



## Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

### REMINDER!!!

The next GA  
Meeting is August  
8th.

The next Postdoc  
Social is August 15th.  
Please see the events calendar.

# President's welcome:



Dear LANL-ites,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the newsletter of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association (LAPA). This newsletter will keep you updated on LAPA events as well as issues of concern to the Los Alamos postdoc population at large. It has been over a year now since LAPA was founded. The Association has grown tremendously during that time, all the while aiming to fulfill its stated

mission of "fostering a sense of community among the postdoctoral research staff; advocating for and representing the postdoctoral community; and providing career development information to the members of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association."

LAPA serves as a venue where postdocs can network with their peers by hosting a breadth of social events: social gatherings in Los Alamos on the third Wednesday of every month, periodic picnics and pizza socials, as well as occasional events in Santa Fe. The Association is a resource for postdocs in their career planning needs. An ongoing "conversion" seminar series organized by LAPA features talks and panel discussions on the transition to TSM status featuring recently converted postdocs, established TSMs, as well as group and division-level managers. A LANL postdoc career fair co-hosted by LAPA and the office of the Principal Associate Direction for Science and Technology (PADSTE) is in the works and has been scheduled for September 5, 2007.

In the last year, LAPA has been privileged to represent the LANL postdoc population in meetings with Director Michael Anastasio, ongoing collaboration with PADSTE, and contacts with division- and group-level leadership from around the Lab. In these endeavors, LAPA has always received the heartfelt and indispensable support of the LANL postdoc office, headed by Mary Anne With. On the second Wednesday of every month, LAPA holds a general assembly (GA) meeting in the Otowi cafeteria side rooms. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. Although all LANL postdocs

### In this issue...

- Recent Events
- Upcoming Events
- Committee Reports
- GA Meeting Minutes
- Postdoc Office
- Postdoc Profiles
- Calendar of Events

Submissions Welcome  
[lapa\\_communications@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_communications@lanl.gov)

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



are automatically LAPA members, those who attend GA meetings on a regular basis become voting members and can play an active role in directing the Association's undertakings.

LAPA, however, is not only a resource for postdocs. I encourage you to view the Association as your means for engaging the postdoc community, whether you are a manager seeking input, a TSM searching for a collaborator, or a student interested in finding out about being a postdoc. I invite you to visit LAPA's website at <http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/index.shtml> where in addition to contact information for the current elected officers you can view the Association's bylaws and peruse archival materials from the past year.

I look forward to the continued growth and success of postdocs and the Los Alamos Postdoc Association at LANL. I hope that everyone at the Lab will share in that success.

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Demkowicz  
LAPA President

## Recent Events



Pizza Picnic  
Date: 07/14/07  
Time: 12:00-3:00  
Where: Ashley Pond



## Upcoming Events

### GA Meeting

Date: 08/08/07

Time: 12:00-1:00

Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

### Fidelity Investing Talk

Date: 08/20/07

Time: 9:00 -10:30

Where: Canyon School, Rm. 164

### Postdoc Night

Date: 08/15/07

Time: 5:30-8:30

Where: La La's Cocina on Trinity across from Sonic

### Behavioral Interviewing Class

Date: 08/22/07

Time: 1:00 - 3:30

Where: Canyon School, Rm. 164

### Career Fair

Date: 09/05/07

Time: 9:00 - 3:30

Where: Research Park/Hot Rocks

## LAPA Committee Reports

### Policy Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Communications Committee

- Held a meeting on 6/28/07.
- The new LAPA poster was approved and 2 copies are being printed and laminated for LAPA use and the Postdoc office use.
  - a. Will look into printing onto posterboard for a more durable version as well.
  - b. Periodic updates will be made as new pictures of LAPA events are available (picnics, career fair, etc.)
- The newsletter design was finalized as well, with the inaugural edition scheduled to be published on the 4th Wednesdays of each month, starting 7/25/07.
- The LAPA presentation has been started by Jason Stairs and Nathan Mara, with input from Mary Anne With. It is scheduled to be completed in the next month for upcoming presentations in August.
- Committee is looking into purchasing a LAPA banner for display at events.
  - a. Banner is a large vinyl sign with grommets bearing the LAPA logo that will be durable even in

outdoor events.

b. Intend to use a portion of the materials money to procure (~\$150 each).

- LAPA brochure printing based on the LAPA poster is being delayed until updated pictures can be taken at the upcoming LAPA events (picnics, pizza socials, monthly socials, career fair).

### Finance Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Social Committee

- Had a meeting 06/18 in Otowi
- Two Socials planned for Summer '07
  1. Pizza Picnic @ Ashley Pond, 7/14
  2. September - Annual Postdoc Picnic @ Urban Park, details to be planned soon/later.

### Conversion Committee

The Committee has prepared a set of slides to present our conversion statistics to management. The PDFs will be posted on the LAPA webpage.





