

## News from the Canadian Association of Physicists

BY ROBERT I. THOMPSON

The Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) is Canada's national professional organization for physicists. CAP plays a leadership role in all aspects of the Canadian physics community, and thus has an impact on the careers of Canadian physicists from undergraduate physics students to senior research scientists. CAP's activities include organizing conferences, publishing the national physics newsmagazine "Physics in Canada", government lobbying, professional certification, and awarding national medals of excellence. Beyond the broader efforts of CAP for the community as a whole, the CAP has a focus on issues related to the physics student experience in Canada. CAP has for many years run an annual lecture series and annual physics prize exams for Canadian physics students, as well as supporting the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference and the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Journal. CAP efforts in this area are led by its Director of Student Affairs, working with the Director of Student Members and the CAP Student Affairs Committee. The current membership of the Student Affairs Committee is:

T. Antimirova, Ryerson University, *Faculty Member*

A. Buzatu, McGill University, *Graduate Student Member*

E. Hysi, Ryerson University, *Undergraduate Student Member*

S. Milbradt, University of Alberta, *Undergraduate Student Member*

S. Opps, University of Prince Edward Island, *Faculty Member*

A. Predoi-Cross, University of Lethbridge, *Faculty Member*

R. Thompson, University of Calgary, *Director of Student Affairs*

A. Warburton, McGill University, *Faculty Member*

The CAP Student Affairs portfolio is relatively new, and thus we are still developing initiatives and welcome suggestions from students for services or initiatives that CAP might be able to provide. That being said, we are already moving forward on a number of initiatives, including:

1. CAP Lecture Series: The CAP Student Affairs Committee is just completing a review of the structure of the national CAP Lecture Series, with the aims of making the process more efficient and inclusive of students across the country. Last year's series, co-sponsored with CASCA, the national organization for astronomers, was very successful, and we are following up with another themed series for 2010, with talks in the coming series working around the "Laserfest" theme, as 2010 is the 50th anniversary of the development of the laser. Watch for the CAP Lecture Series, featuring seminars aimed at an undergraduate student audience, at your university during the January-April term.

2. Canadian Physics Programs Database: In response to student feedback, the Student Affairs Committee is developing a national on-line database of information on graduate and undergraduate programs in physics and related fields. We are currently working on identifying the information to be included in the data base and the on-line presentation structure. We will shortly begin collecting the necessary information from

the Departments, and would look for the updated data base to appear on-line sometime in 2010.

3. New CAP Web-site: Starting in November 2010, a new CAP web-site, featuring a new look and new content, with new student and career pages will launch. You will be able to check out the new site at [www.cap.ca](http://www.cap.ca) once it launches.

4. CAP High School Teacher Awards: Was there a high school physics teacher in your past that put in that extra effort and played a significant role in your decision to study physics at University. You now have the opportunity to get that teacher recognized and rewarded by nominating them for a CAP High School Teaching Excellence Award. Starting in 2010, a set of 5 regional awards will be given out each year. However, don't wait because nominations for the 2010 awards are open now.

As you can see, the CAP is active in student issues, and we welcome your involvement. Undergraduate student membership in CAP is free, and you can find out more about joining the CAP at <http://www.cap.ca>. In addition, if you have any comments or ideas about CAP activities, or if you want to get involved in this area, please contact the CAP Director of Student Affairs at:

Dr. Robert I. Thompson, P.Phys.  
Director of Student Affairs  
Canadian Association of Physicists

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Calgary  
2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4  
Tel. (403) 220-5407  
E-mail: [thompson@phas.ucalgary.ca](mailto:thompson@phas.ucalgary.ca)

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**jcép**

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