



# ASTROPHYSICS

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# newsletter

## 1998 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIVISION OF ASTROPHYSICS

### CHAIR (1998)

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### CHAIR-ELECT (1998)

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### VICE-CHAIR (1998)

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### PAST-CHAIR (1998)

#### Rich Lingenfelter

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### SECRETARY-TREASURER

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**The Division of  
Astrophysics**

**The American  
Physical Society**

**November 1998**

## DAP Nominating Committee and Upcoming Elections

- Josh Grindlay, DAP Chair

Two of our distinguished members have agreed to serve as our 1998-99 DAP Nominating Committee:

Josh Frieman

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Jim Kurfess

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The APS Executive Office will appoint a third member to this committee, and they will then seek candidates for our open positions this year: Vice Chair, and two Members at Large of the Executive Committee. Please contact members of the Nominating Committee with suggestions for candidates. Our Bylaws also provide for nomination from the general membership provided a petition is signed by 2% of our membership, currently about 1600.

Each Candidate must provide the Secretary/Treasurer with i) a written statement agreeing to serve if elected, and ii) a short paragraph stating qualifications and aspirations for the position.

## Thoughts on Future Meetings of the DAP

Over the past year, much has been going on at the APS as regards meeting planning. The main effort, of course, has been to plan for the Centennial meeting (described elsewhere in this NL). However, a major consideration has also been given to the "regular" meeting schedules and the fact that the APS has found that supporting two Spring meetings (the traditional March meeting and "ours" in April) have overly taxed their support staff. So at our April meeting of the Executive Committee at the Columbus meeting, Judy Franz (the Executive Officer of the APS) asked us if we would consider moving our meeting to the fall. We have had numerous discussions of this since, starting at the Columbus meeting, where I asked for reactions or thoughts during our Business Meeting, (most seemed rather neutral about changing) to discussions with other Division chairs (e.g. Division of Nuclear Physics) with whom we have traditionally been allied in the April meeting.

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The election will be via ballots distributed by the Secretary in late January or early February; details will be given in the next Newsletter as well as on the Web site.

The DAP needs your support and active involvement, so please take a moment to consider candidates for the elections.

## Thanks to Old and New DAP Officers

On behalf of the present officers of the DAP, let me express our collective thanks to Rich Lingenfelter for the fine job he did last year as Chair and as Vice-Chair and Program Chair the year before. We look forward to his sage advice on the Executive Committee this year as Past Chair.

The Election Results from last Spring are that Virginia Trimble was elected Vice Chair, Neil Gehrels is elected as our new Secretary/Treasurer and Padi Boyd (GSFC) and Jerry Fishman (MSFC) are our new Members at Large of the Executive Committee. We owe our thanks to Padi for her fine job as our previous Secretary/Treasurer and to Neil for agreeing to undertake this important position.

**The DAP web site has been  
moved to: [http://  
theawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/  
docs/dap](http://theawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/dap)**

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# APS Planning Meeting

Trevor Weekes, DAP Chair-Elect

With the other Division representatives (the Chair-elects) I attended the "April" part of the Centennial-planning meeting at APS headquarters in College Park on September 11, 1998.

There were two main topics:

- a) Schedule of "Invited Sessions" for the March meeting.
- b) Change of season for regular "April" meetings

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## a) APS Centennial Meeting (March 20-26, 1999 in Atlanta, Georgia).

### GENERAL

The plans for the meeting are well advanced; the Centennial booklet has been published and will shortly be mailed to all members (with a poster), the schedule of major events and Centennial Symposia have been firmed up, and all looks set for this first ever week-long gathering of 8,000 physicists. The meeting is to be held in the large Atlanta convention center which has two major wings; the larger West wing will contain the traditional "March" meeting whereas the East wing will be the site of our traditional "April" meeting. The major plenary sessions and exhibit hall are in the adjacent part of the West wing.

### HIGHLIGHTS

There will be a series of Plenary talks as well as the Centennial and Invited Symposia. It will probably be the largest ever gathering of Nobel Laureates in Physics. There will be several Outreach events and exhibits by all the divisions (including our own). A black-tie dinner on the Sunday evening will be the major social event but there will be several other receptions and ample time for reunions of various sorts.

### SCHEDULE

The meeting runs from midday Sunday (3/21) to the afternoon of Friday (3/26). (There are some international activities on Saturday, (3/20)). Our Main Centennial Session "Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics" is on Tuesday morning. Our secondary Centennial session "Neutrinos" (shared with DPB and DNP) is scheduled for Wednesday morning. The exhibits will only be up for three days (Monday- Wednesday) and



generally the most interesting events seem to be at the beginning of the week. Hence I tried to schedule all our Invited sessions for the first half of the meeting; this may mean that when we come to schedule the contributed paper sessions there will be some conflict. The list of sessions, their organizers, and their time-slots are shown below; there may be some reprogramming but this was what appeared to be the schedule as of the end of the planning meeting.

### HISTORIC EVENT

This looks like being an exciting event and we should encourage our membership to turn out in large numbers (and submit contributed papers). It should be a really historic occasion and a memorable one, especially for our young members (and potential members).

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## b) Fall meeting in 2001 and beyond?

