

Delaware Astronomical Society



A Celebration

50 Years of Astronomy

1956 to 2006

***May 15, 2007
The Terrace at Greenhill
800 N. Du Pont Road
Wilmington, Delaware***

DELAWARE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY:

FOUNDING AND EARLY HISTORY

In 1956 a group of young engineers, employed in the Instrumentation Design Division of the Du Pont Company's Engineering Department, Louviers Building, Newark, shared a common desire to learn more about astronomy and to build their own telescopes. They had no training in the subject and approached their colleague, Rene J. Van Caneghem, who had taken a course in descriptive astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania where he had earned the B.S.M.E. in mechanical engineering. Van Caneghem invited them to his home in Newark in the first week of October to discuss the possibility of forming a club.

Present were Gerald Gallagher, John Goldsmith, Robert Hesterberg, Charles Marinopoulos, William Ronkovitz, and Rene Van Caneghem. These six men were to become the founders of DAS. Gallagher suggested they seek the advice of Dr. Armand Spitz, founder of Spitz Laboratories, Yorklyn, Delaware--the largest producer of planetariums in the U.S.--and former director of the Fels Planetarium, Philadelphia.

Dr. Spitz attended the second meeting, on October 15, again at the Van Caneghem home, and offered to host the next meeting at Spitz Laboratories on November 12. At that meeting the Delaware Astronomical Society was born. Charter membership was extended to those present and to all others joining by January 21, 1957. By that date 39 memberships were counted, including regular and family categories. Temporary officers were named: President, Robert Hesterberg; Vice-President, Robert O'Connell; Secretary, Rene Van Caneghem; and Treasurer, John Goldsmith. Dues were \$5 per year. The first program was a lecture on "General Astronomy" by Rene Van Caneghem.

At the next meeting, December 17, Ronkovitz and Van Caneghem distributed Part I of their two-part paper "Constellations of the Zodiac and Time." Members were encouraged to write papers; several were submitted at meetings during 1957. A Program Committee was formed under charter member Herbert N. Williams, sales manager of Spitz Laboratories. Affiliation with the Astronomical League was announced. Subscriptions to *Sky and Telescope* were initiated for members. At the January 1957 meeting Bob Miller and Don Simons presented the program "The Fundamental Principles of Reflecting and Refracting Telescopes." Dr. Spitz lectured on "The Moonwatch Program" at the February meeting at Tatnall School. At the March meeting in the Wilmington Free Library, a filmstrip on "The Solar System," donated by Hesterberg, was shown and discussed. That night Van Caneghem donated the first book to the DAS library: "The Moon," by George Gamow. In April, Miss C. Barry, associate astronomer of the Hayden Planetarium, New York, presented a slide show on planets and galaxies. In May, DAS met at Spitz Labs where Williams demonstrated the wonders of its planetarium.

By May 1957 membership had grown to 71, largely due to Dr. Spitz' recommendation to contact area subscribers to *Sky and Telescope*. By March 1958

membership was 81. Because of family memberships, there were 103 people, including two junior members, Alden Taylor III and Gail Van Caneghem. Taylor wrote a paper. Miss Van Caneghem wrote a poem, "The Moon," and formed a club with three other girls her age. "The Little Dippers" met once a week, practicing a play, "A Trip to the Moon," which they performed for friends and parents. DAS officially formed a Junior Club in 1961; its first meeting was held at Krebs School on September 20.

The first star observation party was on June 17, 1957, on the grounds of Tatnall School, followed by four more during the summer (two at Rockford Park, one at Brandywine Springs State Park, and one at Medill Elementary School). The September meeting was in the Harlan Elementary School where the first draft of the "Constitution and By-Laws of the DAS," written under the guidance of charter member Edward L. Walter, was discussed. A telescope-making course was launched; instructors were members Thomas Helms, refractors, and George Suro, reflectors. The following month at the Wilmington YMCA DAS presented its first educational program for the public, a talk by Dr. Spitz on the history of astronomy and the implications of the recent orbit of the earth by the Soviet Union's spacecraft Sputnik. This and the monthly lectures that followed were offered to the public free of charge.

