

Joint Press Release

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ILCAC Awards McCartor Fund Fellowships

Washington, DC – The International Light-Cone Advisory Committee (ILCAC), incorporated last year under SURA sponsorship, continued its recently established McCartor Fund Fellowship program by awarding travel grants to three young scientists at the group’s recent meeting in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, LC2009.

Thanks to a generous gift by Sheila McCartor, Gary McCartor’s widow, and by Gary’s friends, the physicists received grants from the McCartor Fund: Stefan Strauss, who will soon receive his Ph.D. from Universiteit Rostock, Germany under the supervision of Professor Michael Beyer; Asmita Mukherjee, who received her Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor A. Harindranath from the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata, India (now affiliated with the India Institute of Technology in Mumbai); and, Wayne Leonardo Silva de Paula, who will receive his Ph.D. next year from Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, Brazil under the supervision of Professor Tobias Frederico. Dr. Mukherjee was unable to travel to Brazil, due to a visa process that could not be concluded in time for her to attend. The Board of Directors of ILCAC has deferred her award to 2010.

A \$2,000 travel grant enabled Stephan Strauss to attend LC 2009 and a \$200 conference fee grant enabled Wayne de Paula to attend. Both gave talks that were well received by the attending scientists.

During the conference, Professor James Vary, chair of the fundraising committee and an ILCAC board member, reviewed the aims of the McCartor Fund Fellowship program to assist promising young scientists. The fund, named in the memory of leading physicist Gary McCartor, was founded after his death to honor his achievements and leadership efforts. Vary commented, “Gary not only provided scientific leadership for our field but was very active in developing support for young scientists.” He added, “In particular, he participated in conceptualizing a fund to provide training and travel support enabling young scientists to develop their expertise and contribute to forefront light cone research.”

Vary presented the fellowship awards to Stephan and Wayne along with mechanical pencils from Sheila McCartor as tokens for the awards.

This year’s conference in Brazil attracted nearly 80 participants including many young researchers who attended the annual meeting for the first time. “Judging from the number of young attendees and their excellent presentations, the competition for next year’s McCartor Fund Fellowships will be as keen as ever,” Vary concluded.

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