



**Los Alamos
 Postdoc
 Newsletter**

REMINDER!!!

The next GA Meeting is May 14

The next Postdoc Social is May 7.

Please see the events calendar.

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Submissions Welcome
lapa_communications@lanl.gov

Visit LAPA's website @
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/>

Officer Elections!

It's election time again! In this issue of the LAPA newsletter, we are highlighting each of the candidates that were nominated at the last GA meeting for leadership positions within LAPA. These new officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will run the everyday business of LAPA for the next 6 months. A couple of the candidates are running unopposed, however, write in nominations are being accepted. The biannual elections will be opened to the general postdoc population via a web interface starting May 7th. and closing May 13th. All postdocs are encouraged to vote.

President:



Nate Mack

Fellow LANL Postdocs:

Election time is here, and I would like to encourage your participation in the upcoming Los Alamos Postdoc Association (LAPA) officer elections. As the incumbent President, I would like to solicit your support of a second term as LAPA President. My current time as President has focused primarily on the planning steps for this year's upcoming career fair. Through the dedicated efforts of the Career Committee we have worked hard to hash out the details regarding this event and hope to expand on the great success we had last year. I am happy to report that we have already extended invitations to potential companies and have had several positive responses. As president, I hope to continue this active role to ensure the smooth running of our second annual LANL Career Fair.

This goal will not only require fostering our interaction with LANL management but strengthening the postdoc base from which LAPA is derived. By acting as a primary point of contact between LANL management and the postdoc population, I hope to guarantee that LAPA will continue to serve as a valuable tool for voicing postdoc concerns. To achieve this, LAPA will require input and participation from the general postdoc population here at LANL. During my presidency, the Policy Committee has worked to manage LAPA's bylaws with the goal of making the voice of every postdoc at LANL easily heard. If elected to a second term as LAPA President, one of my top priorities will be to encourage active LAPA membership throughout the lab.

With these ideas in mind, I hope to effectively work with the Postdoc Office, elected LAPA officials, and committee chairs to maximize postdoc career networking opportunities as well as enhance the overall postdoc experience here at LANL.

Thank you for your consideration.



Robert Applegate

I am excited to be nominated for the presidency of LAPA. I received my PhD in Applied Physics from the Colorado School of Mines, and am now working in the bio-science division. While working on my PhD, I served as the student representative to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Advisory Board, representing every student in the state of Colorado to the Governor's higher education policy making body. I definitely gained a rare understanding of the policy world on the state level. Additionally, while in graduate school I served 2 years as the president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), on the Board of Directors of the Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association as well as numerous other governing

bodies within the college campus. While president of GSA, I spearheaded an effort to give institutional, financial assistance to graduate students supporting children. I feel my past experiences give me great amount of insight into how to work with administrators for the advancement of my constituents and LAPA as a whole.

Vice-President:



Devesh Ranjan

Fellow Postdocs of LANL: I am pleased to have the opportunity to run as a candidate for Vice-President of Los Alamos Postdoc Association (LAPA) in the upcoming elections. Currently as a member of Career Committee, I am involved with the organization process of the coming Career Fair in August. I take this opportunity to encourage your participation in that event (Career Fair), as well as, to support my candidacy in the coming election. If elected to the position of Vice-President, I will work with the elected members and committee chairs in organizing all the LAPA sponsored events. I will serve as a liaison

between the Management and Postdocs at LANL. I want to continue the good work performed by previous elected members and work towards achieving the following goals:

- Career Networking- Alumni database (Industry/Universities)
- Encourage PI's to allow Postdocs to mentor GRAs
- Coordinate Annual Career Fair for the current Postdocs
- Explore possibility of early/prior registration in the training programs for the new Postdocs before their arrival at Los Alamos

With the help of all the elected members, I hope to make your Postdoctoral experience at LANL pleasant and rewarding.

Secretary:



Gus Keksis

If elected to the position of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association Secretary, I will continue to uphold all the duties assigned to the Secretary as specified by the LAPA bylaws and follow the precedent set by the former Secretaries. In my last term I have: Finished creating a 'static' webpage, so only Newsletters and Agenda need to be uploaded, created a series of notes for future Secretaries to simplify and streamline the Secretarial duties, created an internal webpage just for the Secretary to organize all the LAPA documents and started to create a 'LAPA History' webpage and collecting historical documents from the LAPA found-

ers. If elected for a second term, I plan on continuing development of the internal webpage and completion of the LAPA History webpage.

Treasurer:



Kevin Houston

I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving LAPA as Treasurer. I have served as LAPA Finance Committee Chair or LAPA Treasurer since the inception of our association. During this time, I have led the charge to secure the required funding for LAPA to adequately serve LANL Postdocs. Using the funds secured for the remainder of this fiscal year, I will continue to encourage LAPA to support efforts by the Communications and Social Committees to “get the word out” about LAPA through advertisements and hosted Socials. This will enhance ongoing efforts to increase involvement in LAPA. Increased involvement is necessary for LAPA to continue to be the representative voice of LANL Postdocs to the institution and management. Rest assured, I will continue to provide financial accountability for LAPA and be an honest monitor of LAPA’s finances.

