

DIVISION OF ATOMIC, MOLECULAR AND OPTICAL PHYSICS NEWSLETTER

A Division of The American Physical Society

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FROM THE CHAIR: BARRY DUNNING

The DAMOP 2003 meeting in Boulder was a great success. AMO physics is at a high point in terms of scientific excitement and achievement and this, coupled with the venue, attracted a record number of registrants, 817. The meeting

featured many new developments and innovative ideas, several of which were highlighted in an article in APS News. I wish to thank Chris Greene and the members of the Local Organizing Committee for all their hard work in organizing such a terrific meeting.

A Student Symposium was held this year, as last year, the day before the regular DAMOP meeting. This symposium gave interested graduate students and postdocs the opportunity to hear tutorial-style reports on timely areas of physics. This year the three speakers (and topics) were Paul Julienne (Ultracold Collisions); Debbie Jin (Degenerate Fermi Gases); and Jeff Kimble (Cavity QED). This was a successful event, fostering interactions among the eighty or so participants as well as exposing them to interesting science. Our thanks go to John Bohn for organizing this symposium.

One item discussed at the DAMOP Executive Committee Meeting in Boulder concerned the number of DAMOP members, which has remained relatively stable at a little over 2500 for some time. Subsequent research revealed that of those attendees in Boulder who were members of the APS, approximately one sixth were not in DAMOP. A letter was e-mailed to these people suggesting that they might add DAMOP to their list of APS unit affiliations. If you are aware of friends or colleagues active in AMO science who are not members of DAMOP, I ask that you please encourage them to join. The cost is modest and broadening the representation within DAMOP will help maintain the health and vigor of our field.

DAMOP/DAMP 2004

The 2004 Annual Meeting of DAMOP will take place in Tucson May 25-29, 2004, jointly with the Annual Meeting of DAMP, the Division of Atomic and Molecular Physics of the Canadian Physical Society.

The Conference Headquarters will be the Marriott University Park, which is adjacent to the Campus of the University of Arizona. All oral presentations will be given at that location, while the poster sessions and conference dinner will take place at the brand new U of A Memorial Student Union, a short walk from the Marriott. In addition to the Marriott Hotel, blocks of rooms at advantageous conference rates have been reserved at the Four-Point Sheraton, on the other side of the University of Arizona Campus, and at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park. That hotel is about four miles from campus, but a free shuttle service will be arranged. It is next to a large city park with a zoo, golf courses, etc., and as such would be a particularly attractive choice for families. In addition, we have also reserved a block of dorm rooms at the U of A, a few minutes walk from the Marriott.

One highlight of the conference will be a public evening lecture by Prof. Eric Cornell. In addition, we hope that DAMOP/DAMP 2004 will live up to the high standards of previous DAMOP meetings, with a mix of exciting invited and contributed papers, the always popular Thesis Award session, plenary talks, and more. Following the tradition started in Williamsburg, a series of student tutorial lectures will be held on the University of Arizona Campus on Tuesday May 25.

Tucson is a great place to visit in late spring, with warm, but usually very dry and therefore pleasant weather. (Don't forget your shades and lots of sun lotion, and drink plenty of water.) There are numerous sightseeing opportunities, both in

Southern Arizona and a bit further north toward the Grand Canyon and the Four-Corner area. Golf, tennis, and hiking are world-class. Tucson also boasts a large selection of restaurants for all tastes and wallets, from the modest to the outrageously expensive (and good!)

Online registration for the meeting will open in the late fall. Much more information on the 2004 DAMOP/DAMP meeting can be found on the conference website, www.optics.arizona.edu/DAMOP2004. Check this site often, as it will be regularly updated as further information becomes available.

Help define the program for the 2004 APS March Meeting

DAMOP is a participating unit in the 2004 March Meeting of the American Physical Society (Montreal, March 22-26, 2004). We are entitled to sponsor two invited symposia, for which we need the input of the DAMOP membership. If you have a good idea for a DAMOP-oriented March Meeting symposium, please notify our representative on the program committee, Charles Clark (charles.clark@nist.gov) by September 30. The most useful symposium suggestions are those which identify at least five possible speakers (the standard number for an APS invited session).