Under the first officers--a period of about 17 months from October 1956 through February 1958--DAS established programs and policies that would identify the organization and pattern its growth and activities for the next 50 years. Committees were started, a board of directors named, a constitution and by-laws drafted, star parties launched and the first public lectures initiated. It was evident that a viable, thriving DAS was actively, even voraciously, pursuing its mission.

The second year saw the first officially elected officers seated at the March 1958 meeting: Rene J. Van Caneghem, President; Robert Altmaier, Vice-President; Donald W. Oplinger, Secretary; and George V. Suro, Treasurer. Dr. Emil J. Volcheck was appointed Chairman, Publicity Committee; Dr. Volcheck simultaneously was Chairman of the Observatory Committee and member of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. At the same meeting, members unanimously named charter member Dr. Spitz an honorary member in recognition of his encouragement of DAS in its infancy.

In April, Dr. Volcheck reported on the recent Mid-East Regional Convention of the Astronomical League in Morgantown, WV, which he attended with Rene Van Caneghem; the latter read a paper on "Sidereal Time" written by charter member Harcourt C. Vernon, director of the Engineering Research Laboratory at the Du Pont Experimental Station. MERAL voted to accept a DAS invitation to hold its 1959 convention in Wilmington. An agreement was concluded with Recreation, Promotion & Service—a community service organization—whereby RP&S would maintain the mailing list of members and print and send meeting notices and other communications as well as be the official DAS mailing address (the first mailing address was the home of co-founder Van Caneghem).

In June, Vernon and President Van Caneghem visited property in Mt. Cuba owned by Dr. Arthur Valk, Jr., a physician, who was donating a tract of land to the recently formed Mt. Cuba Observatory, Inc., on whose board he served. Although not a member, Dr. Valk was supportive of DAS and fostered a spirit of cooperation between the Mt. Cuba and DAS organizations. Eight DAS members volunteered to set up a temporary installation at the site. Discussions addressed the feasibility of establishing an observatory for DAS. Designs for a 15- by 15-foot building with a slide-off roof later were drawn by DAS member LeRoy Sawin.

On August 27, Dr. Volcheck, acting for Chairman Walter, led a special meeting to discuss the proposed Constitution and By-Laws as reviewed by attorney Ralph Kent, a DAS member. The final version was adopted by the members in December. Election results were announced: Dr. Volcheck had been elected third president. It was reported also that Dr. Volcheck was Chairman *pro-tem* of the MERAL Convention Committee.

In February 1959 members attended a lecture by Dr. Harlow Shapley at the University of Delaware on "Grouping Among the Galaxies." In March, Edwin Bailey of the Franklin Institute spoke on "Telescope Construction and Use." In April, President Volcheck reported that \$500 to \$600 had been pledged to construct the DAS observatory.

At the May meeting charter member Dr. James C. Kauer gave a talk "Observing with Binoculars." This was the first of many more talks on observing presented by Dr. Kauer. Dr. Kauer in 2007 is the only person who has served 50 consecutive years as a member.

As DAS completed its second year, President Van Caneghem reported these accomplishments: 1) affiliation with RP&S; 2) invitation to MERAL to convene in Wilmington in 1959; 3) honorary membership of Dr. Spitz; 4) the decision to build a DAS observatory on the Mt. Cuba site; 5) the decision to continue the YWCA lectures for another year, and 6) the approval of the Constitution and By-Laws. In addition to the contributions of members already cited, Van Caneghem praised Don Oplinger for his broad participation and Gerard Audy for his work as chairman of the Membership Committee.

In 1960 an anonymous donor added \$1,000 to the \$955 raised by DAS toward the construction of the DAS observatory. The Hillside Observatory (later renamed the Sawin Observatory to honor its designer) was ready for use later that year. A telescope was installed in 1962.

During its earliest years, DAS thrived, thanks to the efforts of its members, the growing interest in space-orbiting manned satellites, Russia's success in space and the competitive spirit of the United States. The continuing investments in space exploration led to an explosion of astronomical data and contributed to the growth and vitality of the Delaware Astronomical Society during its first 50 years.

Parallel Events in Astronomy and Aerospace 1957-2007

October 4, 1957 - Soviets launch world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1.

April 12, 1961 - Soviet Union launches first man into space, Lt. Yuri Gagarin.

February 20, 1962 - First American in orbit, Lt. Col. John Glenn is launched.

