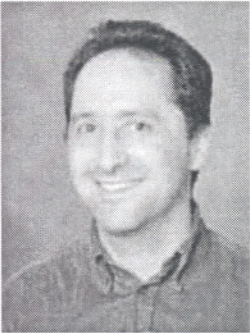


President's Report



I would like to begin my final report as AOS President by expressing gratitude to some of the people who have worked hard to ensure successful AOS ventures and initiatives over the past couple of years. The efforts of all members of the AOS Council are greatly appreciated, but I would like to single out Stephen Gibson for introducing, improving, and maintaining the

sophisticated underpinnings of the AOS web pages, especially related to membership records. I also appreciate the dedication of the AOS webmaster, Chris Chantler, for maintaining outstanding web pages for the society.

Stephen Collins has performed admirably in the challenging role of Honorary Treasurer and has ensured that AOS obligations have been met, finances are well managed, membership growth is vigorously pursued and Councillors are informed of the financial health of the organisation. As AOS Secretary, Duncan Butler has chaired the committees that award prizes and awards and has ensured that Council meetings have operated smoothly including the preparation of minutes and agendas. I would also like to thank Wayne Rowlands, without whom you wouldn't be reading this report: Wayne is the AOS News Editor and has been working hard to deliver AOS News on a regular basis to members with interesting optics articles, information about optics happenings in the region, reports, and advertisements from AOS corporate members.

National and international conferences are an important service to AOS members, and John Love and Chris Walsh deserve special mention. They have collaborated to prepare a bid for an International Commission for Optics (ICO) conference in Australia, and John is also a key organizer of the ACOFT/AOS meeting in Canberra in July. John consistently plays a major role as planner and organizer of meetings, both for AOS and ACOFT.

I would like to give special thanks to Ken Baldwin who plays an enormous and indispensable role as Councillor in charge of international affairs. Ken's unwavering enthusiasm for national and international representation of optics has guaranteed that the AOS is strongly represented to the Optical Society of America and the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE) – these links provide AOS members with opportunities for input to international optics organisations. Ken liaises with these organisations to maintain currency of inter-society agreements and memoranda of understanding as well as helping to plan the visits and talks by the Presidents-Elect of these societies at annual AOS meetings.

The high regard and appreciation of Australian optics research and development is in no small way due to Ken's activities on behalf of the AOS. In addition to Ken's role

as AOS Councillor with the international portfolio, he is Chair of the gala Australian Institute of Physics 2005 Congress, a Councillor of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies and has been selected as a member of the Optical Society of America (OSA) International Committee.

The AOS is particularly fortunate in having Councillors on this important OSA committee: AOS Councillor Halina Rubinsztein Dunlop has been active in this committee until her term expired recently. Halina's role as an international emissary of Australian optics has helped to raise awareness of Australian accomplishments. Last (but certainly not least!) I thank both my predecessor and my successor as President of the AOS: Keith Nugent is the Past-President and has set a fine example and provided guidance with respect to leading the AOS, and Murray Hamilton, as Vice President, has contributed significantly to all aspects of the AOS and will no doubt be an excellent President.

I have highlighted the importance of internationalism to the AOS. In fact, internationalism has become increasingly important to all three of the sister organisations: the Optical Society of America, the SPIE, and the Australian Optical Society. In addition to greater emphasis on international outreach, each of the societies has a President or President-Elect from a country other than the home of the society. Peter Knight is the President of the Optical Society of America but lives and works in Great Britain. Marlgorzata Kujawinska is the President-Elect of the SPIE, and her home is Poland. And last year I accepted a position at the University of Calgary in Canada (but am fortunate to continue my work in Australia via a secondment to Macquarie University for 20% of each year). The coincidence of three international Presidents of the three optical societies is a reflection of the growing globalization of optics research. I appreciate the extra efforts of all AOS Councillors in making this international arrangement work.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the upcoming AOS Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 8 July in Canberra at the AOS/ACOFT conference. I would like to point out that, except for the transition of President to Past-President and Vice-President to President, the terms of all Councillors expire this year. Some have indicated a desire to continue; others would like to step down. All agree that the opportunity to serve as AOS Councillor is rewarding and satisfying. The AOS AGM is an opportunity for any (financial) AOS member to stand for election to serve the AOS membership.

