

COMMISSION 45

STELLAR CLASSIFICATION (*STELLAR CLASSIFICATION*)

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VICE-PRESIDENT
PAST PRESIDENT
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sunetra Giridhar
Richard Gray
Christopher Corbally
Coryn Bailer-Jones
Laurent Eyer
Michael J. Irwin
Davy Kirkpatrick
Steve Majewski
Dante Minitti
Birgitta Nordström

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSION, 7 August 2009,

1. Business

The business meeting of Commission 45 was held on Friday, 7 August. It was attended by the Vice-President of the Commission (who chaired the meeting in the absence of the President) as well as nine other members of the Commission. Attendance was limited, as usual, by the unavoidable occurrence of parallel sessions.

The Vice President announced the names of the new organizing committee of the Commission and welcomed their participation. Some of those members are new members of the Commission and even of the IAU.

The Vice President also drew the attention of the meeting to the Commission 45's contribution to Reports on Astronomy 2006-2009, where activity in stellar classification over the last several years is cited, and he thanked all the contributors to this report.

One major development of interest to this Commission was the recent publication by Princeton University Press of the book "Stellar Spectral Classification", by Richard O. Gray and Christopher J. Corbally. Its publication was announced to the business meeting, and a sample copy passed around.

A major activity of Commission 45, in concert with other commissions under the aegis of Division IV, is the Working Group on Standard Stars. This Working Group was formally terminated as of this General Assembly. While standard stars continue to be of vital interest to Commission 45, Division IV and the IAU in general, it was felt that this working group had served its purpose. The archives of the Standard Star Newsletter will still be available on the Standard Star Working Group webpage, which will continue to be maintained by Richard Gray.

2. New Organizing Committee and President

The Organizing Committee (OC) for the next triennium was arranged by e-mail prior to the General Assembly. Nominations from the Commission membership at large were just sufficient to fill vacancies arising from the usual process of rotation, so it was not necessary to hold an election. Retiring members of the OC were sincerely thanked, and the incoming members and officers were acclaimed by those present.

President: Richard Gray (USA) grayro@appstate.edu
Vice-President: Birgitta Nordström (Denmark) birgitta@astro.ku.dk
Organizing Committee:

Sunetra Giridhar (ex-officio, India)
Adam J. Burgasser (USA)
Laurent Eyer (Switzerland)
Ranjan Gupta (India)
Margaret M. Hanson (USA)
Michael J. Irwin (UK)
Caroline Soubiran (France)

3. Science

The scientific program consisted of a talk by C. Corbally on “A Stellar Spectral Classification Encoding Scheme” recently devised by Myron Smith, co-workers at MAST (Multimission Archive at STScI), C. Corbally and R. Gray. The purpose of this encoding scheme is to enable sophisticated searches of databases on the basis of spectral types. After the report, a discussion of various issues associated with the introduction of this scheme ensued, including how to select the “best” spectral type from the literature. Various ways to do this were proposed, and an informal straw poll was taken to help guide the authors of the encoding scheme.

4. Closing remarks

The vice president thanked those present for their participation in this meeting and for their support of Commission 45’s work in the last three years, and he wished them every success in their work and projects during the coming triennium.

Richard O. Gray

Incoming President of the Commission