

## 2013 Annual Report

Name of your section/focus group: Space Physics and Aeronomy (SPA)

Name and email of president/chair: James A. Klimchuk, James.A.Klimchuk@nasa.gov

What's the best thing that happened in your section/focus group this year?

Many exciting things have happened this year, including the creation of several new awards, the creation of a new advocacy committee, and the creation of a new series of joint meetings with the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

How is your section/focus group promoting the science?

There is very active participation in the Fall AGU meeting, with steadily increasing numbers of SPA sessions each year.

The SPA Advocacy Committee was created to promote support for our discipline, especially by the funding agencies and by the government, in general.

Thanks to the generosity of Bruce Tsurutani and Olga Verkhoglyadova, we have a new Space Weather and Nonlinear Waves and Processes Prize to acknowledge cutting edge research in these fields.

This is the first official year of the new SPA Richard Carrington (SPARC) Education and Public Outreach Award.

A new editor in chief was appointed to JGR Space.

What are the most effective ways for your section/focus group to engage members and communicate information? How are you increasing transparency between AGU, the Council, and your section/focus group members?

Our widely read electronic newsletter, the SPA Newsletter, is published approximately weekly.

We have a well attended town hall meeting at the Fall AGU meeting called SPA Agency Night, where we discuss issues concerning the AGU and the funding agencies.

We have started a major overhaul of our section website.

The SPA President is also a member of the AGU Council Leadership Team.

How is your section/focus group approaching and/or engaging students and early career scientists?

Two new awards were created this year to acknowledge young scientists. Thanks to the generosity of Sunanda and Santimay Basu, we now have a Basu United States Early Career Award for Research Excellence in Sun-Earth Systems Science, and thanks to the generosity of the friends and colleagues of Frank McDonald, we now have the Frank B. McDonald Outstanding Student Contribution Award. These augment three existing section awards that honor students and early career scientists.

How is your section/focus group encouraging diversity and inclusiveness?

Our nine section committees were repopulated with new members, and a concerted effort was made to appoint individuals from underrepresented groups, especially women. The same emphasis was used in appointing committee chairs (five of the new chairs are women). Women were also recommended for Union-wide committees, and several were selected.

Do you have any examples to share of collaboration with other sections/focus groups or other organizations?

A memorandum of understanding is nearly completed for a series of joint meetings between the SPA section and the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society. These meetings will take place in the early Spring every third year. Plans are already being made for the first meeting in 2015.

What issues are you facing that you'd like us to be aware of?

We are anxious to continue with our overhaul of the section website, but we are awaiting the template from the AGU.

We are awaiting the final signatures on the MOU for the series of joint meetings with the AAS/SPD.

We are concerned about AGU support for the Space Weather Journal, which serves two important roles: 1. disseminating scientific results and information of societal relevance, and 2. promoting our discipline to policy makers.