



Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

REMINDER!!!

The next GA
Meeting is Nov. 14

The next Postdoc Social
is Nov. 21. Please see
the events calendar.

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Submissions Welcome
lpa_communications@lanl.gov

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

Officer Elections!

It's election time at LAPA 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. Many 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 November 7th. and closing November 13th. All postdocs are encouraged to participate.



President: Nate Mack

Fellow LANL Postdocs:

I would like to encourage your participation in the upcoming Los Alamos Postdoc Association (LAPA) officer elections, and appeal for your support of my candidacy as LAPA President. For nearly a year now, my time as the Communications Committee chairman has allowed me to observe and participate in many LAPA organized events. I hope to use this experience as a model for how LAPA is continued to be governed. Many of the LAPA sponsored activities (career fair, socials, picnics, etc.) require months of planning. For example, initial strategies for next year's career fair will need to be hashed out in the upcoming months. As president, I hope to work with the committee chairs to manage these events in a timely manner and ensure that the current list of LAPA sponsored activities can be maintained if not expanded.

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. Thus, expanding LAPA's active membership throughout the lab will also be one of my top priorities.

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.

Vice-President: Write-in candidates accepted



Secretary: Gus Keksis

If elected to the position of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association Secretary, I promise to uphold all the duties assigned to the Secretary as specified by the LAPA bylaws and follow the precedent set by the former Secretary. I will also seek to integrate and refine the duties for the Secretary, for example continuing to help stabilize the LAPA website (currently I am interim Webmaster for LAPA) to create an easily maintainable and modifiable website.



Treasurer: Kevin Houston

I am excited to continue serving LAPA as Treasurer. I would like to reinforce how important I believe the Office of the Treasurer is for the future of LAPA. I have served as LAPA Finance Committee Chair or LAPA Treasurer since inception of our association. During this time, I have led the charge to secure the required funding for LAPA to adequately serve LANL Postdocs. During the previous year, some activities that LAPA has supported are the LAPA Career Fair last September, the annual LAPA picnic, two pizza socials, and travel expenses for postdocs to attend Annual meeting of the National Postdoc Association. In the future, we plan use money allocated to LAPA to continue the support of the activities mentioned above. Additionally, we are trying to secure funding that will allow LAPA representatives to formally welcome new LANL Postdocs during an orientation that will include a hosted lunch. LAPA will continue to support efforts by the Communications Committee to “get the word out” about LAPA through advertisements. This will enhance our continuing efforts to increase involvement in LAPA. Increased involvement will enhance LAPA’s ability 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.



Recent Events

End-of-Summer
BBQ Picnic

Sept. 15, 2007

3:00 - 6:00 PM



Upcoming Events

LAPA Biannual Meeting

Date: November 14
Time: 12:00-1:00
Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

Postdoc Night

Date: November 21
Time: 5:30-8:30
Where: La La's Cocina (on Trinity across from Sonic)

Counterintelligence Seminar

Date: October 24
Time: 3:00
Where: MSL Auditorium (TA-3, Bldg. 1698)

Halloween Party (co-sponsored with LASA)

Date: October 27
Time: 5:30 - 8:30
Where: Lala's Cocina/VFW Hall

Behavioral Interviewing Class

Date: November 15
Time: 1:00
Where: Canyon School, Rm. 164

LAPA Committee Reports

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee (PC) convened on September 26, 2007 to discuss four proposed bylaw amendments that were relegated to the PC at the September 12, 2007 General Assembly (GA) meeting.

At the meeting, the PC discussed the amendments for (i) interpretation, (ii) legality with LAPA bylaws, (iii) recommended alteration, and (iv) to generate resolutions for submission to the General Assembly prior to the October 10, 2007 GA meeting.

The PC thus provides four Resolutions (2-5) to the GA and opines the following:

1. Resolution 2: The PC supports this resolution by a committee vote of 8 for and 1 opposed as necessary for LAPA, legal, and inclusive for passage as a proposed bylaw amendment with minor changes from the originally submitted amendment.
2. Resolution 3: The PC disagrees with this resolution as necessary for LAPA and disputes the passage as a proposed bylaw amendment by a committee vote

of 6 opposed and 3 for.

3. Resolution 4: The PC recommends this resolution as written for passage as a proposed bylaw amendment by a unanimous vote.
4. Resolution 5: The PC endorses this resolution unanimously as necessary for LAPA as written for vote as a proposed bylaw amendment.

The PC meeting culminated with an election of committee chair and tally of its participants. The PC would like to announce its next meeting: October 16, 12pm. Purpose: to review the Association bylaws and ensure their continued relevance to LAPA and prepare a report to present at the Biannual Meeting.