In addition to these worth-while expenditures, as Treasurer I will look for new ways to responsibly utilize LAPA funding to enhance the LANL post-doc experience and invite more post-docs to be engaged with the Los Alamos Postdoc Association.



Chris Taylor

Although I am a relative newcomer to the LAPA leadership, I have recently been involved in planning for the career fair, including managing the Career Fair website. I have also served alongside the current Treasurer, Kevin Houston, as the Finance Committee Chair. As LAPA treasurer I would seek to continue Kevin’s fine work in raising monies to allow LAPA to adequately serve the post-doc community at LANL. LAPA’s budget thus far has been focused on strengthening the sense of community among post-docs via funding social events, including the new post-doc orientation, funding travel to the Annual meeting of the National Post-Doc association, and contributing to the LAPA Annual Post-doc Career Fair.

In addition to these worth-while expenditures, as Treasurer I will look for new ways to responsibly utilize LAPA funding to enhance the LANL post-doc experience and invite more post-docs to be engaged with the Los Alamos Postdoc Association.

LAPA Committee Reports

Policy Committee

- Nothing to report

Communication Committee

- The first Postdoc Orientation session was held on Monday, March 31. Eleven new hires attended. The feedback was mostly positive, and we hope this will increase participation in LAPA. The next sessions will be May 5, for postdocs hired in January and February, and June 30 for March-May hires. Future sessions will be on a quarterly basis.

Finance Committee

- Nothing to report

Social Committee

- Nothing to report

Conversion Committee

- Nothing to report

Career Committee

- We are currently in the process of inviting companies to the career fair.
- We were fortunate to have help from the protocol office (Karen Martinez and Alex) in getting the company registration forms finished and they will continue to work with us on other details for the career fair.
- Next meeting will be on Apr. 9th after the GA meeting (career committee is currently meeting every Wednesday at 8am at Canyon school complex Rm. 151C - except every second Wednesday of the month when we meet after the GA meeting in Otowi siderooms A&B at 1pm).
- If you like more information from the career committee please email Nenad at lapa_career@lanl.gov.



General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association General Assembly was held on Wednesday, April 9th, 2008 at 12:10 PM in Siderooms A&B of Otowi. LAPA President, Nate Mack, was the presiding officer and upon calling the meeting to order announced that a quorum was present. The agenda was adopted without objection after additions of:

1. Career Committee report in section V
2. Alumni Database update in New Business after Section VII and before Section VIII
3. Career Fair meeting after the G.A. meeting in section VIII

The minutes from the March 12th, 2008 G.A. meeting, which were published in the March newsletter, were approved without objection. A new voting member, Stephanie Eichorst, was recognized by the Secretary. Committee reports were given by Chandra Savage Marsden (chair, Communications Committee) and August Keksis for the Career Committee (Nenad Velisavljevic, chair).

The unfinished business from the March 12th, 2008 G.A. meeting was voted on as a package and approved by unanimous consent. A motion was made and approved to change the amendment number of LAPA resolution 5 from 7 to 6 to correlate with the bylaws. The resolution was then unanimously approved to become a bylaw amendment. A motion was then made and approved to change the amendment numbers of LAPA resolutions 6 through 8 from 8, 9, 10 to 7, 8, 9, respectively, to correlate with the bylaws. Then a motion was made and approved to vote on LAPA resolutions 6 through 8 as a package. The package was approved unanimously and LAPA resolutions 6 through 8 were found to be suitable to become bylaw amendments.

Nominations were requested from the General Assembly for LAPA Officers for next term (6 months). For the President Nate Mack, Zoë Fisher and Robert Applegate were nominated. For the Vice-President Robert Applegate and Jennifer Belyea were nominated. For the Secretary August "Gus" Keksis and Stephanie Eichorst were nominated. For the Treasurer Kevin Houston and Chris Taylor were nominated. The nominees have one week to make a decision about running, two declined at the meeting due to time constraints.

Mary Anne With, from the Postdoc Office, discussed the progress of the alumni database. The profiles will be similar to those on Facebook and the database should be operational by the end of summer.

There was an announcement that Nate Mara has been converted to a staff member and that he will appoint someone to take over the Conversion Committee Chair. Another announcement was that several members of LAPA would be selected to meet with Director Anastasio to discuss postdoc concerns. There was a motion that was approved to have this meeting after the June 11th, 2008 G.A. meeting, to give postdocs a chance to voice their concerns at the "Post-doctoral Feedback Forum and Dinner" on May 8th, 2008 and also at the G.A. meeting.