The APS March Meeting is usually the largest physics meeting in the world in any given year, and presentations at it have wide visibility across many fields of physics. The March Meeting is the principal annual meeting of a number of APS Divisions in areas that intersect AMO physics - for example, the Divisions of Biological, Chemical, Computational, Condensed Matter, and Materials Physics - and of the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics. Attendance at the March Meeting is a great way to identify emerging issues in these neighboring fields and meet the people who are working on them. Symposia on AMO subjects that have relevance to these neighboring fields are strongly encouraged. DAMOP activities already scheduled for the 2004 March Meeting include: a tutorial session on quantum information and its applications, organized by Ray Laflamme; a Special Focus Topic on quantum phase transitions of ultracold atoms, organized by Allan Griffin; and a Special Focus Topic on computational nanoscience, cosponsored by DAMOP and the Divisions of Computational and Materials Physics, organized by Barry Schneider and Charles Clark. For additional information on the 2004 APS March Meeting, see <http://www.aps.org/meet/MAR04/>

THE VISA PROBLEM

Everyone is aware of the problems the recent VISA regulations have been causing for US science. Foreign visitors and new graduate students are having such serious problems entering the US that it is beginning to threaten the basic research effort of the country. Facts and figures on this issue can be found in "Physics Students From Abroad in the Post-9/11 Era" (which can be read at <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/undtrends.htm>). In the present newsletter we focus on this issue using a resolution recently passed by the General Committee of the XXIII International Conference on Photonic, Electronic and Atomic Collisions (ICPEAC). This committee unanimously accepted the proposal from Old Dominion University (proposed by Lepsha Vuskovic) to host this meeting in 2009. However, the letter of acceptance from the International Officers of

ICPEAC was conditional, and contained the paragraphs:

“...There were, however, serious concerns voiced regarding the visa requirements for foreign scientists wishing to attend the conference and the difficulties that many scientists (particularly from Russia, The Republic of China and India) have experienced during the past several years in obtaining visas in a timely fashion. We therefore encourage the [Old Dominion] University administration to work with members of the United States Congress (in the state of Virginia) to improve the situation regarding the timely granting of visas. In parallel, ICPEAC officers in the U.S. will work with the American Physical Society to try to improve the situation.

Following up on the above discussion, a resolution was passed by the ICPEAC General Committee asking the international officers to continuously monitor the visa situation. We expect that if there is no perceived improvement in two years for scientists wishing to attend conferences in the U.S., the General Committee will reconsider its decision for 2009 and will propose a venue outside of the United States. All of us involved in the leadership of ICPEAC will work hard to ensure that such an event does not happen. “

Clearly the threat to US participation in international science is very real. There appear below two articles which address this issue, by Irving Lerch (Director of International Affairs, APS) and by Mike Lubell (Director of Public Affairs, APS).

FREEDOM OF IDEAS: THE END OF AN ERA?

Irving A. Lerch, Director of International Affairs, APS

Those of us organizing meetings and trying to recruit foreign students fully appreciate the hazards inherent in negotiating the minefields and less lethal obstacles erected by the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security and the various laws and administrative findings enacted since 9/11. I will outline our ongoing efforts and ask you to convey them to your colleagues here and abroad. I will also ask your help in reporting problems and joining us in our efforts to find solutions.

Over the past few years, we have held numerous consultations with Norm Neureiter (S&T Advisor to the Sec'y of State), Jack Marburger (OSTP), Ray Orbach (DoE) and Chuck McQueary (Homeland Security) concerning these issues.

We have developed a database of cases and both APS and AIP have conducted surveys of impacts on both students seeking to assume graduate studies and colleagues attending meetings. This information is regularly sent out to senior people in government and around the country and reported to the NAS staff.

We have convinced the NAS to reopen channels of communication with the Assistant Secretary of State of the Bureau for Consular Affairs to alert consulates of pending union-sponsored meetings and we hope to have approval soon to pre-register colleagues who must apply for visas. Our hope is to avoid delays wherever possible. In addition, NAS now has a reporting procedure whereby complaints can be sent directly to the Bureau for consideration or to other agencies involved in security reviews of visa applicants. Remember, that as of early Spring, 2003, just about everyone seeking a visa to enter the US must be

interviewed and many are often subjected to protracted reviews by a number of government agencies.