October 20, 1965 - Sungrazing Comet Ikeya-Seki passes only 300,000 miles from Sun.

December 21, 1968 - Apollo 8 is launched carrying first humans to leave Earth's gravity.

July 20, 1969 - Neil Armstrong becomes first human to set foot on another world.

March 1976 - Comet West reaches peak brightness at magnitude -3.

July 20, 1976 - Viking 1 lands successfully on Mars.

August & September 1977 - Voyagers 1 & 2 are launched to the outer planets.

April 12, 1981 - Space Shuttle Columbia, world's first reusable space craft, is launched.

January 28, 1986 - Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after launch.

April 11, 1986 - Halley's Comet makes its closest approach to Earth.

February 24, 1987 - Supernova 1987A is discovered in the LMC.

April 25, 1990 - The Hubble Space Telescope is launched into orbit.

July 16-22, 1993 - Fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collide with Jupiter.

March 25, 1996 - Comet Hyakutake passes within .1 AU of Earth.

December 4, 1996 - Mars Pathfinder successfully "bounces" onto the Red Planet.

March 22, 1997 - Comet Hale-Bopp makes its closest approach to Earth.

August 27, 2003 - Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in 60,000 years.

June 8, 2004 - Venus transits the Sun for first time in 120 years.

January 19, 2006 - New Horizons mission is launched to Pluto and beyond.

August 2006 - The IAU "demotes" Pluto to a dwarf planet.

January 2007 - Comet McNaught puts on a spectacular show for observers.

Delaware Astronomical Society

Presidents

1956-1957	Robert Hesterberg
1958	Rene Van Caneghem
1959-1965	Emil Volcheck
1966	Syl Schneikart
1967-1969	Randall Pratt
1970-1974	Randy Barton
1975-1976	Don Wilson
1977-1979	Al Webber
1980	Jim Russell
1981-1982	Denny Horazak
1983-1986	Billie Westergard
1987-1988	Scott Jackson
1989-1991	Billie Westergard
1992-1995	Henry Bouchelle
1996- 2004	Warren Jacobs
2004- 2006	Billie Westergard
2006-	Henry Bouchelle

Some Notable Presidents in DAS History

Rene Van Caneghem, Founder, President, 1958 ***Astronomer of the Year Award, 2004***

Rene Van Caneghem was the first elected president of DAS. He was one of six founders of DAS and is the only founder who is presently active in the organization. He was secretary in 1956, 1957. He is an enthusiastic archivist of DAS records, and has become the historian since starting to compile the DAS Chronology of the first 25 years.

Born in Paris, August 20, 1920, Rene emigrated to Philadelphia at age five with his French-born parents; his paternal grandparents were from Belgium. Drafted in 1942, Rene served three years in the U.S. Army Air Force as an airplane mechanic working on B-17 bombers. After WWII, Rene used the G.I. Bill of Rights to enter the University of Pennsylvania where he earned the B.S.M.E. in mechanical engineering. He joined Du Pont Co. in 1952 as a design engineer, Instrumentation Design Division, Engineering Department, Louviers Building, Newark, Delaware. Inspired to challenge himself, he earned graduate degrees at the University of Delaware: M.S.M.E, mechanical engineering (1959) and M.Ed., education (1961). He worked for 25 years at the U. S. government's Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland, retiring as a supervisory

engineer in 1988. "I worked in the Armor Branch as specification expert for the ballistic testing of armor plate. I was saving Army tanks and personnel carriers as well as lives!"

Astronomy became an early interest when Rene used his father's binoculars to look at the stars. He has two daughters, Gail Louise and Lane Rene, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Gail was one of the first DAS Junior Club members. Rene and his wife, Geraldine, live in Maryland near Newark, Delaware.

Major accomplishments as president: 1) decision to build a DAS observatory at Mt. Cuba; 2) approval of the first Constitution and By-Laws; 3) affiliation with RP&S; 4) assisting MERAL to host its convention in Wilmington in 1959; and 4) encouraging the interest of Dr. Armand Spitz, an astronomy entrepreneur, in the fledgling DAS.

Other accomplishments: DAS Archivist and Historian.

