

April 2009 GSNP Newsletter

Dear Fellow GSNP Members:

Below, you find some important information about APS Fellowships, the Boltzmann Award as well as planning deadlines for the 2010 March Meeting and a summary of our activities at the 2009 March Meeting.

(1) GSNP nominations for APS fellowship - new deadline

Please consider nominating a distinguished colleague for an APS Fellowship. Instruction for how to do this can be found at <http://aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/>. When asked to enter the nominating APS unit, please select the GSNP. The whole process is rather straightforward and generates visibility and good will for you, the nominee, and GSNP. The new deadline for nominations is May 15, 2009.

(2) Call for nominations for the Boltzmann Award

The Boltzmann Award is presented by the C3 Commission on Statistical Physics of the IUPAP every three years, at the Statphys Conference. The next award will thus be given during Statphys 24, to be held in Cairns (Australia), July 19 -23, 2010. The award, consisting of a gilded medal, honours outstanding achievements in Statistical Physics. The recipient should be a scientist who has not received the Boltzmann Medal or Nobel Prize before.

Nominations for the award are due by September 1, 2009. The nominations must be accompanied by a description of the work of the nominee consisting of at least one and no more than two typed pages. This should include a listing of no more than half a dozen key publications by the nominee. Nominations for a joint award to two scientists, preferably for related work, are acceptable.

Please send nominations to:

Henri Orland
Chairman of the C3 Commission of the IUPAP
Institut de Physique Théorique
CEA-Saclay
F91191 Gif-sur-Yvette
France
Fax: +33-1-69-08-81-20
Email: henri.orland@cea.fr

(3) Planning Activities for the 2010 March Meeting

The planning for the 2010 March Meeting has begun. We depend on your input to make it exciting and relevant to your interests. Invited Symposia and Focus Sessions are a great way to bring an emerging new topic to the attention of a broad audience. Symposia are panels of 5 invited 36-minute talks on a single general theme. Focus Sessions consist of one invited talk and several contributed talks. We strive for a good balance of invited speakers, including established and well known scientists, promising younger speakers, women, and minorities.

Submitting a proposal is not difficult. You will need to decide on a topic, contact and secure participation of your invited speakers and write a brief summary of the topic and your speakers' contributions.

Remember that invited speakers from last year's meeting are not eligible. Also, APS and GSNP cannot cover travel or attendance costs.

Proposals for Focus Sessions are due by 6/15/2009.
Proposals for Invited Symposia are due by 9/15/2009.

If you would like to propose a Symposium or Focus Session, please provide the following information, by e-mail or as a text or pdf document:

A. Symposium/Focus Session Title:

Please remember that we would like to attract a large audience to each Symposium and that we compete with many parallel events. If your title is too technical or specialized it may not attract a large audience. Focus Sessions may be more specialized, but must be in areas of enough current interest in order to attract sufficiently many contributed talks.

B. Organizer:

Name:
Affiliation:
Phone:
Email:

C. Description of Symposium/Focus Session (one paragraph to at most one page):

This description is the basis upon which the program committee will select proposals. Please describe the Symposium or Focus Session in non-technical terms so that committee members with a diverse background can understand its relevance. Briefly describe what each speaker will present (you do not need a final title or abstract at this time, but a preliminary indication of subject is essential) and how the presentations form a coherent whole. For Focus Sessions please explain why you believe that a Focus Session on this topic will attract a substantial number of contributed talks.

D. For each speaker (5 for Symposia, 1 for Focus Sessions):

Name:
Affiliation:
Phone:
Email:

At this point, we are not yet asking for final confirmation from your speakers. But please bear in mind that cancellations cause undue difficulties, and we will be requiring a confirmation from each speaker well before the Sorters Meeting in October 2009. By that time, you should also have identified a session chair (you, for example).

Please e-mail your proposals to the GSNP Program Chair Thomas Halsey thomas.c.halsey@exxonmobil.com. Thomas is also available to answer any questions related to program planning for the March 2010 meeting.

Please cc to:

Beate Schmittmann schmittm@vt.edu.
Corey O'Hern corey.ohern@yale.edu
Arshad Kudrolli akudrolli@clarku.edu

(4) GSNP Activities at the 2009 March Meeting

We hope that you enjoyed the 2009 March Meeting in Pittsburgh. GSNP organized 20 sessions which were well attended. The abstract submissions for our Topical Group were up by 21%, compared to the 2008 March Meeting. This should be compared with the abstract submissions for the March Meeting overall, which were up by about 5%. The sessions on systems far from equilibrium, complex networks, jamming, and elasticity and geometry of thin objects were especially well subscribed.

As every year, GSNP sponsored a Gallery of Images, illustrating the fascination of nonlinear phenomena through posters and videos.

The winner of the Best Poster Award is Gabriel Seiden for his poster "Superlattice Patterns in Forced Thermal Convection." His co-authors are Eberhard Bodenschatz and Stephan Weiss, all from the Max-Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization in Goettingen.

The Best Video Award went to John Royer from the University of Chicago, for "Rupture and Clustering in a Granular Stream." His co-authors are Matthias Moebius (U. Leiden) and Heinrich Jaeger (U. Chicago).

Also, as every year, GSNP held a Student Speaker Award competition. The finalists were Natalie Arkus (Harvard U.), Kipton Barros (Boston U.), Tom Haxton (U. Pennsylvania), Jordan Horowitz (U. Maryland), and Mya Warren (U. British Columbia). The winner this year was Kipton Barros.

We would like to thank all participants and nominators for these competitions and congratulate the winners!

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Please let us know of any suggestions or comments.

With best regards,
Beate Schmittmann
GSNP Chair