We now have agreement that whereas the interview requirement will not be waived for scientist visitors applying for visas, they will be given priority. Our hope is to eventually get rid of this requirement for properly certified visitors.

We have conducted a thorough review of the laws, administrative instructions and regulations currently appertaining to the visa program and we have made recommendations to the Science Committee of the House of Representatives concerning needed changes in the law and in procedures for processing visa applications. A hearing was held earlier this year and we will continue to relay our concerns to members of Congress and to cooperate with other organizations in this effort.

We have posted an extensive web site on visas (<http://www.aps.org/intaff/visa/>) and have asked colleagues to inform us immediately as problems arise. We have intervened in over 200 cases this year alone, sending advice and information to applicants, consular officers and others.

We have convened numerous consultative meetings over the past few years including representatives from State, INS, DOE, NIH, universities, the national labs, NAS, various societies and others in order to share information, brainstorm solutions, seek remedies from others, etc.

Nonetheless, the current instructions to consular officers are filled with ambiguities and intimidation. Many visa applicants are being delayed because of the interagency security review process which takes these applications out of the hands of the State Department and imposes arbitrary and lengthy delays on those caught in the process. Worse, there is no way to get information from the review panel nor is such information volunteered. The use of 214(b) to peremptorily deny the applications of Chinese and Russian colleagues appears to be increasing (this refers to a requirement of the law that imposes on a visa applicant the burden of "proving" that they do not intend to emigrate to the US).

In a recent meeting with Wendy White, the NRC staff director for the NAS Board on International Scientific Organizations (the principal adhering body to ICSU and the unions) we recommended additional measures:

1. The NAS President, with the support of the most senior and eminent members of the scientific community must open regular consultations with the Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security, and their senior staffs to outline the extent and impact of these problems. These same concerns must also be conveyed to the members of Congress (most of whom are ignorant of the issues or indifferent to them).
2. The learned and professional societies--with the cooperation of AAU and other institutional organizations--must monitor, collect, collate and analyze data on exchange problems to report on the impact (for universities, labs, industry).
3. Some mechanism must be found to provide regular channels of communication between the scientific community, State and DHS so that specific problems may be dealt with expeditiously.

APS and AIP have canvassed university departments and meeting organizers to gather the kind of information alluded to 2, above, but few other organizations have followed suit.

We have alerted all IUPAP-sponsored meeting organizers of the problems and have provided them with information (largely ignored since few meeting organizers have the time, expertise and resources to deal with these many procedural problems).

The officers of the Society are monitoring the situation and are preparing a tactical program to bear down on these issues.

In sum, the solutions to our problems requires more than Congressional intervention. How the law is applied is defined by the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security in various implementation orders. Thus we must seek both a legislative and administrative consensus on how the borders are to be protected and how best to assure freedom of scientific exchange. And thus you have a role--to confront your representatives and Senators and the officers of the Society to take the measure of this insult to our enterprise and find ways to cope.

FOR SCIENCE: CHALLENGES AND A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Michael S. Lubell, Director of Public Affairs, APS

Labor Day marked the unofficial beginning of the 2004 presidential campaign. And at the first debate among the Democratic hopefuls in Albuquerque, New Mexico three days later, Senator John Kerry (D-MA) broke new ground.

Never before in my memory has science surfaced in a presidential debate. But there it was on the University of New Mexico campus on the evening of Thursday, September 4, for all PBS and C-SPAN watchers to see and hear nationally.

Senator Kerry directed his comments not toward his Democratic opponents, but toward the occupant of the White House.

First, the Kerry grab: We have an extraordinary ability, an entrepreneurial capacity second to no people on the planet. Then a jab: This president isn't giving Americans the opportunity to do that. Then a blow to the body: Education could be more invigorated, science could be [too]. Finally an uppercut: [This] is the most anti-science administration in modern history.

Kerry might have exaggerated, but if the White House is wise, it will not let the accusation go unchallenged. The FY 05 budget would be a perfect opportunity for President Bush to dispel the notion.