Emil J. Volcheck, Jr., Ph.D., President, 1959-1965

Luther J. Porter Educator Award, 2005

Astronomer of the Year Award, 1990, 1996

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Emil was educated at M.I.T. (B.S., chemistry) and University of California, Berkeley (Ph.D., organic chemistry). His career with Du Pont Co. spanned 34 years or more in R&D with the Textile Fibers Department. Beginning as a research chemist at the Experimental Station in 1952, he later worked at Chestnut Run, Seaford, Chattanooga, Kinston, N.C., and Richmond. He retired in 1989 after 11 years in Pioneering Research at the Experimental Station. He has been Manager of the Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory since 1993.

Elected third president in 1959, Emil served until 1965 when he was transferred to the Seaford (Del.) Nylon Plant. His committee chairmanships include: Publicity (1958-1965), Observatory (1980-2004), Membership (1961-1965), Junior Activities (1962-1964); MERAL Representative (1959, 1963, 1964, 1993 to date), and member of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee (1957-1958).

Emil met his wife, Diana, at a DAS Star Party at the home of Al Webber. She shares some of his interests in astronomy and is a "mighty supporter." They have two sons and a daughter.

Major accomplishments as president: 1) founding and managing the DAS Junior Group, 2) overseeing the establishment of the Sawin Observatory. **Other accomplishments:** association with the Astronomical League; Observatory chair; support of DAS Archives and of Rene Van Caneghem's Chronology of DAS, and managing relations with MCAO.

Delaware Astronomical Society

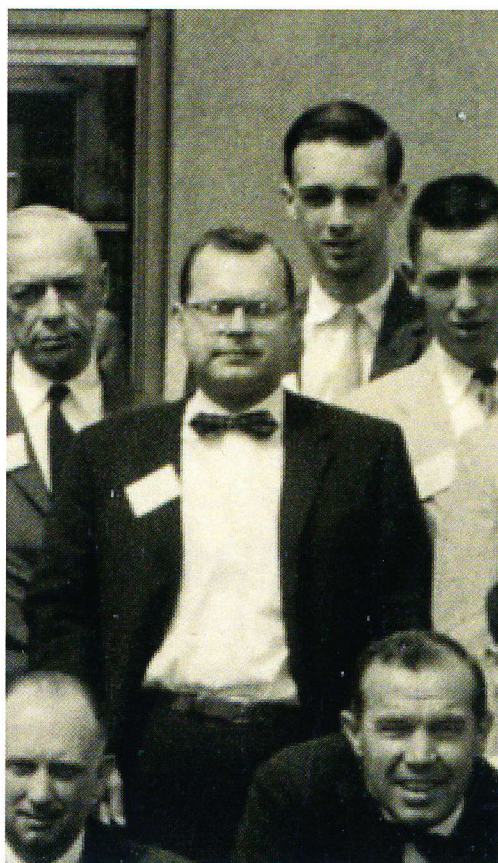


The six DAS founders look on while charter member Herb Williams, sales manager of Spitz Labs, Yorklyn, Delaware (extreme left) explains the intricacies of a telescope system at Spitz . This photograph likely was made at Spitz Labs on November 12, 1956, when DAS had its third meeting there. Left to right are: Williams, Rene Van Caneghem, Gerald Gallagher, Robert Hesterberg, John Goldsmith, Charles Marinopoulos, William Ronkovitz.



