

The awards committee for 2013 consists of the following:

- Patrick Coté, chair (2010-14) NRC/HIA
- Michael Balogh (2010-13) University of Waterloo
- Paul Charbonneau (2012-15) Université de Montréal
- Samar Safi-Harb (2011-14) University of Manitoba
- Ian Short (2010-14) St. Mary's University
- Ethan Vishniac (2010-13) University of Saskatchewan
- Jasper Wall (2010-13) University of British Columbia
- Tracy Webb (2012-15) McGill University

Three members of the committee (Balogh, Vishniac, Wall) will have their terms end in 2013, the Board will need to identify their replacements in the coming months.

The recommendations of the awards committee for 2013 were the following:

- The **Qilak Award** is awarded to James Hesser (NRC, HIA).
- The **Peter G. Martin Award** is awarded to Victoria Kaspi (McGill University).
- The **J.S. Plaskett Medal** is awarded to Dr. Yasuhiro Hasegawa (McMaster University --> ASIAA).
- The **Petrie Prize Lecture** is awarded to Prof. Françoise Combes (LERMA, Observatoire de Paris).

The committee also makes the following observations and recommendations for the consideration of the Board. These are intended to improve and/or clarify the process in the coming years.

- **Additional item for Plaskett Medal nomination: contributions of the nominee.**
 - Increasingly, Ph.D. theses consist of published, multi-author papers. In some cases during this years evaluations of the Plaskett nominees, the exact contributions of the nominee to the published papers were unclear.
 - We recommend that the awards website be modified to ask nominators to explicitly lay out the contributions of the nominee in cases where the thesis is made up of research papers with many co-authors.
 - Finally, the committee would like to note explicitly that the nominees for the 2013 Plaskett medal were of a very high standard.
- **CASCA membership requirements for awards.**
 - On February 19, the Board asked the chair of the awards committee about possible membership requirements for CASCA awards.
 - At present, the awards website states only that the recipient of the Martin Award must be a CASCA member. Since there are no explicit guidelines on CASCA membership for the other awards, we propose the following clarifications (to appear on the new awards website) on the membership requirements for CASCA awards:
 - **Beals (must be a CASCA member).** The recipient must be a CASCA member since the award acknowledges "a Canadian astronomer or astronomer working in Canada".
 - **Petrie.** The recipient does not need to be a CASCA member. Indeed, most of the past recipients are from outside Canada.
 - **Plaskett (must be a CASCA member).** The committee feels strongly that, in the future, CASCA membership should be a requirement for the Plaskett winner. The Ph.D. work being evaluated for this award is based on research done over many years in Canada, and the expectation is that the student has become a CASCA member at some point. Furthermore, since NSERC funds from the supervisor's grant can now be used to pay the student's CASCA membership, this completely frees the student of any financial burden associated with CASCA membership. The committee feels this requirement may serve as an incentive to encourage student participation in CASCA.
 - **Martin (must be a CASCA member).** CASCA membership is required, as already noted.
 - **Executive Award.** Membership is not be required since this is not essential for strengthening the community in unorthodox or unexpected ways.
 - **Qilak.** This award can in theory go to anyone -- amateur or professional -- so CASCA membership should not be required.
- **Qilak nominees to be kept on file.**
 - The Qilak award was introduced in 2012, and experience to date has shown that this award was long overdue. The uniformly high-quality of the nominees in 2012 and 2013 has meant that a number of deserving nominees have gone unrecognized.
 - Our interpretation of the results from 2012 and 2013 is that the CASCA community includes a number of senior astronomers who have made heroic, career-long contributions to education and public outreach; it is those senior people who are (and should) being recognized first for their efforts.
 - The expectation is that this "backlog" of worthy recipients will be reduced in the coming years, and others (including this years' unsuccessful nominees) will eventually be rewarded for their contributions.
 - We propose to keep the materials for this year's Qilak nominees on file, and simply contact the nominators in coming years to see if they wish to have the nominations considered again. This would minimize the work of the nominators, and, more importantly, ensure that all worthy nominees are eventually recognized.
- **Dual evaluation of Qilak nominees.**
 - Although our committee is unaware of any formal guidelines on the matter, it has been customary during the past two years to have the EPO committee rank the Qilak nominees and pass the results along to the awards committee for consideration.
 - In both 2012 and 2013, the EPO committee and awards committee have been in agreement on their top candidate. However, such agreement is by no means guaranteed, and the awards committee is unsure of the correct protocol if the two committees

were to recommend different nominees.

- Perhaps the simplest solution would be to remove one committee entirely from the evaluation process, which at present seems redundant. Because members of the EPO may be more likely to have conflicts in this particular case, the decision should perhaps rest with the awards committee. Certainly the awards committee feels it is capable of reaching a fair and appropriate decision for this award without external consultation.

Pat Cote on behalf of the CASCA Awards Committee