

Joint Press Release

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ILCAC Kicks off McCartor Fund Fellowships

Washington, DC – The International Light-Cone Advisory Committee (ILCAC), incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia on April 25 under SURA sponsorship, launched its newly established McCartor Fund Fellowship program by awarding travel grants to two emerging scientists at the group's recent annual meeting (LC 2008) in Mulhouse, France.

The late Gary McCartor, who taught theoretical physics at Southern Methodist University in Dallas from 1990 to his death in 2006, was a prominent and founding member of the ILCAC. Established almost 30 years ago, the mission of ILCAC is to advance research in quantum field theory, particularly light-cone quantization methods applicable to the solution of physical problems, through the organization of meetings, workshops, and other means. According to ILCAC Board of Directors Chair Ben Bakker, "Gary played an enthusiastic role in fulfilling ILCAC's mission both as an organizer of Light-Cone meetings and as a great physicist."

During the 2006 Light-Cone meeting, McCartor advocated establishing a fund to support young researchers who want to enter this field of research. Following that lead, ILCAC explored the possibility of establishing an affiliation with SURA for legal and financial stewardship. "SURA is delighted to play this role for ILCAC, as it is consistent with our mission to enhance and expand research opportunities in this forefront research area of physics," said Jerry P. Draayer, SURA President & CEO.

Thanks to a generous gift by Sheila McCartor, Gary McCartor's widow, two young physicists received the first travel grants from the Gary McCartor Fund: Brian Hannafious, who recently received his PhD from New Mexico State University under the supervision of Professor Matthias Burkardt; and Heli Honkanen, who graduated from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland and joined the group of professor James Vary at Iowa State University as a post doc. The \$2,000 grants enabled the scientists to attend LC 2008.

The Gary McCartor Fund was announced by Bakker at LC 2008, the conference on Relativistic Nuclear and Particle Physics held in Mulhouse, France from July 7-11. At the conference banquet, he introduced Sheila McCartor, who spoke on the importance of the Light-Cone community to her late husband: "This was Gary's life, this was his *raison d'etre*. This work compelled him, propelled him, intrigued him, energized him, entertained him and sustained him. In his last days, it was again this community, you, who buoyed him, encouraged him and sustained him through the dark night with your calls, and your cards, your emails and your prayers throughout those interminable 17 days of hospital confinement."

To conclude, Mrs. McCartor presented Hannafious and Honkanen with the simple gift of pencils, "In my observations, it seems that a very good theoretician needs to have a very good pencil," said McCartor. Providing extra erasers, she added, "This is not to suggest that you will ever make mistakes in your calculations, but should you, a fresh eraser always makes it easy to begin anew."

The newly established Gary McCartor Fund will continue to support young scientists as they endeavor through the early phases of their careers.

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