### Career Committee

- Career Fair Venue to be the Research Park.
- Support from the Postdoc Office, HR, PADSTE, and entire postdoc population.
- PADSTE Director Terry Wallace signed off on invitation letters.
- Logistics developed, invitations sent out to 70 companies
- Registration confirmed: 10 companies so far. Positive responses coming from a few more.
- If you have any direct contacts with companies, then please give us a hand.
- Second round of invitations sent out.
- We expect to get about 30 companies to show up.
- CV database has been created and is live.
- Good response from postdocs: 25 CVs uploaded immediately.



## General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the LAPA General Assembly was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 12:15 PM in Siderooms A & B of the Otowi Cafeteria. LAPA Vice-President Roshan Shrestha was the presiding officer. A Point of Order was raised that a quorum was not present, and the presiding officer ruled that it was well taken since there were not enough voting members present to constitute a quorum. After some discussion, the assembly then decided by unanimous consent to proceed with the meeting and submit the business conducted for approval at the following GA meeting. The agenda was amended to include a report by the Conversion Committee, and the amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent. The minutes from the previous meeting (6/13/07), which had been posted on the LAPA webpage, were approved without correction. The Secretary (Chandra Savage Marsden) recognized two new Voting Members and presented them with copies of the bylaws.

Committee reports were given by Nate Mack (chair, Communication Committee), Zoë Fisher (chair,

Social Committee), and Roshan Shrestha (member, Career Committee). Joseph Hickey (chair, Career Committee) announced that he was resigning as chair due to his conversion to a permanent staff position. A motion was approved by unanimous consent to appoint Roshan Shrestha acting chair of the Career Committee until the Committee appoints a new one. Nate Mara (chair, Conversion Committee) presented the version of the conversion statistics which LAPA will use in presentations to management. A motion was approved by unanimous consent to place these slides on the webpage and include a link in the upcoming LAPA newsletter.

A motion was made to postpone the vote on the proposed bylaw amendment until the next GA meeting, and it was approved by unanimous consent. In other business, management from the ADCLES (Dave Thorn, Deputy AD for CLES, and Gary Resnick, B Division Leader) requested feedback from LAPA regarding a proposed "postdoc life-cycle" document the Associate Directorate is preparing. The following motion was proposed:

## Postdoc Profiles

Name: Roshan Shrestha  
Group: MPA - MC  
Ph.D. Institution: University of North Carolina  
Research Interests: Thin films and hydrogen storage  
Hobbies or interests: Distance running, golfing, mountain biking.



Name: Chandra Savage Marsden  
Group: C - PCS  
Ph.D. Institution: University of Arizona  
Research Interests: Nanoenergetic materials  
Hobbies or interests: Climbing (rock and ice), canoeing, gardening.



Name: Kevin Houston  
Group: B - 7  
Ph.D. Institution: University of Texas  
Research Interests: Nanomaterial Toxicology  
Hobbies or interests: Hiking, hanging out with my 1-year old son, playing guitar.



Name: Nate Mack  
Group: C - CSE  
Ph.D. Institution: University of Illinois  
Research Interests: Chemistry  
Hobbies or interests: Cycling, playing guitar, golfing



Name: Zoë Fisher  
Group: B-8  
Ph.D. Institution: University of Florida  
Research Interests: Biochemistry  
Hobbies or interests: Drinking red wine, camping, hiking, running, reading.



Name: Nate Mara  
Group: MPA - CINT  
Ph.D. Institution: University of California at Davis  
Research Interests: Materials Science  
Hobbies or interests: Beer brewing, barbecuing, playing percussion for False Levity.



*Motion to create a special **joint committee of the conversion and policy committees** in order to address the issues of a "Postdoc Life-Cycle" document as requested of LAPA by CLES management, to be headed by Kevin Houston.*

*The special **joint committee** would be responsible for gathering information and ideas from postdocs, editing the Life-Cycle document according to the perspective of LANL postdocs, and present the report to Gary Resnick and Dave Thorn.*

The motion was amended to strike the references to a joint committee (as indicated in bold), creating a special committee instead. The amended motion was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM.

## LAPA Officers

President:  
Michael Demkovicz

Vice-President:  
Roshan Shrestha

Secretary:  
Chandra Savage Marsden

Treasurer:  
Kevin Houston

## Committee Chairs

Communication  
Nate Mack

Finance  
Laura Stonehill

Policy  
Melissa Lucero

Social  
Suzanne (Zoë) Fisher

## Postdoc Program Office

Phone: 505-665-5306

Fax: 505-667-1319  
postdocprogram@lanl.gov

Online Issues available  
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/>

Edited by Nate Mack  
lapa\_communications@lanl.gov

Published monthly by the  
LAPA Communications  
Committee

Content is intended for  
LANL internal distribu-  
tion only and may not be  
appropriate for external  
release.

## Postdoc Program Office Announcements

For current announcements and information, click [here](#)

## Calendar of Events

August 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side-rooms A & B	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Postdoc Night! 5:30 pm La La's Cocina	16	17	18
19	20 Fidelity Investing Talk 9:00-10:30 Canon Complex Rm 164	21	22 Behavioral Interviewing Class 1:00-3:30 Canon Complex Rm 164	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	