

# **Graduate Student Committee report to the CASCA Board November 2005**

## **I. Current Membership of the Graduate Student Committee**

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

Louise Edwards, Chair (L'Universit\_e Laval)  
Catherine Lovekin, Secretary (Saint Mary's University)  
Alyssa Moldowan, Education Committee Rep. (University of Western Ontario)  
Theresa Wiegert (University of Manitoba)  
Sunne Dong (York University)  
Douglas McNeil (Queen's University)  
Pamela Klaassen (McMaster University)  
Pierre-Olivier Quirion (Universit\_e de Montr\_eal)  
Brigitte Hesman (University of Saskatchewan)  
Christy Bredeson (University of Calgary)  
Saul Davis (University of British Columbia)  
Rachel Friesen (University of Victoria)  
Adam Muzzin (University of Toronto)  
Marjorie Gonzalez (McGill University)  
Kevin Brown (University of Western Ontario)

Louise Edwards (L'Universit\_e Laval) took over as Chair in May of 2004 as Laura Parker is graduating this year. Catherine Lovekin has filled the position of secretary. Douglas McNeil has We would like to welcome Saul Davis and Sunne Dong to the committee.

## **II. Planning for the 2006 Graduate Student Workshop**

Following tradition, the CASCA Graduate Student Workshop will be held the Saturday prior to the Annual CASCA meeting. The theme for this years workshop is Jobs in and Out of Astronomy. Sessions and presenters will focus on defining the skill sets that graduate students require in order to be successful in Astronomy, as well as exploring those gained which are applicable to in other fields. The students in Calgary have begun planning sessions and speakers.

## **III. Graduate Education Overview**

Alyssa Moldowan continues to represent the graduate students on the CASCA Education and Outreach Committee.

## **IV. Student Awards**

At the 2005 CASCA meeting in Montreal, the graduate students held the first student-voted awards for CASCA posters and talks. Poster and oral presentations were selected. Congratulations to Andr\_e-Nicolas Ch\_ene from Universit\_e de Montr\_eal, and Sijing Shen from McMaster University for their outstanding presentations. We are

currently working defining more clearly the selection process for next year's student awards.

#### V. Graduate Student Statistics

As the GSC has a representative for each University, we have recently been compiling statistics about the numbers of male, female, MSc, and PhD students in each astronomy program in Canada. We are happy to work in an efficient way with others who may also be gathering similar information.

#### VI. CASCA Oral Presentations

We are happy that the CASCA board has heard our expressed concerns about the percentage of graduate student oral presentations. We look forward to when the new policies are set in place, and thank Pierre Bergeron for giving some priority to student talks at the last CASCA meeting.

#### VII. Web Pages

The GSC thanks Simon Cantin at L'Universit\_e Laval for offering to update our currently outdated webpages. We are looking into hosting them at Laval for the moment, but reiterate our preference for having webpages that do not change location with each change of Chair or Webmaster. These roles have a very high turn-over in this committee.