

## APS Topical Group on Plasma Astrophysics -- GPAP newsletter

- A report on our status, and minutes of GPAP business meeting at APS-DPP in Denver

### Issues on the table

- GPAP should work on raising our profile and impact on the several communities
  - 1.1. Make a case for our shared broad interests in plasma astrophysics
  - 1.2. Outreach - scatter to many institutions and present talks on our exciting stuff
  - 1.3. There have been discussions with OFES about starting up a NASA-DOE partnership for plasma physics, analogous to the existing NSF-DOE partnership. This is a super constructive idea, and would not cost either agency any funds. It would elicit a little more buzz and currency, and reduce the buck passing about who is the steward of plasma science. I propose that GPAP endorse this activity.
- We need new members and energy
  - 2.1. e.g. solicit new members at next APS meeting(s).
  - 2.2. ask Mark Koepke, Saralyn Stewart, for a recruitment table, perhaps for all topical groups?
- nominate GPAP sponsored candidates for APS fellow consideration
  - 3.1. The Fellowship Committee shall consist of Vice-Chair (Mikhail Medvedev this year) & two others
  - 3.2. We can propose one USA nomination + another possible international one
- suggest topics for miniconferences, special sessions, suggest and nominate invited talks, socialize, and promulgate
  - 4.1. APS
  - 4.2. AGU
  - 4.3. SHINE
  - 4.4. AAS
  - 4.5. IPELS
  - 4.6. other meetings?

### Minutes of the meeting

- Paul Drake (Univ Michigan) is a representative of the recently minted Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD) of American Astronomical Society - AAS.
  - 1.1. One can join LAD at <http://lad.aas.org>
  - 1.2. APS members can become affiliate members of AAS at low cost, although we get more impact with AAS if we pony up the full membership fee.
  - 1.3. Paul gave an update on our attempts to jointly sponsor a young researcher award with AAS. At the moment this is not going anywhere. The GPAP purview is perceived as too narrow, given the large breadth of other AAS fields, including High Energy Astro (HEAD), Atomic and Molecular, etc. The suggestion is to get on the docket of a future AAS exec Comm meeting, not the January one which has a full agenda, but the June one in Boston.
- This year at APS we had simultaneous conflicting meetings of High Energy Density Science and Applications (HEDSA), GPAP, Exploratory Plasma Research (EPR). We must be proactive next year and forestall these schedule conflicts, since there is a lot of overlap between these several communities.
- Greg Howes, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Iowa is the secretary - treasurer for GPAP (thanks Greg for doing this). He gave a report on our finances. We have around \$25k in the bank, with an annual income on the order of \$2--\$3k/year. We should strategically invest some.

- 3.1. There was some discussion of supporting travel for international members to come to our meetings, and we could also support GPAP travel to international or other meetings.
- 3.2. Other suggestions are welcome, eg investment in the young researcher prize.
4. Bruno Coppi proposed that GPAP and others draft a community letter making the case the plasma astrophysics is important, far reaching, interdisciplinary, and worthy of community support. The idea is not to importune for funding, but to underscore the legitimacy and breadth of our field. Some important fusion concepts have followed from plasma-astro considerations eg the high field tokamak. We dont know at the moment who should be the recipient of said letter, and this merits some discussions. Our consensus is that for many reasons DOE-OFES has its hands tied, and we should target another audience.
  - 4.1. We need a discussion of this, so please email [intrator@lanl.gov](mailto:intrator@lanl.gov), [gregory-howes@uiowa.edu](mailto:gregory-howes@uiowa.edu), [gekelman@physics.ucla.edu](mailto:gekelman@physics.ucla.edu), [coppi@psfc.mit.edu](mailto:coppi@psfc.mit.edu)
5. There is some interest in gathering a membership of GPAP, especially so we can see for example who is an APS fellow, etc.
6. At the moment the executive committee is listed at <http://www.aps.org/units/gpap/governance/officers/index.cfm>, and includes
  - 6.1. Chair: Tom Intrator ( 11/13 - 10/14) Los Alamos Natl Lab
  - 6.2. Chair-Elect: Mikhail Medvedev ( 11/13 - 10/14) Univ of Kansas
  - 6.3. Past Chair: Walter Gekelman ( 11/13 - 10/14) Univ of California - Los Angeles
  - 6.4. Secretary/Treasurer: Gregory Howes ( 11/12 - 10/15) Univ of Iowa
  - 6.5. Member-at-Large: Jan Egedal ( 11/11 - 10/14) Massachusetts Inst of Tech-MIT
  - 6.6. Member-at-Large: Justin Kasper ( 11/11 - 10/14) Smithsonian Astrophys Observ
  - 6.7. Member-at-Large: Giovanni Lapenta ( 11/12 - 10/15) Katholieke Univ Leuven
  - 6.8. Member-at-Large: Earl Scime ( 11/12 - 10/15) West Virginia Univ

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. appoint a fellowship committee for APS fellow - Medvedev is chair
2. appoint a nomination committee to elicit candidates for the GPAP election which is woefully delayed: Intrator appoints a member of exec-comm to be chair
3. appoint a program committee to shepherd mini conference at APS-DPP, consider other meetings too: Intrator appoints chair
4. discuss how to proceed with a community letter extolling plasma astro - Coppi, Intrator, and whoever
5. send out the minutes to the membership, perhaps including some finance numbers