



Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

REMINDER!!!

The next GA
Meeting is July 9.

The next Postdoc Social
is July 19. 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/>

President's Report



I would like to start off by thanking the numerous dedicated postdoc volunteers, who serve on the various administrative committees, for their help in all of LAPA's accomplishments over the past 6 months. Their assistance, along with the tireless efforts of the postdoc office, have helped maintain

LAPA as a thriving organization that effectively serves the larger postdoc community.

In the next 6 months of my term as LAPA president, I hope to pursue two main goals that will help us fulfill our mission of providing the best possible experience for postdocs at LANL. First and foremost is the culmination of the work LAPA has been doing to put on the second annual postdoc career fair. As of this newsletter, the career fair is well on its way to being even more successful than last year's event. In anticipation of expanding the number of attending companies, we are planning to hold it August 27th at two venues, Research Park and The Study Center. To reflect feedback from the postdocs who attended last year's fair, we are making every effort to expand not only the size of the event, but also diversify the fields that will be represented. More detailed information about the fair will be provided to the postdocs in early August. Upon completion of the fair, we will work to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the experience such that we can make further improvements for the 3rd annual fair.

The second goal I would like to accomplish over the next 6 months is to significantly improve the participation of the general postdoc population. LAPA is solely composed of LANL postdocs, and therefore postdoc participation is vital to accomplishing one of LAPA's main missions, a social networking organization. We have worked to provide complimentary food at our recent socials, with the result of marked increases in overall attendance. While this has successfully brought together a much larger number of postdocs, we are nowhere near reaching the entire postdoc population. To continue this trend, I hope to include this expense in our FY09 budget such that we may continue to provide a nominal amount of refreshments at our socials. Additionally, we are instituting a series of rotating venues for the



socials in the hopes that we can cater to differing postdoc needs.

We would also like to increase our number through better interaction with foreign national (FN) groups around the lab. One observation made at the National Postdoc Association Meeting in Boston was that many other postdoc associations have FN specific orientations and hold meeting to address concerns unique to FN postdocs. These may range from more mundane issues of life in the States to complex visa and work status issues. I would like to work with the foreign nationals who currently volunteer in LAPA to help identify routes that LAPA can take to effectively serve significant fraction of the LANL postdocs.

Finally, I would like to task some of the committees with looking into online professional collaboration/networking services such as 'linked in' to see if these may be of interest to current and alumni postdocs. With services such as these, we hope to maintain contacts with postdocs even after they leave LANL, with the goal of providing potential routes for collaboration as well as hiring opportunities. These ideas, in addition to the more routine projects that are continually ongoing in LAPA will demand a great deal of effort from the active LAPA members. With that in mind, I want to invite all interested postdocs to attend our GA meetings and get involved, no matter how large or small a time investment you can afford. We are always looking for fresh ideas!

Thank you,
Nate Mack
LAPA President

Recent Events

Postdoc Social

June 4th, 2008



Upcoming Events

GA Meeting

Date: Wednesday July 9th, 2008
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

Postdoc Social

Date: Saturday, July 19th, 2008
Time: 2:30 - 5:30 PM
Where: [Santa Fe Brewing Company](#)

Postdoc Orientation (March-May hires)

Date: Monday June 30th, 2008
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Where: Canyon School, Room 160

MS Cookies & Tea - LAPA presentation

Date: Tuesday July 8th, 2008
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Where: MSL Meeting Place

Director's Colloquium for Postdoc Distinguished Award Winners

Date: Tuesday July 8th, 2008
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Where: Physics Auditorium

LAPA Committee Reports

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee (PC) hosted a follow up to the biannual Employee Concerns Meeting. There were 6 postdocs in attendance as well as Mary Anne With.

The following topics were decided on for the Director-Postdoc meeting on June 26:

1. Early training plan assignment
2. Use of LANL time for postdoc career development (e.g. interviews)
3. Postdoc Lifecycle Document: ADCLES guidelines for postdocs

The PC and other interested postdocs agreed that the LAPA president will preside over the Director's meeting and bring these issues to light for Anastasio and Wallace.