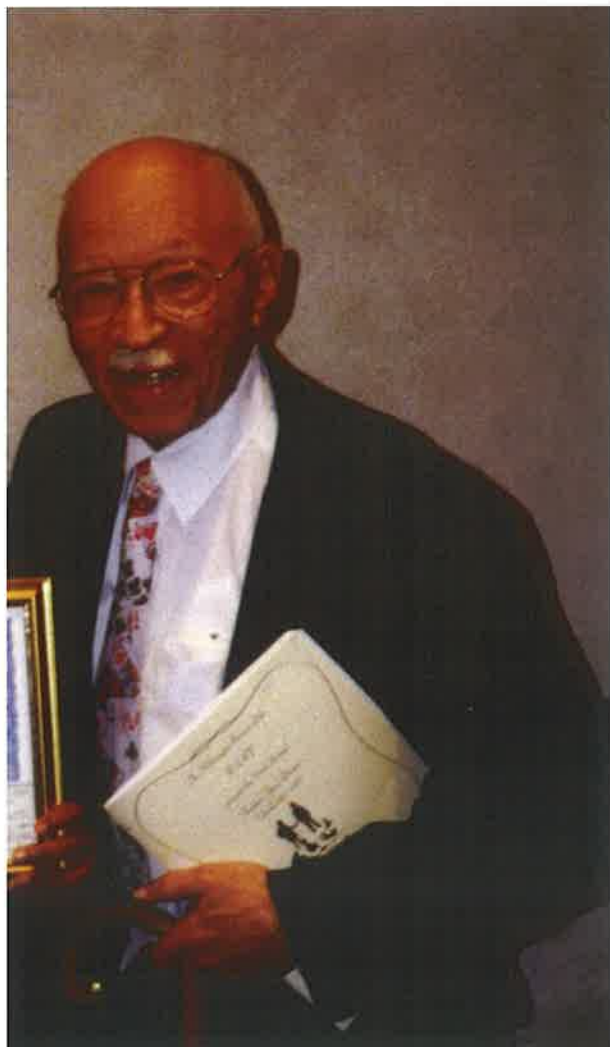
Founder Rene Van Caneghem on February 18, 2007 attends a meeting of the DAS 50th Anniversary Committee in the Library at Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory. Van Caneghem is the only one of six founders who is an active member 50 years later.

In the spring of 1959 in Wilmington, DAS hosted the annual meeting of the Mid-East Regional Astronomical League. Emil J. Volcheck, Jr., Ph.D., President of DAS and its liaison representative with MERAL, is seen here with conference attendees.



Dr. Armand Spitz (left) and his wife, Grace Scholz Spitz, attended the 1959 MERAL Conference in Wilmington.

LeRoy Sawin, DAS charter member (bottom left) and his wife, Blanche E. (top right), attended the MERAL Conference in 1959. Sawin designed the DAS observatory, which later was named for him.



The late Mr. Luther J. Porter, an outstanding educator and DAS member and officer, for whom the Luther Porter Educator Award is named.



In October, 1990, the DAS took a trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia for a program which included meeting Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto. This picture shows some members who made the trip. From left to right: Mrs. and Mr. Luther Porter; Glen Bock (rear); Mr. Tombaugh; Greg Lee; Bob Mentzer; and Jim Chang.



Several DAS members attended the second Mason-Dixon Star Party, 1992, sponsored by the York County (Pa.) Astronomy Club. From left to right are: Andy Baker, Don Surles, Dick Jackson, Tom Sidowski, Greg Lee, Dave Groski, an unidentified member, Billie Westergard and Norman Todd.

Alfred C. Webber, President, 1977-1979
Luther J. Porter Educator Award, 1999
Astronomer of the Year Award, 1994

Al Webber, born October 10, 1907 in Lisbon Falls, Maine, is a graduate of Bates College, Lewiston, Maine (B.S., *cum laude*, physics, 1928), and Boston University (A.M., physics, 1940).

Al started his career as an educator, teaching in public high schools in Franklin and Brookline, Massachusetts. In 1942 he joined the Du Pont Company's Plastics Department Research Laboratory in Arlington, New Jersey, where he set up the company's first Physical Measurements Laboratory. When that department was moved to the Experimental Station in Wilmington, Al followed. He developed standardized test methods for comparison of products in research and development throughout the company. Al was president, American Society for Testing Materials, 1962, and plastics chairman of the International Standards Organization. He retired from Du Pont in 1972.

Lunar occultation timing is a keen interest and for many years Al reported his data to the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA). Al has been a director and officer of the Tuscarora Lapidary Society and a member of Delaware Photographic Society. His principal activity today is the collection, preparation and stereo photography of microscopic minerals, or Micromounts. He recently attended a meeting of the Canadian Micromounters Association at Brock University in Canada. Al's wife, Margaret, died in 1984. He has a daughter and three sons.