His first two presidential budgets contained record-breaking R&D numbers. But they were built on the backs of NIH biomedical research and DOD weaponry development. Elsewhere, there were only scraps.

Late last December, the President did sign the NSF authorization bill that would set the Science Foundation on a five-year doubling course. But his FY 04 budget request for NSF, which he submitted two months later, was puny. And for DOE, he requested a freeze during FY 04, despite the focus placed on the physical

sciences by his own Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), co-chaired by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Floyd Kvamme and White House Science Advisor Jack Marburger.

The time has come for President Bush to make his mark on science. Given his plummeting poll numbers, it is possible he might not get another chance. Obviously, that is Senator Kerrys hope and the dream of the other Democratic contenders.

The White House has another outcome in mind, of course, and it wouldnt hurt the incumbents chances for re-election if he threw a sop to science. It might even help the nations struggling economy just a bit.

How much of an increase should the physical sciences, math, engineering and computing settle get? Fifteen percent is a good starting point. That would amount to a billion dollars in round numbers. Surely a big figure, but its less than 0.5 percent of the projected deficit for FY 05 and less than a weeks worth of spending on Iraq. And the nation gets an extraordinary economic bang for the research buck, according to many leading economists.

Professional societies in Washington have been driving this point home and at least are getting the ear of a number of key Bush policy makers. If scientists weigh in individually, good budgets might just follow.

Unfortunately, money alone wont reinvigorate American science, which ultimately could hit the skids over the visa mess. The USA PATRIOT Act has made a mockery of USA adherence to the principles of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), which prohibit discrimination against scientists on the basis of national origin, American consular officials around the world have been warned to treat with caution visa requests from scientists in 29 sensitive countries Shh, the list is classified. But, its no secret that Chinese, Russians and Indians are having great difficulty in getting cleared. Individual interviews are required in all cases, but the State Department is providing no supplemental funding to carry them out. Many cases are referred to Washington for vetting by the CIA, the FBI and the Departments of Defense, Energy and Homeland Security, a bureaucratic nightmare that guarantees backlogs, which now extend three to nine months.

Its no wonder that foreign enrollments in graduate schools have been declining and that international conferences and scientific collaboration are taking on a more provincial cast. The APS has been working with other scientific societies and the Association of American Universities to address the issue. Progress is slow but palpable, but it looks as though the log jam will take several years to clear up in the best of all outcomes.

We live in challenging times. But, in spite of the difficulties, the future of science can still be bright, at least from my perch on the banks of the Potomac.

Announcements and news from standing committees

Nominating Committee

The DAMOP Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions for Vice-Chair and

executive committee candidates. Please forward the names of candidates who are willing to serve, along with a brief supporting statement, to the Chair ([Wendell Hill](#)), or other members of the committee (Randy Hulet, Tom Rescigno, Francis Robicheaux) by Dec. 1.

Thesis Prize Committee

Nominations are solicited for the DAMOP Thesis Prize. Nominations must be received by the Chair (George Gibson) prior to the deadline for nominations: December 1, 2003. Nominations must be submitted as a whole, EITHER as a single mailing of hard copies of all documents, OR an email attachment consisting of a single file in .PDF format. Further information can be found at <http://www.aps.org/praw/dissdamo/index.cfm>.

Fellowship Committee

The deadline for submission of nominations to DAMOP of candidates for Fellowship of the American Physical Society is April 16, 2004. APS Fellowship is an honor that recognizes those APS members "who have contributed to the advancement of physics by independent, original research or who have rendered some other special service to the cause of the sciences." No more than one-half of one percent of the APS membership may be elected to Fellowship in any given year, and the election process is quite competitive. Anyone can nominate a colleague for Fellowship, and the process is interesting and rewarding. For further information on Fellowship nominations, see <http://www.aps.org/fellowship/>

Education Committee

Call for Papers - Special Session on Undergraduate Research at DAMOP 2004
There will be a special session featuring research performed by undergraduate students at the 2003 DAMOP meeting. The papers will be 20 minutes long including discussion. Interested students should submit in the BODY of an e-mail message: 1) Title, 2) Authors and Affiliations, 3) text of the Abstract and 4) a one-page summary describing the project and their specific contribution (written by the student), by January 23, 2004. This deadline is two weeks prior to the normal abstract deadline of February 6, 2004. In addition, their sponsor (mentor) should submit a separate Letter of Recommendation directly to the Education Committee.