Communication Committee

- Nothing to report

Finance Committee

- Nothing to report

Social Committee

- Nothing to report

Conversion Committee

- Nothing to report

Career Committee

- Nothing to report

Special Committee for the National Postdoc Association Meeting

LAPA travel funds were used to send Nathan Mack and Kevin D. Houston to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) in Boston MA on April 25th -27th.

Much of the meeting consisted of informal gatherings and workshops with many opportunities to visit with Postdoc Association and Postdoc Office representatives from academic, industrial, and government institutions. The leading challenge shared by most (if not all) Postdoc Associations



was a lack of participation.

The NPA leadership discussed the many successes that they have had over the last few years. Many of the issues that the NPA has had success in dealing with are not issues for LANL postdocs (ie. salary, health insurance, relationship with institution).

Dr. Sharon Hays, Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, was the keynote speaker. She talked about how various budget constraints have affected science funding and how the government hopes to use lessons learned from the NIH budget doubling for the implementation of the proposed budget doubling in physical sciences and engineering.

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association General Assembly was held on Wednesday, June 11th, 2008 at 12:12 PM in Side-rooms 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 motions for removing Nate Mack from speaking for the NPA meeting report and adding a discussion on the CV-Database were unanimously approved.

The minutes from the May 14th, 2008 Bi-annual Meeting, which were published in the May newsletter, were approved without objection. Nate Mack (President) gave his officers report on goals

for LAPA in the next six months. A committee report was given by the Policy Committee (Jessica Houston, chair). The special committee for the National Postdoc Association meeting gave a summary of the meeting, and the special committee was then dissolved. Chris Taylor (Career Fair Webmaster) led a discussion on creating a CV database that could be maintained year round, to allow companies to be able to search for potential job candidates. The Career Committee was tasked to develop this database.

There was one announcement: Please send in your postdoc profiles for the LAPA newsletter to lapa_communications@lanl.gov.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Postdoc Profiles

Name: Gang Wu
Group: MPA-11
Ph.D. Institution: Harbin Institute of Technology, China
Research Interests: PEM fuel cells and Electrochemical Engineering
Hobbies or interests: Traveling



Name: Dave Kuiper
Group: MPA-MC
Ph.D. Institution: Cornell University
Research Interests: Fundamental inorganic chemistry, polymer membrane materials, kerogen upgrading, catalysis
Hobbies or interests: Judo, skiing, motorcycles



Postdoc Program Office Announcements

The Leon Heller Postdoctoral Publication Prize in Theoretical Physics was awarded to Savvas Koushiappas, T-6/ISR-1, for his paper, "Proper Motion of Gamma Rays from Microhalo Sources" published in Physical Review Letters, November 2006. Also, Pinaki Sengupta, MPA-NHMFL/T-11, received "Honorable Mention" for his paper, "Field-Induced Supersolid Phase in Spin-One Heisenberg Models" published in Physical Review Letters in June 2007.

Winners of the Postdoc Distinguished Performance Award will be speaking at a special Director's Colloquium July 8th at 10:00 AM, in the Physics Auditorium. All postdocs are encouraged to attend!

The next Postdoc Orientation (for March-May hires) will be June 30 at 12 noon, Canyon School Rm. 160.

New Postdocs for May

Ujjaini Alam, ISR-1/CCS-6
 Mark Jankowski, EES-2/B-7
 Dmitry Solenov, T-4
 Moran Wang, EES-6/T-13

May Postdoc Conversions - Congratulations!

Mary Ewers, D-4
 Sheila Van Cuyk, D-3

Calendar of Events

July 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day - Lab Holiday	5
6	7	8 LAPA @ MSCookies & Tea 4:00-5:00 PM MSL Meeting Place	9 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side-rooms A & B	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Postdoc Night! 2:30-5:30 pm Santa Fe Brewing Company
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

LAPA Officers

President:
Nate Mack

Vice-President:
Devesh Ranjan

Secretary:
Gus Keksis

Treasurer:
Kevin Houston

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Jessica Houston

Communication:
Chandra Savage Marsden

Finance:
Chris Taylor

Social:
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Conversion:
Dhriti Bhattacharyya

Career:
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Published monthly by the
 LAPA Communication
 Committee