Communication Committee

- 1) We have received many pictures and profiles of postdocs around the lab thanks to a few dedicated individuals. Please keep them coming! If you would like to be included in the monthly newsletter (or know of a postdoc that should be included) send a note to lapa_communications@lanl.gov.



- 2) During the 09/12/07 GA meeting, the Communications committee was tasked with organizing a LAPA/postdoc seminar that is to be presented to incoming postdocs.
 - a. The committee met on 09/27/07 to discuss the details of this seminar.
 - b. The talk will be composed of two main sections. One presented by a representative from the postdoc office detailing general postdoc issues. The second part is to be given by a LAPA member detailing how LAPA membership works.
 - c. After agreeing on a general outline, Mary Ann With volunteered to implement the actual slides for the presentation.
 - d. The presentation will be given on the Monday's before the monthly LAPA social (3rd Wednesday of the month) at 11am, to be followed by lunch with the new postdocs at Lala's Cocina.
 - e. The target date for the first presentation is 11/19/07.
- 3) Due to several recent LAPA events, we now have a whole slew of new pictures to be included in our poster. We are currently in the process of updating the poster to reflect the recent career fair, barbeque, and pizza social. Look for the updated poster at the next LAPA function.

Finance Committee

- Nothing to report

Social Committee

- Nothing to report

Conversion Committee

- A new Committee chair is needed, as Nate is stepping down.

Career Committee

- The Career Fair survey has been completed

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the LAPA General Assembly was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at 12:09 PM in Siderooms A & B of the Otowi Cafeteria. LAPA President Michael Demkowicz was the presiding officer. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent, and the minutes were approved without corrections. The Secretary (Chandra Savage Marsden) recognized one new voting member and presented her with a copy of the bylaws.

Committee Reports were given by Jessica Houston (chair, Policy Committee), Nate Mack (chair, Communication Committee), Nate Mara (chair, Conversion Committee), and Roshan Shrestha (acting chair, Career Committee). A motion was made to task the career committee with distributing the newsletter to LAPA alumni, and after some discussion this issue was moved to new business.

Nominations were made for LAPA Officers to be elected before the November Biannual meeting. Nate Mack, Zoë Fisher, and Laura Stonehill were nominated for Presi-

dent. Jessica Houston and Zoë Fisher were nominated for Vice-President. Gus Keksis and Lynn Mazzoleni (*in absentia*) were nominated for Secretary. Kevin Houston and Michael Blair were nominated for Treasurer, however Michael declined the nomination.

The assembly then took up the matter of the following four proposed bylaw amendments that the Policy Committee presented for consideration in its report:

LAPA Resolution 2: Motion to Amend Article III, Section 2, Clause A in Regards to the Number of Allowed Unexcused Absences

Whereas, the Los Alamos Postdoc Association has had trouble in obtaining a quorum at its monthly General Assembly meetings;

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words in Article III, Section 2., Clause A

be stricken and replaced so that the attainment of Voting Status and the loss of Voting Status are consistent and more conducive to obtaining a quorum:

“from every three consecutive monthly meetings” with “after attaining voting status.”

“more than one” with “an”

; and

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words and paragraph shall be added to Article X of the LAPA bylaws:

“Amendment 2: The following words in Article III, Section 2, Clause A were stricken and replaced:

“from every three consecutive monthly meetings” with “after attaining voting status.”

“more than one” with “an” “

LAPA Resolution 3: Motion to Amend Article III, Section 2 in Regards to the Participation of Voting Members in Standing Committees

Whereas, the work of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association is completed in large part by committees; and

Whereas, most standing committees have been populated by the same dedicated members; and

Whereas; there are no official lists of committee members;

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following clause will be added to Article III, Section 2:

“Clause D. All Voting Members shall be a member of at least one Standing Committee and will inform the Association Secretary of which committee they shall join by the next General Assembly meeting after Voting Status was

attained.”

