

A Note from the Chair

Dear GMAG members,

As the new Chair of GMAG, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for belonging to GMAG, to convey a few items of information, and to ask for your participation in several GMAG activities, particularly the organization of the next March Meeting symposia and Focus Session topics. GMAG has become the second largest Topical Group in the APS, and we are very excited about some of the initiatives described below, including our Dissertation Award and our new funding of outreach programs. Our ability to promote magnetism-related research within the APS depends largely on our membership, and we hope that you will continue to participate actively within GMAG and encourage your colleagues with magnetism research interests to join.



GMAG Election Results: First, the outcome of the GMAG election. Jim Rhyne (Los Alamos National Lab) is our new Vice Chair, Caroline Ross (MIT) is our new Secretary-Treasurer, and our two new Executive Committee members are Andrew Kent (NYU) and Jeff Childress (Hitachi Global Storage Technologies). Thanks also to everyone who participated in the election, and to our outgoing GMAG officers. It is also time to begin considering nominations for the next GMAG election. Mark Stiles (mark.stiles@nist.gov) is Chair of the next Nominations Committee. Please send him suggestions for Vice Chair and Members at Large, no later than **Sept. 1, 2004**.

Outreach Funding from GMAG: Starting this year, GMAG will make funds available to its members to support outreach activities. Limited funds (up to \$2500 per project) are available to cover supplies and expenses associated with activities which aim to educate non-scientists about magnetism and its applications. Preference will be given to innovative activities that will be documented so that they can be reproduced elsewhere. The outcome of the activities will be disseminated to the GMAG membership through the Newsletter and to the broader magnetism community through the GMAG website. Interested GMAG members should prepare a 1-2 page summary of the proposed activity (including expected duration and outcome) along with a 1 page CV and a list of anticipated expenses. These should be mailed as a single file in .pdf format to the GMAG Chair, Peter Schiffer, at schiffer@phys.psu.edu. The GMAG Executive Board will review proposals on an ongoing basis, beginning May 1, 2004.

Student Awards and Student Membership support: In a continuing effort to encourage graduate students working in magnetism, GMAG will continue two policies which were implemented on a trial basis last year:

1) **Free student membership in GMAG:** Students who are members of APS can join GMAG without paying additional dues (GMAG will pay student GMAG dues to APS). To join, students need to send a note to Jonathan Sun (jonsun@watson.ibm.com) with their name, APS

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membership number, mailing address, and e-mail address (note that students can join APS free for one trial year and \$26 for each succeeding year).

2) **Outstanding Dissertation in Magnetism Awards:** For the second year in a row, GMAG will award up to three dissertation awards at the next March Meeting. These awards will recognize students who have conducted outstanding research leading to their dissertation and will consist of an invited talk in an appropriate session at the March Meeting, a \$500 prize to the student (not intended as a travel award, but as a prize to the student), and up to \$250 toward travel expenses to the APS meeting. The student must be in their final year before graduation with a Ph.D., and both the student and the advisor must be current members of GMAG. Nominations will consist of a nominating letter provided by the student's advisor and an extended abstract of the research. The nominating letter must address the following issues:

- the quality and independence of the student's work;
- the student's speaking ability;
- the year the student began graduate school;
- the student's expected completion date (must be before Sept. 1, 2005 to be eligible for the 2005 March Meeting);
- assessment of the student's future potential as a research scientist.

Nominations should be sent by email to Peter Schiffer (schiffer@phys.psu.edu) by **Sept. 1, 2004**. Evaluation of the nominations will be conducted by the GMAG Executive Committee.

March Meeting 2005: Symposium Nominations and Focus Session Topics: It is now time to start organizing the magnetism part of the 2005 March Meeting in Los Angeles. This year's Chair-Elect Jack Bass is in charge of GMAG participation in: (a) Invited Symposia, which consist entirely of invited speakers (usually five), and (b) Focus Session Topics, which involve mostly contributed talks, with one invited speaker per session to provide context.

For each symposium, we need nominations of topic, chair, and speakers. Please send these to Prof. Bass at bass@pa.msu.edu no later than **August 1, 2004**.

Last year we co-organized, along with DMP and/or DCOMP, five Focus Session topics:

- *Theory and Simulation of Magnetism and Spin Dependent Properties*
- *Magnetic Nanostructures and Heterostructures*
- *Magnetoresistance and Phase Complexity in Oxides*
- *Spin Transport and Spin Dynamics in Metal-Based Systems*
- *Spin-Dependent Phenomena in Semiconductors*

Since these Focus Session topics were successful, we will probably continue them (perhaps with modified titles), but we also solicit suggestions for additional topics. There is no limit on the number of Focus Session topics, except that each must attract enough contributed papers to generate at least one (and preferably more) sessions. To volunteer to help organize a Focus Session, and/or to propose a title for a new one, please contact Prof. Bass by **April 23, 2004**.

Nominations for APS Prizes and Awards: The nomination deadline for most of the APS prizes and awards is July 1, 2004. Please be sure to nominate worthy people from the magnetism community for the various awards, listed on the APS web site (<http://www.aps.org/praw/>). The deadline for this year's fellowship nominations has already passed, but it is not too early to start preparing nominations for next year for a young (or not so

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young!) person you think should be awarded APS Fellowship. All information on the requirements for all of these nominations can be found on the APS web site (<http://www.aps.org/>).

New GMAG-Sponsored APS Fellows: We congratulate our most recent Fellows (class of 2003), sponsored by GMAG for their outstanding contributions to the field of magnetism.

Roy William Chantrell (Seagate Research, Pennsylvania) *For contributions to the theory of nanoparticle magnetism and the development of theoretical and computational approaches to the problem of thermally activated magnetization reversal.*

Gerald Francis Dionne (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) *For contributions to the understanding of magnetic and electronic interactions in solids and for the design of novel magnetic materials and devices.*

Sungho Jin (University of California, San Diego) *For seminal contributions to the understanding and control of structure and properties in magnetic materials including CMR materials, critical current behavior of superconductor materials, and technical applications.*

Upcoming magnetism conferences and workshops: The organizers of two upcoming magnetism conferences have asked us to inform the GMAG membership of their meetings:

International Workshop on Nanomagnetism (Havana, Cuba, November 14-18, 2004)
<http://www.nanomagnetics.org/>

Nanomagnetism - From Discovery to Systems (Ithaca, NY, May 14, 2004)
<http://www.cns.cornell.edu/>

Thank you again for your participation in GMAG. Your membership facilitates a range of magnetism-related activities within the APS, and our increasing numbers will allow us to continue to expand these activities in the years to come.

Sincerely,

The GMAG Executive Committee

Chair: Peter Schiffer (schiffer@phys.psu.edu)

Chair-Elect: Jack Bass (bass@pa.msu.edu)

Vice-Chair: Jim Rhyne (rhyne@lanl.gov)

Past Chair: Frances Hellman (fhellman@ucsd.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer: Caroline Ross (caross@mit.edu)

Executive Committee Members-at-Large: Julie Borchers, Jeff Childress, Andrew Kent, Laura Lewis, Mark Stiles, and Jonathan Sun