

Graduate Student Committee report to the CASCA Board May 2010

I. Current Membership of the Graduate Student Committee

The current members of the graduate student committee and their university affiliations are:

David Williamson, Chair (Saint Mary's University)
Melanie Gendre, Secretary (University of British Columbia)
Sarah Malek (University of Western Ontario)
Jesse Rogerson (York University)
Ismael Moumen (L'Université Laval)
Joel Roedegeer (Queen's University)
Emma Lloyd (University of Toronto)
Alexandre David-Uraz (Université de Montréal)
Jason Grunhut (Royal Military College)
Scott Jones (University of Lethbridge)
Aaron Maxwell (University of Victoria)
Sukhpreet Guram (University of Calgary)
Rob Cockcroft (McMaster University)
Michael Zamfir (McGill University)
Theresa Wiegert (University of Manitoba)

Due to unforeseen events, Jacqueline Otaguro stood down from the position of Chair in February. This position has been filled by David Williamson. The committee has undergone many changes in membership, and so the committee would like to welcome Sarah Malek, Jesse Rogerson, Ismael Moumen, Joel Roedegeer, Emma Lloyd, Alexandre David-Uraz, Jason Grunhut, Scott Jones, and David Williamson to the committee. We would also like to thank our outgoing members, Jacqueline Otaguro, Locke Spencer, James Silvester, Pier-Emmanuel Tremblay, Robert Sorba, Laura Fissel, Véronique Petit, Pascal Elahi, Alireza Rafiee, and Ryan Marciniak, for their contributions to the GSC.

The positions of representative for the University of Waterloo and representative to the Education Committee are currently unoccupied. We will fill these positions by asking for volunteers at the AGM on May 25.

II. The 2010 Graduate Student Workshop and General Meeting

Following the tradition, the CASCA Graduate Student Workshop will be held prior to the start of the annual CASCA meeting on Tuesday, May 25. The workshop was organized by James Wurster and several other Saint Mary's University students alongside the LOC following the topic and suggestions given by the GSC. The topic of this year's workshop is technical writing, focussing on journal articles

The workshop will be divided into four sessions. The first session is a keynote talk on journal article writing from the perspective of an editor, given by Leslie Sage, a Senior Editor of the Physical Sciences for Nature. The second session is a panel discussion on the process of writing journal articles, with panel

members Hugo Martel (Laval), Norm Murray (CITA), David Turner (SMU), and Christine Wilson (McMaster). The third session is an interactive workshop where participants break into small groups to read and critique papers. In the fourth and final session the participants return to one group to discuss their critiques. Experienced referees will sit in this session to provide additional insights.

After the workshop the Graduate Student Committee will hold the Annual General Meeting, which all the graduate students are welcome to attend.

III. Graduate Student Statistics

The GSC has continued to collect statistics on the total number of graduate students in most astronomy programs in Canada. The number of male and female MSc and PhD students over the last 9 years has now been recorded.

IV. Graduate Student Awards

The GSC will continue to give awards in recognition of the best student talk and poster at the upcoming meeting in Toronto.

Respectfully submitted,

David Williamson
Graduate Student Committee Chair
18 May 2010