I would like to close, first by congratulating an AOS past President, Brian Orr, who will be a recipient of the prestigious William F. Meggers 2004 Award of the OSA, which is awarded for outstanding work in spectroscopy, and second by noting the strength of the AOS membership. A particularly welcome trend has been the inclusion of Australian Centres for Excellence as corporate members of the AOS, to the benefit of the AOS and to these Centres. The two centres that have joined, and are showing great leadership in the

Australian optics community, are the Centre for Quantum-Atom Optics and the Centre for Ultrahigh bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems. The AOS News in particular provides a vehicle for these new Centres to communicate with the wider optics community and to advertise studentships and research positions in their organisations. The web pages for the AOS have developed into an exemplar for other scientific and technological societies in Australia.

It has been a privilege to serve the Australian Optical Society as President, and I look forward to continuing on the Council as a participant in strengthening the optics community and ensuring strong and effective representation of Australian optics, both nationally and internationally.

Respectively Submitted,

Barry Sanders
President, Australian Optical Society
May 2004



POSTGRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE

A. Preamble

The Australian Optical Society wishes to encourage participation in national and international conferences by high-quality postgraduate students. To this end, the Society has instituted an award, the Australian Optical Society Postgraduate Student Prize. This will take the form of a grant to assist the grantee to attend a conference in optics or a related field. For 2005, the award will be valued at up to \$1500. The Society now invites applications from suitably qualified people for this prize for 2005.

B. Prerequisites

An applicant must be: (1) a citizen or permanent resident of Australia, (2) a member of the Australian Optical Society, (3) enrolled in a postgraduate research degree in Australia at 31 October 2004, with a project in an optically related area. Non-members of the AOS may join the Society concurrently with their application for the prize. (Application forms are available in *AOS News*, or may be obtained from the Treasurer or Secretary). The prize cannot be awarded more than once to any individual.

C. Selection criteria

An applicant must be sufficiently advanced in the research project to have obtained significant results in optics or a related area, such that those results are suitable for presentation at a proposed conference that falls in the twelve month period commencing 1 December 2004. It is expected that the presentation at the proposed conference would take the form of a research paper, invited or contributed, oral or poster. The successful applicant will be expected to write a summary of the conference for *AOS News*.

Preference will be given in the selection procedures to applicants who intend to use the prize to attend and present their research results at a major conference outside Australia or New Zealand.

It is not essential that the results to be presented should already have been accepted for presentation at the proposed conference at the time of application, but no payment of the prize will be made until evidence of such acceptance is provided to the Society. Applicants are encouraged to provide tangible evidence of the results likely to be presented at the proposed conference (for example, in the form of an outline of a paper that has been accepted or submitted or is being prepared for that conference) and to make clear the benefits that would arise from their attendance at that conference.

The AOS award is not intended to cover the full cost of the applicant's attendance at the proposed conference. Wherever possible, applicants should identify means by which their research group and/or institution is likely to make a substantial contribution to their travel costs. Evidence of any such supplementary support should be provided (for example, by an undertaking in the supervisor's letter of recommendation). However, students with no identifiable supplementary travel support will not be disadvantaged in the selection process.

Since the research supervisor's report is a major factor in the assessment process, supervisors should be prepared to rank their students against the selection criteria if contacted by the selection committee.

D. Application Details

1. Curriculum vitae;
2. List of publications, conference papers, theses, reports, etc.;
3. Details of postgraduate research project;
4. Details of proposed conference (including its status and relevance to optics);
5. Details of participation in the conference (nature of contribution as specified above);
6. Details of predicted expenses, as well as other (probable or confirmed) sources of funding for attendance at the conference;
7. Reports from the candidate's research supervisor and one other referee;
8. Statement that the candidate is a citizen or permanent resident of Australia;
9. Statement of agreement to write a summary of the conference for *AOS News*.

Applications should be sent to the Honorary Secretary:

Duncan Butler
ARPANSA
Lower Plenty Road
Yallambie VIC 3085
Fax. (03) 9432 1835

and must be received by
31 October 2004