



## Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

### REMINDER!!!

The next GA  
Meeting is August 13th

The next Postdoc Social  
is August 6th. Please  
see the events calendar.

### In this issue...

- Recent Events
- Upcoming Events
- Committee Reports
- GA Meeting Minutes
- Postdoc Profiles
- Postdoc Office
- Calendar of Events

Submissions Welcome  
[lapa\\_communications@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_communications@lanl.gov)

Visit LAPA's website @  
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/>

## LAPA Meeting with the Director



On June 26th, members of LAPA met with Director Mike Anastasio and PAD Terry Wallace to update them on postdoctoral issues, achievements, and life in general at LANL. The informal discourse was a success; LAPA members candidly asked questions of our management and shared the latest accomplishments and goals of both LAPA and postdocs in general. The one-hour meet-

ing had an overall positive tone with seven LAPA postdocs and management joking, exchanging ideas, and speaking earnestly about how postdocs contribute to LANL. Additionally, the dialogue included a presentation by LAPA officials on three central concerns of relevance to postdocs today. LAPA was interested in presenting three objectives in order to both garner feedback from the Director and PAD as well as foster a shared involvement (by management and LAPA) for solving the challenges, issues, or concerns that postdocs face. The three issues stemmed from LAPA's May 8th, postdoctoral employee concerns meeting, a forum at which all postdocs were invited to share their positive and negative LANL experiences.

The first topic concerned timely postdoc training to allow for incoming postdocs to start working as soon as possible upon arriving at LANL. The Director agreed that training is an issue and that they are actively working on several fronts to allow postdocs to begin training before arriving at LANL. Possible solutions include completing online courses prior to arrival as well as ensuring that all mentors register postdocs before their arrival so that live training can occur immediately following hire-on. While there are several details that are still being worked out before these ideas can be implemented, the process may soon be streamlined and started in the near future. Successfully accomplishing these ideas will allow postdocs, who have a strict limited term here at the lab, to begin working in their fields earlier than has previously been possible.

The next topic that was discussed regarded the complete support from LANL for postdoc career development. On this matter, the Director whole-heartedly supports successful postdoctoral career advancement even for those that pursue opportunities outside of the lab, as demonstrated by their



direct support for the annual postdoc career fair. Postdocs are encouraged to go on job interviews and present their work at official seminars as part of their official job here at LANL. To paraphrase the Director, part of our job as soon as becoming a LANL postdoc, is to immediately begin searching for our next position.

The final area of discussion was to introduce the idea of 'LANL postdoctoral lifecycle guidelines' to upper management. This idea has been drafted in order to help foster a unified relationship between postdocs and our institution across all LANL divisions. An outline of the guidelines, which are currently implemented in ADCLES, were presented with positive feedback and interest from the Director and Terry Wallace. The guidelines include expectations of postdocs from the time they arrive until they transition to a new position. Topics such as recruitment, training, beginning research, postdoc-mentor communication, and career development, are included. Overall, the Director liked the idea of a postdoc "cheat sheet" that provides a metric for postdoctoral accomplishments at LANL.

In general, the meeting was very positive, and all of LAPA's ideas were well received. The Director wanted to relay to the postdoc community that he firmly believes that the postdoc population is the lifeblood of the laboratory; he is committed to ensuring that we all have a positive experience here at LANL. Regardless of funding pressures experienced by the lab, he is trying to manage the lab in such a way that allows for the continuation of the postdoc program as well as the conversion of postdocs to TSM status. With that in mind he hopes postdocs continue to excel in their fields and help keep up the lab's reputation as one of the premiere scientific institutions in the country.

## Recent Events



Directors Meeting -  
Top & Bottom Left

Postdoc Orientation  
- Bottom Right



## Upcoming Events

### Postdoc Social

Date: August 6th, 2008  
Time: 5:30-8:30  
Where: Quark (across from post office)

### GA Meeting

Date: August 13th, 2008  
Time: 12:00-1:00  
Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

### Career Fair!!

Date: August 26 to 28  
Time: Announcements will be sent out  
Where: Research Park

### Delivering a Technical Talk

Registration Required - An announcement will be sent out with deadlines  
Date: August 20th, 2008  
Time: 8 am to 4 pm  
Where: Canyon School, TA00, Bldg199, Rm. 164

### Interviewing Skills Workshop

Registration Required - An announcement will be sent out with deadlines  
Date: Tuesday August 12th, 2008  
Time: 1 pm to 3:30 pm  
Where: Canyon School, TA00, Bldg199, Rm. 164

### Annual Student Symposium

Date: August 5-6, 2008  
Where: UNM-LA  
Info: The Postdoc Office needs judges for this event (This can look good in your CV!!). The judging sessions will be the afternoons of the 5th and 6th. If you would like to be a judge contact Brenda Montoya at [bmontoya@lanl.gov](mailto:bmontoya@lanl.gov). You can judge in Engineering, Bioscience, Materials Science, Computing, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Mathematics, Physics and Non-Technical fields.

