and the DAMOP Meeting was strongly supported.

A question was raised about the status of the potential Deslattes Award. Our representative Peter Mohr reports that it is presently in the hands of the APS Awards Committee.

A task force of Carol Tanner, Siu Au Lee, and Tiku Majumder agreed to consider revisions to the student travel support program, including possible awards. Support at the level of \$1000/year was tentatively recommended.

Reconsideration of a possible reception at the APS April Meeting was set aside to next year.

Possible recruiting efforts, and retention of younger members, including extra newsletters, precision measurement pages in the DAMOP and gravity group newsletters, short popular articles for beginning graduate students, etc. were briefly discussed. It was decided to prepare a few sample articles first, and then approach DAMOP and GGR. Ron Walsworth agreed to look into this.

Some concern that primarily DAMOP-oriented candidates are elected to GPMFC offices was voiced. Tiku Majumder agreed to make a point of encouraging non-AMO candidates for GPMFC offices

## **2005-2006 Executive Committee Membership**

### **PMFCTG Executive Committee**

#### **Chair**

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