

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

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What's the best thing that happened in your section/focus group this year? **As outgoing president, what accomplishments are you most proud of?**

- Perhaps the most significant accomplishment is the approval of a memorandum of understanding between the AGU and the American Astronomical Society (AAS) to create a series of joint meetings called the Triennial Earth-Sun Summit (TESS). These joint meetings will bring together the SPA Section and AAS Solar Physics Division. Planning is well underway for the inaugural meeting, which will take place April 26 - May 1, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Details can be found at <http://aas.org/meetings/tess2015>.

*Think about the key points you'd like to share with other Council members, the AGU Board and staff on the following topics.*

How is your section/focus group promoting the science?

- There is very active participation in the Fall AGU meeting and, hopefully, the new TESS meeting described above.
- Our new SPA Advocacy Committee has begun its second year.
- Our widely read electronic newsletter is issued approximately weekly and is a valuable source of information on all aspects of our field.
- We have numerous section awards, four of which are less than three years old.
- A new editor-in-chief was appointed to the journal Space Weather.
- The SPA President has been very active in Union activities, including the Council Leadership Team and Scientific Trends Task Force.

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

- The above activities are designed to benefit scientists of all career stages.
- Our section has two student awards and two early career awards.
- We have strong participation in the Outstanding Student Paper Awards competition and honor the winners at our annual banquet.

- The SPA community has several summer schools, though these are not formally connected to the section.

What do you think your section/focus group does really well, something that you would consider sharing with other sections/focus groups as a best practice?

- We do an excellent job of communicating with the community, through our electronic newsletter, the Agency Night Town Hall at the Fall meeting, and other means.

*Looking ahead to the next term:*

How might the outcomes of the Scientific Trends Task Force inform the work of your section/focus group in the 2015-2016 term? What discussions would you consider having within your section/focus group or with other sections/focus groups about the 12 cross-cutting trends? What tools or assistance would help you facilitate these discussions?

- The trends could be published in our electronic newsletter and presented/discussed at a town hall meeting. In general, there is no need to inform the community of the trends, since they came from the community in the first place. Exceptions to this are commonalities among sections and FGs that are not fully appreciated, such as modeling advances, dealing with uncertainties, quantifying variability, etc. AGU could bring interested parties together by organizing Union-wide sessions at the Fall meeting or stand-alone meetings.

How are you planning to transition to new leadership between now and January 2015? What questions do you have? What tools or assistance would help you ensure a smooth transition?

- The transition is proceeding smoothly. The President and President-Elect have been in close contact. The two newly elected secretaries have been invited to the Executive Committee meeting that will be held at the Fall meeting. The incoming President-Elect is currently a secretary.

As you think about rotating off the AGU Council, please share something that you learned in the past few years as an AGU leader that you'd like incoming leaders to know.

- Be active. People listen and respond. It is a very rewarding experience.

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

- The AGU has evolved dramatically in a very rapid and positive way. Based on conversations with members of the Council and the community, I sense that many people feel that we should now slow the pace of evolution. AGU should make every effort to determine and respond to the wishes of the (silent) majority of the membership.