Major accomplishment as president: bringing DAS members together socially at star parties and picnics at his home in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Billie Westergard, President, 1983-1986, 1989-1991, 2004-2006
Astronomer of the Year Award, 1992

Billie currently is a contract engineer for Bechtel International conducting design for a waste treatment plant involved in the recovery of nuclear waste at the Hanford Nuclear Facility, Hanford, Washington. He is retired from Du Pont Co. after 32 years in various positions including machinist, machine shop supervisor, 3-D mechanical designer, project engineer, and member of the Louviers Major Project Quality Control Group. He also served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force as a flight engineer, accruing over 4,000 hours of flight time. His published paper "The Hotson/Westergard Universe" describes structure formation in the early universe and argues for an alternative to the "Big Bang" theory. He is also the author of papers on cosmology and particle physics.

In addition to being DAS president, Billie was Librarian (1978-1980, 1991) and Education Chair (1982-1983). At MCAO he started the Comet Program, part of Goddard Space Flight Center's project to capture the Large Scale Phenomena of Halley's Comet. He also is a trustee of MCAO and serves as secretary of the trustees. A native of Brigham City, Utah, Billie and his wife, Sylvia, have four children and seven grandchildren. Their primary home is in Lewes, Delaware.

Major accomplishments as president: 1) initiated the Amateur Astronomer of the Year Award; 2) started the modern DAS Library and was its first Librarian.

Henry E. W. Bouchelle III, Ed.D., President, 1992-1995, 2006-
Luther J. Porter Educator Award, 2001
Astronomer of the Year Award, 1998

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Hank holds B.A. and M.S. degrees from Johns Hopkins University and a Doctor of Education degree from Wilmington College. He is currently director of the Colonial School District's Starwalk Planetarium in New Castle, Delaware. He is also adjunct assistant professor, astronomy, at the University of Delaware. His experience includes 34 years of teaching language arts, reading, Earth/space science, and math at various private and public schools and universities.

Hank is active nationally in numerous professional activities, ranging from publications and presentations, to instructional and leadership roles, to membership in numerous astronomical and science education societies. Hank's awards and distinctions include the 2001 Kappa Delta Phi Outstanding Professor of the Year Award, University of Delaware. In April 1985 he was selected a NASA Teacher in Space finalist. Hank is currently president of DAS and is its By-Laws Chair. He also served as President 1992-1995, Vice-President 1989-1991, and Chair of the Program (1992-2000) and Education (1985-1993 and 1997-1998) Committees.

Hank's particular interest is in advancing the understanding of astronomical concepts through direct observation and identifying their relationships to everyday experiences. Hank also has a keen interest in antique clocks and once owned a clock shop. He has two sons, Hal (Henry M.) and Sam (Samuel S.) Bouchelle.

Major accomplishments as president: 1) revisions to the DAS By-Laws to create a Board of Directors and 2) creating named awards on the Society's behalf.

Major goals as current president: to advance the interests of the Society, including further awareness of the Luther J. Porter Educator Award. **Other accomplishments:** hosted annual DAS meetings at the Colonial School District's Starwalk Planetarium.

H. Warren Jacobs, President, 1996-2004

Born in Philadelphia, Warren lives in Rose Valley, Delaware County, Pa. He earned a B.S. degree, with honors, in engineering at Swarthmore College. In WWII he was a commissioned officer, U.S. Navy. He began his career-long association with helicopters with PV Engineering Forum, Piasecki Helicopter Co., which was acquired by Vertol, then by Boeing, where he was an "Engineer of the Year." He was given the first "Award for Reliability" by the American Helicopter Society for saving \$1.1 billion for the CH-46 Marine Corps 750 helicopter. His job titles included stress analyst, flight test engineer, project engineer, program manager. He is president of a consulting company.

Warren was district chairman and director of the Valley Forge Council, Boy Scouts of America. His hobbies are nature photography and model airplanes. His scale model of a 300-foot radar antenna is in the Pier Room of MCAO. He married Elizabeth Landon, a classmate in astronomy at Swarthmore. They have two children.

Major accomplishments as president: 1) established the Luther J. Porter Educator Award; 2) obtained \$5,000 in door prizes for DAS' 45th anniversary, and 3) secured 64 Meade 7x50 binoculars at a low price for DAS members.