## LAPA Committee Reports

### Policy Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Communication Committee

- The Committee presented another Postdoc Orientation session on June 30, with about 10 postdocs in attendance. The next one will be held on Sept. 29, for June-August hires. Help is still needed with developing a feedback/evaluation form.
- On July 8, the Committee presented an introduction to LAPA as part of the MS Cookies & Tea seminar series. Several students and postdocs attended, but no mentors other than the coordinators.
- Please continue sending in profiles for the newsletter! Email your photos and info to [lapa\\_communications@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_communications@lanl.gov) or [secretary\\_lapa@lanl.gov](mailto:secretary_lapa@lanl.gov).

### Finance Committee

- Nothing to report

### Social Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Conversion Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Career Committee

- Nothing to report.



## General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Los Alamos Postdoc Association General Assembly was held on Wednesday, July 9th, 2008 at 12:08 PM in Siderooms A&B of Otowi. LAPA President, Nate Mack, was the presiding officer and upon calling the meeting to order announced that a quorum was present. The agenda was adopted without objection after motions for adding a Communications Committee Report and a Director's Meeting Report were unanimously approved.

The minutes from the June 11th, 2008 General Assembly Meeting, which were published in the June newsletter, were approved without objection. A committee report was given by the Communications Com-

mittee (Chandra Savage Marsden, chair). Then Nate Mack (President) discussed the meeting that was held with the Director (Michael Anastasio) and PAD (Terry Wallace) about postdoc concerns. The Communications Committee was tasked to develop an annual survey for the postdoc population.

There was one announcement:

1. Please send your postdoc profile and picture for the LAPA newsletter to:

[lapa\\_communications@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_communications@lanl.gov)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

## Postdoc Profiles

**Name:** Fang Fang  
**Group:** C-NR  
**Ph.D. Institution:** Penn State University  
**Research Interests:** Cold atom experiments  
**Hobbies or interests:** Swimming and hiking



**Name:** Maurizio Giannotti  
**Group:** T-08  
**Ph.D. Institution:** University of L'Aquila, Italy  
**Research Interests:** Theoretical Physics: Particle, Astro, Cosmo and High Energy  
**Hobbies or interests:** Music and Biking



**Name:** Your Name Here! Send in your postdoc profile and picture to:

[lapa\\_communications@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_communications@lanl.gov)

**Group:**  
**Ph.D. Institution:**  
**Research Interests:**  
**Hobbies or interests:**

## Your Picture Here!

# Postdoc Program Office Announcements

The second annual career fair will be held this month. An evening social will be held at Fuller Lodge on the 26th to showcase the diversity of the laboratory to the companies attending and allow an early opportunity for post-docs to meet with the company representatives. The main career fair is on the 27th at Research Park from 9 am-3 pm. Then the 28th there will be interviewing rooms available, if interviews need to be conducted on Thursday. Also in preparation for the career fair there will be an Interviewing Skills Workshop on the 12th (registration required - an announcement will be sent out). There is also a Student Symposium that needs judges on the 5th and 6th, this would be a great opportunity for community service!

## New Hires for June:

Boian Alexandrov T-11  
 Hau Nguyen B-9  
 Vadim Roytershteyn T-15/X-1-PTA  
 Yingying Zhang MPA-STC

## Conversions for June: Congratulations!!

Hou-Tong Chen MPA-CINT  
 Aaron Couture LANSCE-NS  
 Jason Scharff DE-9

## Calendar of Events

August 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Postdoc Night! 5:30-8:30 pm Quark (Across from post office)	7	8	9
10	11	12 Interviewing Skills Work- shop 1-3:30 pm @ Canyon School	13 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side- rooms A & B	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Delivering a Technical Talk Workshop 8-4 pm @ Canyon School	21	22	23
24	25	26 CAREER FAIR Evening Social	27 CAREER FAIR Main Event @ Research park	28 CAREER FAIR Overflow time for Interviews	29	30

# Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

## LAPA Officers

President:  
 Nate Mack

Vice-President:  
 Devesh Ranjan

Secretary:  
 Gus Keksis

Treasurer:  
 Kevin Houston

## Committee Chairs

Policy:  
 Jessica Houston

Communication:  
 Chandra Savage Marsden

Finance:  
 Chris Taylor

Social:  
 Zoë Fisher

Conversion:  
 Dhriti Bhattacharyya

Career:  
 Nenad Velisavljevic

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