

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CASCA BOARD OF THE CASCA AWARDS
COMMITTEE 2004-2005 -- Submitted by Stephanie Cote, 3 May 2005

The CASCA Awards Committee consisted this year of Stephanie Cote (Chair; HIA, 2003-2006), David Guenther (StMary's, 2003-2006), John Landstreet (UWO, 2004-2007), and Howard Yee (U of Toronto, 2004-2007). Shantanu Basu (UWO), former Chair, served in an advisory capacity to the present Chair and was consulted on several occasions. All of the committee's discussions were done via numerous emails.

This year the task of the Committee was to choose the R.M Petrie Prize lecturer and the J.S. Plaskett Medal winner. Both awards will be presented at the Society's annual meeting in Montreal in May 2005.

1) The Petrie Award: the Committee, in close consultation with the Montreal CASCA SOC, nominated the distinguished Prof. Reinhard Genzel (MPE, Garching) to the Board. This choice was endorsed by the Board and the CASCA President contacted the proposed awardee. We were very happy to learn that Prof. Genzel accepted the prize and was willing to come to CASCA to deliver the Lecture.

2) Plaskett Medal: The Committee received this year an outstanding and record-breaking crop of Phd theses, both in quantity and in quality. Seven PhD theses from 6 Universities were nominated for the Prize. Several of them were outstanding and fully deserving of the Prize. The committee was delighted to see that the future of Canadian astronomy appears to be in excellent hands. The committee ultimately selected Christian Marois (U. de Montreal) for the 2005 Plaskett Award for his dissertation entitled "La Recherche de Naines Brunes et d'Exoplanetes: Developpement d'une Technique d'Imagerie Multibande".

The Committee has the following recommendations:

- 1) The lead role of the Awards Committee in all aspects of the Petrie prize nomination should be clarified.
- 2) Experience from this year shows that it is important that there are always at least two fully bilingual members on the Committee. This should be kept in mind when appointing new members at the end of this year to replace the two departing members.
- 3) Consideration should be given to the concept of a runner-up to the Plaskett medal.