There were three announcements:

1. Please send in your postdoc profiles for the LAPA news letter to lapa_communications@lanl.gov
2. The Conversion Committee is looking for a new chair
3. The Career Committee is having a meeting after the GA Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Recent Events

LAPA
Social @ Quark

April 2, 2008



Upcoming Events

Postdoc Orientation (Jan. & Feb. hires)

Date: Monday May 5, 2008

Time: 12:00-1:00

Where: Canyon School, Rm. 160

LAPA Biannual Meeting

Date: May 14, 2008

Time: 12:00-1:00

Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

Postdoc Night

Date: Wednesday May 7, 2008

Time: 5:30-8:30

Where: TBA

Career Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Time: After the GA meeting

Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

Postdoctoral Feedback Forum & Dinner

Date: Thursday May 8, 2008

Time: 4-6 pm

Where: Canyon School, Rm. 165

RSVP by May 6, 2008 to lapa_policy@lanl.gov

Postdoctoral Feedback Forum & Dinner on May 8th

According to the LAPA bylaws, the Policy Committee is tasked with hosting an “Employee Concerns” meeting twice a year. We are thrilled to announce that the spring meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Thursday May 8 at the Canyon School, Rm. 160. This is a postdoctoral feedback forum at which all postdocs are invited to attend and express any LANL-related concern to LAPA. The informal discussion will be moderated by the Policy Committee and all postdocs will be encouraged to speak about any topic they feel can or should be addressed by LAPA. This is an opportunity for all postdocs to provide feedback to LAPA so that the association may set goals, programs, or events that address the needs of LANL postdocs. In addition to welcoming new topics related to the postdoctoral experience, LAPA representatives will also have the opportunity after the meeting (the following week) to meet with Director Michael R. Anastasio. Therefore, all postdocs are encouraged to attend the feedback forum so that LAPA can gather a diverse amount of concerns, solutions, and ideas to convey to the director.

LAPA will provide free pizza and sodas at the forum so that postdocs will be able to attend during dinner. The meeting on May 8 will coincide with the LAPA biannual meeting; a report by the Policy Committee will be given at the GA meeting regarding the feedback collected. Please RSVP to the Policy Committee for dinner at: lapa_policy@lanl.gov by May 6.



Postdoc Profiles

Name: Chris Taylor

Group: MST-6

Ph.D. Institution: University of Virginia

Research Interests: My research interests are all related to the intersection between molecular modeling and solid-state physics, particularly the investigation, by modeling, of corrosion and other electrochemical reactions. Most recently my research efforts have been focused on modeling hydrogen in metals, and developing interatomic potentials for this problem.

Hobbies or interests: When I'm not at the lab, I enjoy time with my family, biking, hiking, home-'improvement', and creative writing.



Name: Andrew Sutton

Group: C-IIAC

Ph.D. Institution: University of Manchester, UK

Research Interests: Actinide organometallic chemistry, metal-metal and metal-ligand multiple bonding.

Hobbies or interests: Snowboarding, mountain biking, horse riding, travel, world football (c'mon Leeds!), darts, and cooking.



Name: Jennifer Belyea (left)

Group: C-PCS

Ph.D. Institution: North Carolina State University

Research Interests: Protein folding, enzyme kinetics, heme proteins, spectroscopy - the fun stuff.

Hobbies or interests: Adrenaline inducing activities like whitewater kayaking, motorcycles, camping, etc.



Name: Dzmityr Parul (right)

Group: C-PCS

Ph.D. Institution: International Sakharov Environmental University, Minsk, Belarus

Research Interests: Heme proteins, enzyme kinetics, spectroscopy

Hobbies or interests: Photography, hiking, camping.

Postdoc Program Office Announcements

The next Postdoc Orientation will be held on Monday, May 5th at 12 noon in Canyon School - Rm. 160. This session is for postdocs who hired in January & February. The next session will be offered on Monday, June 30th for March, April, and May hires.

March New Hires

Golan Bel	CCS-3/T-CNLS
Georgi Dakovski	MPA-CINT
Jeremy Danielson	P-23/C-NR
Michael Fensin	N-4
Lei Guo	ISR-6
Alexey Koposov	C-PCS
David Kuiper	MPA-MC
Lisa Murillo	T-10/B-7
Alexander Plionis	C-NR
Stephen Price	T-3
Zhaoyu Wang	MPA-STC/MPA-MC
Zhengyun You	P-25

March Conversions Congratulations!

Benjamin Bergen	CCS-2
Jennifer Butler	PMT-2
Michael Demkowicz	MST-8
Timothy Hamlin	ISR-2
Christina Johnston	MPA-11
Peter Karpus	N-1
Mark Makela	P-25
Nathan Mara	MST-6
Hashem Mourad	T-3
Timothy Ulrich	EES-11

Calendar of Events

May 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Postdoc Orientation 12:00 noon Canyon School 160	6	7 Online Voting open for LAPA Officer Elections Postdoc Night! 5:30 pm Location TBA	8	9 Feedback Forum 4:00 PM Canyon 165	10
11	12 LAPA Elections continue	13	14 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side-rooms A & B	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day (Lab Holiday)	27	28	29	30	31

Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

LAPA Officers

President:
Nate Mack

Vice-President:
Dhriti Bhattacharyya

Secretary:
Gus Keksis

Treasurer:
Kevin Houston

Committee Chairs

Policy:
Jessica Houston

Communication:
Chandra Savage Marsden

Finance:
Chris Taylor

Social:
Zoë Fisher

Conversion:
open

Career:
Nenad Velisavljevic

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