; and

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words and paragraph shall be added to Article X of the LAPA bylaws:

“Amendment 3: The following clause and paragraph was added to Article III, Section 2:

Clause D. All Voting Members shall be a member of at least one Standing Committee and will inform the Association Secretary of which committee they shall join by the next General Assembly meeting after Voting Status was attained.” “

LAPA Resolution 4: Motion to Amend Article V, Section 2, in Regards to the Duties of the Vice-President

Whereas, the Executive Committee has never had a committee chairperson; and

Whereas, the Executive Committee, being comprised of the leaders of the Postdoc Association, should be lead by an elected officer other than the President;

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words be inserted at the end of the first sentence of Article V, Section 2:

“as well as chair the Executive Committee”

; and

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words shall be added to Article X of the LAPA bylaws:

“Amendment 4: The following words were inserted at the end of the first sentence of Article V, Section 2:

“as well as chair the Executive Committee” “



LAPA Resolution 5: Motion to Amend Article III, Section 2, Clause B in Regards to Excused Absences

Whereas, the reasons for excused absences are not sufficiently inclusive;

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words in Article III, Section 2, Clause B be stricken and replaced:

“attendance at scientific meetings” with “official LANL travel”

; and

Resolved by the Los Alamos Postdoc Association, That the following words shall be added to Article X of the LAPA bylaws:

“Amendment 5: The following words in Article III, Section 2, Clause B were stricken and replaced:

“attendance at scientific meetings” with “official LANL travel” “

After some discussion, consideration of Resolution 2 was approved by a vote of 11-0, consideration of Resolution 3 was approved by a vote of 7-3, and the consideration of resolutions 4 and 5 were approved by votes of 11-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM

Committee Spotlight: Communication Committee

The Communication Committee keeps itself busy with “official” LAPA publications, including emails and this fine newsletter. They also produce the letters that are sent to new postdocs in their hiring package. Currently, the Committee is working on an orientation to present on a monthly basis to new postdocs. If you have an artistic side, have Powerpoint, Photoshop, or InDesign talents, they can always use more help! Contact lapa_communications@lanl.gov for more information.

Postdoc Profiles

Name: Robyn Gdula

Group: MPA-MC

Ph.D. Institution: Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Research Interests: Organometallic chemistry of high-oxidation state actinides and transition metals

Hobbies or interests: SCUBA diving, running, playing musical instruments (especially the sousaphone and oboe), my pet birds, trying new things and meeting new people!



Name: Jason Masuda

Group: MPA-10

Ph.D. Institution: University of Windsor, Canada

Research Interests: Metal-main group element multiple bonds

Hobbies or interests: Previous to children and chemistry entering my life I enjoyed beer and playing guitar.



Name: Pradeep Manandhar

Group: MPA-CINT

Ph.D. Institution: Florida State University

Research Interests: Integration of soft and hard materials, hybrid devices, etc.

Hobbies or interests: Sports, traveling, etc.



Name: Michael Blair

Group: EES-2

Ph.D. Institution: Oklahoma State University

Research Interests: Radiation dosimetry, geological dating, nanophosphor material characterization, evolution of free radicals in materials

Hobbies or interests: I have two kids under two years of age. Hobbies and interests are nonexistent.



Postdoc Program Office Announcements

The Postdoctoral Program Office is pleased to invite nominations for the FY07 Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Awards (PDPA). These awards recognize individual postdoctoral researchers or teams of no more than three postdoctoral researchers who have made an outstanding and unique contribution resulting in a positive and significant impact on the Laboratory's programmatic/organizational efforts or status in the scientific community during FY07. The deadline for submitting a nomination is 5 p.m., Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

Postdoc Conversions for 4th Quarter FY07: Congratulations All!

Name	PD Org	Conv Org
Bartlomiej Benedikt	WT-1	WT-1
Andrew Green	P-25	P-25
Scott Jackson	DE-9	DE-9
Garry Maskaly	C-PCS	X-4-AFS
Andrew Nelson	X-2-AFS/T-6	HPC-5
Ivan Vitev	P-25/T-16	T-16
Joseph Hickey	B-9	ES-SE
Daniel Holz	T-8/T-6	T-6
Cristian Pantea	MPA-11	MPA-11
Mark Wallace	ISR-/N-2	ISR-1
Michael Furlanetto	P-23	P-23
Christof Teuscher	CCS-3/ISR-3	CCS-3

Calendar of Events

November 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Online Voting open for LAPA Officer Elections	8	9	10
11	12 LAPA Elections continue Veteran's Day (Lab Holiday)	13	14 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side-rooms A & B	15 Behavioral Interviewing Class 1:00-3:30 Canyon Complex Rm 164	16	17
18	19	20	21 Postdoc Night! 5:30 pm La La's Cocina	22 Thanksgiving Holiday	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

LAPA Officers

President:
Michael Demkowicz

Vice-President:
Roshan Shrestha

Secretary:
Chandra Savage Marsden

Treasurer:
Kevin Houston

Committee Chairs

Policy:
Jessica Houston

Communication:
Nate Mack

Finance:
Laura Stonehill

Social:
Zoë Fisher

Conversion:
Nate Mara

Career:
Roshan Shrestha (acting)

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