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June, 2021

IAU PhD prize for Division G

I am pleased to tell you that the Division G PhD prize winner for 2020 is Lisa Bugnet. She received her degree in Paris at CEA and is now a postdoc at the Flatiron Institute in New York City. Her thesis was titled "Characterization of solar-type stars and study of their internal magnetic fields along the evolution: Machine learning for asteroseismology and theoretical constraints for internal magnetic fields." You may recall that last year I arranged for the winner to give an on-line talk about their thesis, and I will do that as well for Dr. Bugnet. The 2020 talk may be seen on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/xTuTAOAMISg>

Election of new officers:

You will have seen the announcement from the IAU in Paris about the outcome of recently held elections:

<https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21041/>

For Division G the new officers are:

President: Andrej Prsa, USA, moving up from Vice President.

Vice President: Merieme Chadid, France

New Steering Committee members: Ray Jayawardhana (USA), Pascal Petit (France), Steven Shore (Italy), Sumner Starrfield (USA), and Ali Taani (Jordan).

My congratulations to all who won, and my thanks to all who volunteered to run. Your division is in good hands.

In addition to the above, the following are the new Division G commission presidents, who also serve on the SC:

G1: Christopher Tout (UK)

G2: Nicole St-Louis (Canada)

G3: Jacco Th. van Loon (UK)

G4: Robert Szabo (Hungary)

G5: Chris Sneden (USA)

I want to thank those who are retiring from the SC: Tabettha Boyajian (USA, who has also served as division secretary); Geraldine Peters (USA); and Pierre Kervella (France).

Passings:

I again have to report, with sadness, the loss of some of the Division's members in recent months:

Valeri M. Larionov, Russia:

<https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/9151/>

Charles Thomas Bolton, Canada:

<https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1641/>

Mendoza V. Eugenio E., Mexico:

<https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/3348/>

Alexander Pugach, Ukraine: <https://iau.org/administration/membership/individual/7107/>

George Wallerstein, USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/3608/>

Kees de Jager, Netherlands:

<https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/8063/>

Raphael Steinitz, Israel: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2877/>

Derek H. P. Jones, UK: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1965/>

Peter Conti, USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2609/>

All will be greatly missed.

I also want to note that Dr. de Jager was General Secretary of the IAU from 1970-73, as reported here:

<https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21036/>

Finally, last time I noted the passing of Roger Griffin. Elizabeth Griffin will be writing an obituary to appear in Observatory magazine and would be grateful to receive anecdotes or reminiscences about Roger: Elizabeth.Griffin@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca .

Other news:

The IAU will hold its triennial business meeting on August 23, 24, and 26. All members are encouraged to participate. I will try to arrange a Division G business meeting to come after that, probably in October, working with the new division president.

The division's triennial report to the IAU may be found here:

https://www.iau.org/publications/iau/division_reports/

Finally, it is time for me to sign off as division president. I wish all of you the best, and thank everyone for their efforts and support.

David Soderblom

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