There was a lively discussion about the proposal to move the fall April meeting to the fall (with all the traditional divisions that meet in April participating). In addition the large Plasma division would participate. On your behalf (based on Josh's poll of the Executive Committee) I voted to make the move. It was gratifying that there was a strong sentiment from DPP and DNP that DAP was critical for the success of the move. Somebody likes us even if our members are not very good at attending! (My personal feeling is that our April meetings have become somewhat of non-events and that we need something to revitalize the DAP; perhaps this will help, perhaps not, but it is worth a try). The DNP were reluctant to change as they already have a very successful division meeting in the fall (as well as participating in the April meeting). However eventually they agreed to a three-year trial starting in the fall of 2001.

It was agreed in principle that the meetings should alternate between the east and west coasts with the East Coast meeting usually in the Washington-Baltimore area. Because of long range booking requirements the first two meetings may be in Baltimore, then Washington but then starting the east/west sequence with the third meeting in Seattle or San Francisco (the 2000 April meeting is in Long Beach, CA).

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## Thoughts on Future Meetings of DAP cont.

The overall consensus seems to be to change to the Fall, provided it can be held at least some of the time in the Washington DC area. Many felt it would induce more to attend if the meeting returned to the DC area since then other business (e.g. Hill visits) could be attended to. But many also felt that having the meeting move around has been also attractive. The plans are still in flux, and we need your input. One thought we have considered and will discuss on the EC at the upcoming March meeting is to try to coordinate DAP meetings with HEAD/AAS meetings. If we are to adopt an annual Fall schedule for DAP, and our HEAD colleagues are to keep to a ~1.5 year

meeting interval, we could have either joint or contiguous meetings every 3rd DAP meeting. Please let us know your thoughts on this, or any other suggestions for how to make your attendance at DAP meetings even more likely.

With the excitement of astrophysics today, and the promise of upcoming missions, there is much to share with our physics colleagues at DAP/APS meetings. The cross-pollination with our Nuclear (DNP), Plasma (DPP), Particle and Fields (DPF), and atomic and molecular (DAMOP) friends is a rich inducement for continued joint meetings with fellow APS divisions.



# DAP Sessions for Centennial Meeting, Atlanta, March 20-26, 1999

Chuck Dermer

## DAP Centennial Session

"Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics"

T. Weekes

Tuesday, 23/3 at 8.00am

## Joint DAP, DPB and DNP Centennial Session

"Neutrinos"

Beier/Lesko/Weekes

Wednesday, 24/3 at 11.00am

## Joint DAP/DAMOP Invited Session

"Atomic and Molecular Astrophysics"

Kirby/Grindlay

Tuesday, 23/3 at 10.30am - 1.00pm

## Joint DAP/DNP/DPB Invited Session

"Astrophysical Observatories"

Weekes/Henning

Tuesday, 23/3 at 1.15-3.45pm

## DAP Invited Session

"Cosmological Constants"

Huchra

Monday 22/3 at 10.30am-1.00pm

## DAP Invited Session

"Gamma Ray Bursts"

Fishman

Sunday 21/3 at 2.00 - 5.00pm

## DAP Invited Session

"Technological Advances as a Driver of Progress in Astrophysics"

Trimble

Wednesday 24/3 at 8.00 - 11.00am

## Joint DAP/GRG Invited Session

"Astrophysical Sources of Gravitational Radiation"

Shoemaker/Weekes

Tuesday 23/3 at 10.30am - 1.00pm

## Joint DAP/CSWG Invited Session

"To be decided"

Olmstead/Weekes

Monday 22/3 at 10.30am - 1.00pm

Preparations are underway to develop a Division of Astrophysics exhibit for the upcoming Centennial Meeting of the American Physical Society (March 1999, Atlanta, Georgia). Although the content of the exhibit is not finalized, there are several themes that we hope to emphasize.

One is the importance of monitoring data in real-time, given our increased awareness over the past century of the active and violent nature of the universe. To do this, we plan to project images of the Solar corona using transmissions from the LASCO instrument on SOHO, assuming that it makes a complete recovery.

We also plan to show data being transmitted from the BATSE instrument on the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory which will illustrate the variable nature of the space radiation environment produced by magnetospheric storms, Solar events, and gamma-ray bursts.

We also plan to have a monitor that displays astronomical images, and to mount a display which explores the linkage between the physical processes and forces of nature and the astronomical systems which have furthered our understanding of the underlying physics.

## PRL Editorial Board Appointment

*Physical Review Letters* announces the recent appointment of **Christopher Thompson** (University of North Carolina) as a member of its Editorial Board.



# DAP Executive Committee and Officers 1998

**Chair (1998)** ..... Josh Grindlay  
**Chair-Elect (1998)** ..... Trevor Weekes  
**Vice Chair (1998)** ..... Virginia Trimble  
**Past Chair (1998)** ..... Rich Lingenfelter  
**Secretary/Treasurer (1999)** ..... Neil Gehrels  
**Division Councilor (1999)** ..... Stephen Holt

**Executive Committee Member (1998)** ..... Eli Dwek  
**Executive Committee Member (1998)** ..... Lawrence Krauss

**Executive Committee Member (1999)** ..... Patricia Boyd  
**Executive Committee Member (1999)** ..... Jerry Fishman

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