Since for those selected to participate in the Session the Committee will directly submit their Abstracts to the APS/DAMOP, the Abstracts should conform to APS style and length formats for a Contributed Paper. Compliance can be checked by going to <http://abstracts.aps.org>, selecting "Prepare an Abstract," designating "Test Web Abstract," and then choosing "Create an abstract for me." Fill out the indicated information and cut-and-paste the text of the Abstract into the indicated box. This will display the Abstract as it will appear in the Program and will also show any formatting problems. Please DO NOT submit the Abstract to DAMOP until notification by the Committee of the results of the selection process.

From the submitted materials, a committee will select four students to be invited to give talks in the special session. Participation is limited to currently enrolled undergraduate students. The participation of women and minority undergraduate

students is especially encouraged.

PLEASE NOTE EARLY ABSTRACT DEADLINE. The deadline for abstracts for the undergraduate session is TWO WEEKS prior to the deadline for normal contributed abstracts. Abstracts and letters of recommendation should be sent to Lee Collins at lac@lanl.gov.

TAMOC

The TAMOC meeting was held on May 22, 2003 at DAMOP. New officers Reinhold Blumel (Wesleyan), Chair, and Mark Baertschy (U. Colorado, Denver), Secretary, were elected. After a discussion on the aims of TAMOC, it was decided that a charter should be drafted and finalized at next year's meeting. Please send your input to Reinhold and Mark.

News from CAMOS

CAMOS, the National Research Council Standing Committee on Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Science, has recently developed a proposal under the title AMO 2010 to carry out the next decadal survey of AMO science. This proposal, currently under review, is motivated by the fact that it has been almost a decade since the publication of the last comprehensive assessment of AMO science (*Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Science: An Investment in the Future*, National Academy Press, Washington, DC 1994), known as the "FAMOS" report. And it has been six years since publication of the "COSE" report (*Harnessing Light: Optical Science and Engineering for the 21st Century*, National Academy Press, Washington, DC 1998) that discussed many AMO applications. Since the publication of these assessments, there have been several major advances in AMO science that are manifestations of profound changes in the field. A new study of the field, assessing progress and looking ahead to the future, is therefore timely.

The next decadal assessment and outlook of AMO science will be framed in terms of compelling questions that express the intellectual drivers for the field. These questions will enable a non-scientist reader to understand what it is that AMO researchers want to learn in the coming decades and why. The report will place more emphasis on optical science by including some aspects of the subject matter of the COSE report. A panel with expertise across the range of AMO disciplines will be formed to produce a report (1) identifying new opportunities and compelling scientific questions and themes that have arisen from recent advances and accomplishments in the field; (2) discussing connections between AMO science and other scientific fields, emerging technologies, and national needs; (3) explaining how AMO science meets workforce, educational, and other societal needs; and (4) making recommendations for a strategy to fully realize the potential at the frontiers of AMO science.

With this major project now underway, the CAMOS committee is meeting again in November in Irvine, California and will be considering the opportunities and needs for new activities. Please contact me or any other member of CAMOS with your input, ideas and suggestions. You can visit the CAMOS homepage at <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bpa/camos.html> for committee membership and further details.

Prize Announcement

Robert-Wichard-Pohl Prize to Bergmann

Klaas Bergmann has been awarded the Robert-Wichard-Pohl Prize 2003 by the German Physical Society at a ceremony which took place on March 26, 2003 in Hannover. His citation reads (translated from German): "In recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements, in particular in molecular physics, which had an impact of other areas in physics" The basis is the development of and research work with the STIRAP method. Bergmann will also receive, in a special ceremony on September 27, 2003 the honorary degree "Doctor honoris causa" of the the Latvian University, Riga.