Amateur Astronomer of the Year Award
Delaware Astronomical Society

1988	Jim Buckley
1989	Dave Groski
1990	Emil Volcheck
1991	Thomas DeMott
1992	Billie Westergard
1993	Thomas Sidowski
1994	Al Webber
1995	Mike Baker
1996	Emil Volcheck
1997	Sheila Vincent
1998	Hank Bouchelle
1999	Jack Fisher
2000	Robert Mentzer
2001	David Sewell
2002	William Hanagan
2003	K. Lynn King
2004	Rene Van Caneghem
2005	James Morgan
2006	Sara Baird

DAS Amateur Astronomer of the Year Award

The Amateur Astronomer of the Year Award shall honor an individual who has rendered significant service to the organization and/or to the larger community in nurturing interest, and the advancement of education and scientific knowledge, in the subject of astronomy.

The Luther J. Porter Educator Award
Delaware Astronomical Society

1999 Al Webber
2000 Harry Shipman
2001 Hank Bouchelle
2002 Don Surles
2003 Charles Holmes
2004 [No award]
2005 Emil Volcheck
2006 Don Surles
2007 Sheri Klug

The Luther J. Porter Educator Award
The Delaware Astronomical Society created in 1999 the Luther J. Porter Educator Award to be presented to an individual who has been a strenuous advocate of and active participant in astronomy education and/or related subjects to the larger community over a significant period of time.

Luther J. Porter
December 12, 1908-April 27, 1999
Secretary, 1967-1968, 1972-1976; Treasurer, 1977-1980

Luther J. Porter, a long-time member of DAS, was born in Wilmington, Delaware and was an outstanding educator and citizen in his native city. One of five children of Joseph--a chauffer for W. W. "Chick" Laird--and Pearl Porter, Luther was valedictorian of the Class of 1925, Howard High School, then an all African-American school in Wilmington. Prohibited by segregation policy from enrolling at the University of Delaware, Luther was accepted at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated in 1929 with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and philosophy and where he later earned a Master of Education degree.

For 30 years, Luther taught mathematics and civics at Howard High School, inspiring thousands through his common sense and values of service, frugality and learning. During his 31-year retirement, Luther pursued his favorite pastimes: bridge, reading and astronomy. For many years he was treasurer of the Delaware Chapter, NAACP, and served on committees of the national organization.

Speaking of Luther Porter, DAS member Harry Shipman, Ph.D., Annie Jump Cannon Chair of Astronomy at the University of Delaware, said: "My receipt of the Luther J. Porter Award is the one of which I am most proud. There are those who spend days studying stars in front of computers, but Luther reminds us that star-gazing began in backyards with telescopes and fascination."

Delaware Astronomical Society

Board of Directors **July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

Elected Positions

Holder

President	Henry Bouchelle
Vice-President	John Case
Secretary	Lynn King – Messier Club
Treasurer	Bob Mentzer
MAL	Bill Hanagan – ATM SIG, AP SIG
MAL	Gus Swartout – Awards
MAL	Emil Volcheck – ALCor, MCAO liaison

Appointed Positions

Holder

Education Chair	Bob Karcha
Publications Chair	Marc Hutton
Library Chair	Glenn Bentley
Observatory Chair	Tom Sidowski – food – Sawin maintenance – star parties
Observing Chair	Greg Lee

Non-Board Positions

Holder

Ad Hoc Star Parties Chair	Sheila Vincent
Archivist	Rene Van Caneghem
Awards Chair	Gus Swartout
Fiftieth Anniversary Chair	Emil Volcheck
Light Pollution resource	Greg Weaver
New-member “Welcomer”	Open
Webmaster	Dan Chester
Yahoo Groups Moderator	Don Shedrick
Youth Group Coordinator	Sarah Baird

Delaware Astronomical Society

Fiftieth Anniversary Committee

Emil J. Volcheck, Chair

Photo Displays

Gus Swartout, Lee Kaser, Tom Sidowski

Memorabilia/Slide Show

Lee Kaser

Commemorative Booklet

Mary Louise Ponsell, Rene Van Caneghem,
Tom Sidowski, Lee Kaser, Gus Swartout

Dinner Arrangements

Hank Bouchelle, Bob Mentzer

April Meeting

Greg Lee

Place Card and Memento

Glenn Bentley

Video Recordings

Rich Lemay

Delaware Astronomical Society

Mission Statement

**“The purpose of the Society shall be to encourage interest,
and to advance education and scientific knowledge,
in the subject of astronomy.”**

Delaware Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 652
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
www.delastro.org