

DMP NEWLSETTER - Spring 2002

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Summary of Dates to Remember:

- *Submission of focus topic proposals to Jim Chelikowsky by May 28
- *Nominations for McGroddy Prize to Tom Russell by July 1
- *Nominations for Adler Lectureship Award to Dan Dahlberg by July 1
- *List of 2003 focus topics posted on web and sent via e-mail in early July
- *Invited speaker suggestions for focus topics to Jim Chelikowsky by August 30

Many of us recently returned from yet another exciting and profitable March APS meeting. This year the DMP tried to place a little more emphasis on the prizes and awards associated with materials physics. There was a special prize session on Monday afternoon which preceded the APS awards session and subsequent reception. The James C. McGroddy Prize was awarded to Sumio Iijima (NEC) and Donald S. Bethune (IBM) for the discovery and development of single-wall carbon nanotubes. The David Adler Award was given to Chris G. Van de Walle (PARC) for his theoretical contributions to the understanding of the behavior of hydrogen in semiconductors and heterostructure energy band diagrams.

The DMP thanks Len Feldman and Sam Bader, who are finishing their terms as Chair and Sec./Treas. of the Division, for their work over the past few years. The election of officers and members at large of the Executive Committee was hotly contested in some cases, and we thank all the candidates for participating in the elections. Congratulations to Sam Bader and Ted Einstein, who were elected Vice-Chair and Sec./Treas., respectively. Thanks also to Esther Conwell, Joe Greene and Jeff Lynn, who are finishing terms as Members at Large of the DMP Executive Committee, and congratulations to the new Members at Large, Eric Isaacs and Talat Rahman. The complete list of the current officers and the Executive Committee of the DMP is given below.

DMP sponsored or co-sponsored 24 Focus Topics at the March 2002 APS meeting, and the feedback that I have been getting indicates that most people were very happy with the results. Materials physicists continue to explore new areas while delving more deeply into other better established areas. It is not too early to start to think about the Focus Topics that we want to emphasize in the March 2003 APS meeting, which will be held in Austin, TX. The Executive Committee will select the Focus Topics and the Focus Topic Organizers during July. As we did last year there will then be a solicitation of suggestions for invited speakers for the Focus Topics (deadline September 16, 2002). The list of Focus Topics, the appropriate sorting categories and the invited speaker form for the March 2003 Meeting will be posted on the APS web page in early August.

Call for Proposals for Focus Topics for March 2003: The heart of the DMP program is the Focus Topics. The success of this program depends on suggestions from the DMP

membership for exciting topics and organizers. Please send suggestions to the DMP Chair-Elect by May 28, 2002:

Jim Chelikowsky

Dept of Chem Engr & Mater Sci, Univ of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455

Tel: (612) 625-4837; Fax: (612) 626-7246

email: jrc@msi.umn.edu

We also invite and encourage you to suggest candidates for the McGroddy Prize for new materials and the David Adler Lectureship Award. Please take a moment to look at the DMP website and peruse the list of past recipients of these prizes. Often one realizes that there are deserving colleagues or researchers in one's own field who have not been recognized. Please consider taking the time to put together a nomination for a worthy candidate. Follow the directions on the APS web page under prizes and awards. The chairs of the selection committees are:

McGroddy Prize	Tom Russell	russell@mail.pse.umass.edu (413) 545-2680
Adler Award:	Dan Dahlberg	dand@physics.umn.edu (612) 624-3506

Deadlines are July 1, 2002.

The American Physical Society through its Washington Office has an active Congressional outreach program aimed in part at maintaining a healthy level of federal funding for physics research. This is a job that needs support from all APS members. The political process is such that members of Congress and their staffs need to be continually reminded that a large fraction of the economic growth in the U.S. and the resulting job creation can be traced to basic research in the physical sciences. The physics community has to increase its contacts with Congress. It appears to me that researchers in universities and in government laboratories spend an increasing amount of their time writing grant proposals as they chase after a dwindling supply of dollars.

Wouldn't it be more cost effective for all of us to spend a little time trying to increase the overall funding levels?

In order to make sure that Congress is paying attention to our budgets, we need to do three things: write to our Congressmen; visit them when we are in the Washington area, and visit them when they are back in their home districts. The Washington Office can help you with all three. We have just come back from the March meeting, where they set up a letter writing center. Many of you probably met Susan Ginsberg and Steve Pierson who are senior science policy fellows working in the Washington Office. Over 1700 letters were sent to Congress, which is substantially more than last year. These letters help to keep science on the radar screen but nothing beats personal visits. I urge you to consider visiting your Congressman when you are in Washington to see a funding agent or as a tourist. Add half a day to your trip. Contact the Washington office and stop by. They can help with setting up visits and often can accompany you on the visit. They have handouts which emphasize the key points to be made in talking to members of Congress and their staffs. They are conveniently located a couple of blocks from the White House in the Nation Press Building (529 14th St., NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC 20045-2001 -- (202) 662-8700 -- e-mail: opa@aps.org). Mike Lubell, Francis Slakey, Susan and Steve will try to make your visit to the Hill both interesting and productive.

I look forward to working with you as Chair of the DMP and welcome your suggestions.

DMP 2002-2003 Executive Committee

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