Publication News

The news from Physical Review Letters

Physical Review Letters continues to flourish on all fronts. In the 12 months ending July 31, 2003 the total number of submissions (8766) increased by 4.6% over the preceding 12 months. (This kind of robust growth has persisted for decades.) One third of the papers submitted in the calendar year 2002 have been accepted. AMO physics continues to comprise about 10% of the total submissions and typically 2/5ths are accepted. Three new editorial board members (Divisional Associate Editors) have been appointed, namely Robert Boyd (Rochester), Sandro Stringari (Trento), and Masahito Ueda (Tokyo Institute of Technology). They replace Maciek Lewenstein and Mark Raizen, whose terms have ended, and join the Phil Burke, Keith Burnett, Eric Cornell, and Wolfgang Schleich on the board. These board members work very hard on behalf of the journal and the community and do a fine job dealing with appeals. George Basbas handles AMO papers and is crucially assisted by Brant Johnson (BNL) and Frank Narducci (Naval Air Systems Command). PRL has been constantly recruiting since the summer of 2001, begun in anticipation of the retirement of Gene Wells that fall. We have finally hired two new Assistant Editors to replace lost resources and are still seeking a third as an increase to the editorial ranks. See the ad in Physics Today. PRL is under review by an external committee chaired by Marty Goldman (U. Col.) One of the members is Eric Cornell (JILA). The committee is in the final phase and will soon begin drafting a report.

Physical Review to Process MS Word Manuscripts

As of March of this year, Physical Review will process manuscripts prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted (and resubmitted) electronically. This follows and extends the use of Word in Physical Review Letters, begun in July 2002. Manuscripts submitted in this format will be eligible for the publication charge waiver given to REVTeX manuscripts. Full details regarding procedures for preparation and submittal of Microsoft Word manuscripts that would qualify for the waiver are available from our electronic submissions web page

<http://publish.aps.org/ESUB/>.

Recent information from NSF

The following NSF-wide programs may be of interest to members of the DAMOP community. Such programs provide excellent sources of new and additional funding for AMO-related activities.

Information Technology Research (ITR): The announcement for FY2004 has not yet been released. However, it and all information relating to the ITR program can be found at the URL: <http://www.itr.nsf.gov/>

Interested investigators are encouraged to consult this web page to follow developments in the program.

Nanoscale Science and Engineering (NSE): The announcement for FY2004, together with other information relating to the NSE program, can be found at the URL: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/nano/start.htm>

Major Research Instrumentation (MRI): The announcement for FY2004 has not yet been released. However, it and all information relating to the MRI program can be found at the URL: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/start.htm>

THE WEB PAGE BULLETIN BOARD

The DAMOP web page <http://www.aps.org/units/damop> will soon be adorned with a new bullet(in): the BULLETIN BOARD. This will be the place to find material which appeared too late for the last newsletter but is too timely to wait for the next one. It will be updated roughly monthly. If you have DAMOP-relevant material which you think falls into this category, send it to Lew Cocke . No commercials or job advertisements please. Also, please remember that the secretary-treasurer is always looking for good newsletter material as well. Keep the good stuff coming in. I am also always looking for fancy FIGURES showing your latest and greatest research results to feature on the DAMOP web page.

DEADLINES AND MEETINGS

Some useful deadlines

- March meeting program suggestions: September 30,2003 (charles.clark@nist.gov)
- Thesis award deadline: December 1, 2003 <http://www.aps.org/praw/dissdamo/index.cfm>
- Nominations for officers: December 1, 2003 (Wendell Hill, wth@physics.umd.edu).
- March meeting abstracts: December 5, 2003. <http://www.aps.org/meet/MAR04/>
- Undergraduate session deadline: January 23, 2003 (Lee Collins, lac@lanl.gov) .
- DAMOP 2004 contributed abstracts: February 6, 2003.

Other meetings of possible interest to DAMOP members

- 8th European Conference on Accelerators in Applied Research and Technology,
ECAART 8, National Museum for Folk Arts and Traditions, Paris, France ,

September 20-24, 2004 http://www.c2rmf.fr/documents/1ere_annonce.pdf

- Applications of High Field and Short Wavelength Sources X, October 12-15, 2003 Centre de Congrès " Casino Municipal ", Biarritz, France, <http://luli.polytechnique.fr/HFSW10/>
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[DAMOP Homepage](#)