

Precision Measurement and Fundamental Constants

NEWSLETTER

A Topical Group of The American Physical Society
<http://www.aps.org/units/pmfc>

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2004 APS May Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, May 25-29

Our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with DAMOP and the Canadian DAMP in Tucson, Arizona, May 25-29, 2004. Our Chair-Elect RonWalsworth has organized an invited session on precision measurements. The Friday talks start at 1:30 and will be as follows:

“Precision Measurements: Testing the Time Variation of the Fine Structure Constant,” Steve Lamoreaux (Los Alamos National Laboratory).

“Effects of variation of fundamental constants from Big Bang to atomic clocks,” Victor Flambaum (University of New South Wales).

“Sensitive symmetry tests with diatomic molecules,” David DeMille (Yale University).

“Measurement of the Electron Electric Dipole Moment using GdIG,” Larry Hunter (Amherst College).

In addition, our group co-sponsored an invited session at the April APS meeting with the Topical Group in Gravitation. It highlighted research from LIGO with invited talks by Keith Riles (University of Michigan), Peter Shawhan (California Institute of

Technology), Patrick J. Sutton (California Institute of Technology), Michael Landry (LIGO Hanford Observatory) and Peter Fritschel (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). A contributed session at the April APS meeting on Precision Measurement was also chaired by Luis Orozco.

APS Fellows

The fellowship committee of GPMFC is chaired by our group’s Vice-Chair. Each year the fellowship committee reviews and forwards the nominations of candidates whose work has significantly impacted the field of precision measurement and fundamental constants. Follow the fellowship links on the APS web site for procedures if you wish to nominate a candidate. This year, congratulations to our new APS Fellows:

Leo William Hollberg (National Institute of Science and Technology), “For seminal work in the development and application of ultra-stable diode lasers, especially as applied to spectroscopy and precision measurements.

Edmund Gregory Myers (Florida State University), “For developing innovative techniques for precision laser spectroscopy of helium-like ions and for application of atomic physics methods to nuclear physics.”

2004 Election Results

The results for the 2004 election are as follows: Siu Au Lee is elected as Vice-Chair, David A. Church is elected as Secretary-Treasurer while Dana J. Berkeland and Edwin R. Williams are elected to begin their terms as Executive Committee Members-at-Large. Terms begin with the end of this year’s Annual Meeting in Tucson. We thank the nominating committee of Luis A. Orozco (Chair), Kate Kirby and Steve Lamoreaux.

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Reception for Members at our Annual Meetings

At the 2003 annual executive meeting, the idea of having an annual informal reception for members and interested individuals immediately following our business meeting was discussed. The idea is to foster a community spirit, to renew or form new contacts, and to introduce students to others in the field in an informal setting. We first tried this at Williamsburg with reasonable success, and will try to continue this at Tucson.

Travel Support for Young Scientists

Each year, the Topical Group provides partial travel support to several graduate students, post-docs, and recently graduated physicists to present contributed papers in the area of precision measurement and fundamental constants. In 2004, three awards were given to students presenting at DAMOP. Check the group web site for details (<http://www.aps.org/units/pmfc/educat.cfm>).

PMFCTG Executive Committee (2003-2004)

Chair:**James Faller**

JILA
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0440
Phone: (303) 492-8509
Fax: (303) 492-5235
Email: fallerj@jila.colorado.edu

Chair-Elect**Ronald L Walsworth**

MS 59
Harvard-Smithsonian CFA
60 Garden St
Cambridge MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-7274
Fax: (617) 496-7690
E-mail:
rwalsworth@cfa.harvard.edu

Vice-Chair**Carol Tanner**

Dept of Phys-College of Sci
Univ of Notre Dame
225 Nieuwland Sci Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5670
Phone (219) 631-8369
Fax (219) 631-5952
Email: carol.e.tanner.1@nd.edu

Past Chair:**Blayne Heckel**

Department of Physics

University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
Phone: (206) 685-2401
Fax: (206) 685-0635
E-mail: heckel@phys.washington.edu

Secretary-Treasurer:**David Shiner**

Department of Physics
University of North Texas
Denton, TX 76203-1427
Phone: (940) 565-3874
Fax: (940) 565-2515
E-mail: shiner@unt.edu

Members-at-Large (Year term expires
in parentheses):

Harvey Allen Gould (2006)

Bldg 71-259 LBL
UCB
Berkeley, CA 94720
Phone (510) 486-7777
Fax (510) 486-7981
Email gould@lbl.gov

Protik K Majumder (2006)

Dept of Phys
Williams College
Williamstown, MA 01267
Phone (413) 597-3211
Fax (413) 597-4116
Email pmajumde@williams.edu

Jens H Gundlach (2005)

Nuclear Phys Lab
Univ of Washington
Box 324290
Seattle, WA 98195
Phone (206) 543-4080
Email: jens@phys.washington.edu

David Scott Weiss (2005)

Dept of Phys
Pennsylvania State Univ
104 Davey Lab
University Park, PA 16802
Phone (814) 863-3076
Fax (814) 865-3604
Email: dsweiss@phys.psu.edu

Luis A. Orozco (2004)

Department of Physics and Astronomy
SUNY-Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3800
Phone:(631) 632-8138
Fax:(631) 632-8176
Email: luis.orozco@sunysb.edu

Steven L. Rolston (2004)

100 Bureau Drive
National Institute of Standards and
Technology
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8424
Phone: (301) 975-6581
Fax: (301) 975-8272
E-mail: steven.rolston@nist.gov