

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CASCA BOARD OF THE CASCA AWARDS COMMITTEE 2003-2004

The CASCA Awards Committee consisted of Shantanu Basu (UWO; 2001-2004), Stephanie Cote (HIA; 2003-2006), David Guenther (StMarys; 2003-2006), and Doug Welch (McMaster; 2001-2004). Shantanu Basu chaired the Committee this year. Shantanu Basu is stepping down as Chair since his term has expired. However, at the request of the CASCA Board, he is continuing on the committee in an advisory capacity, in order to ensure continuity. Stephanie Cote has agreed to serve as Chair for the coming year. Howard Yee (Toronto) and John Landstreet (UWO) have agreed to join the committee for a three year term (2004-2007).

This year, the Committee chose the Carlyle S. Beals Award winner and the recipient of the J.S. Plaskett Medal. Both awards will be presented at the Society's annual meeting in Winnipeg (June 2004).

1) Carlyle S. Beals Award: The Committee received letters of nomination and supporting material for four outstanding candidates.

This led to two rounds of extensive discussions, in which some of the parameters of the award were clarified by consulting the CASCA Board. Two outstanding and deserving candidates emerged, and the committee worked overtime to go over their files and make their most persuasive cases. In the end, the committee selected Ernie Seaquist (Toronto) by a majority vote, but with unanimous consent that he was extremely deserving of the award.

2) Plaskett Medal: The Committee received two nominations from the community. The Committee was impressed by the quality of both theses, which had distinctive strengths. After one round of discussion, the Committee selected JoAnn Brown (Calgary) for the 2004 Plaskett Award, by a majority vote. Her dissertation was entitled "The Magnetic Field of the Outer Galaxy". This was the second year that she had been nominated.

Press releases for the winners are being prepared by CASCA's Press Officer, Robert Lamontagne.

Finally, the committee has two recommendations for the future:

1) That the Beals and Plaskett Awards be announced as early as possible after the President has contacted the winners, through a broadcast email message to CASCA members. This will allow members to know the winners prior to the registration deadline for the CASCA meeting.

2) The call for nominations to the Plaskett award (and other awards for that matter) should specify that copies of applications be mailed directly to

each committee member. For the Chair to receive all theses and then resend multiple theses to each committee member is an unnecessary wastage of time and expense.

Shantanu Basu, Chair  
CASCA Awards Committee

=====