

Graduate Student Committee report to the CASCA Board May 2008

I. Current Membership of the Graduate Student Committee

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

Kelsey Hoffman, Chair (University of British Columbia)
Helen Kirk, Secretary (University of Victoria)
Talayah Hezareh, Education Committee Rep. (University of Western Ontario)
Alyssa Moldowan (University of Western Ontario)
Sukhpreet Guram (University of Calgary)
Rob Cockcroft (McMaster University)
Alireza Rafiee (York University)
Véronique Petit (L'Université Laval)
Pascal Elahi (Queen's University)
Laura Fissel (University of Toronto)
Daniel O'Donnell (McGill University)
Robert Sorba (Saint Mary's University)
Mike Hillier (University of Waterloo)
Pier-Emmanuel Tremblay (Université de Montréal)
Theresa Wiegert (University of Manitoba)
James Silvester (RMC/Queen's)
Locke Spencer (University of Lethbridge)

The position of secretary has been taken over by Helen Kirk. Pamela Klassen has completed her term as secretary of the GSC; we thank her for all her hard work. We would also like to welcome Rob Cockcroft, Véronique Petit, Robert Sorba, James Silvester, and Talayah Herzareh to the committee and thank our outgoing members.

II. The 2008 Graduate Student Workshop and General Meeting

Following tradition, the CASCA Graduate Student Workshop will be held prior to the start of the annual CASCA meeting on Tuesday, May 20. The theme for this year's workshop is *Tools for the Modern Astronomer*, and has been organized by the Graduate Student Committee, with assistance from the Local Organizing Committee, we especially thank David Bohlender from the LOC. The workshop includes talks from Luc Simard on Proposal Writing, Phil Gregory on Statistics, and Jayanne English and Jim Hesser will lead a session on Public Outreach and IYA 2009.

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

III. Graduate Education Review

Talayeh Hezareh had replaced Mohaddesse Azimlu as the representative of the graduate students on the CASCA Education and Outreach Committee.

IV. Graduate Student Statistics

The GSC has continued in updating statistics on the total number of graduate students in each astronomy program in Canada. The number of male and female MSc and PhD students over the last 7 years has now been recorded.

V. Graduate Student Awards

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Hoffman
Graduate Student Committee Chair
19 May 2008