

WORKING GROUP ON STANDARD STARS (*GROUPE DE TRAVAIL POUR LES ETOILES STANDARDS*)

CHAIRPERSON: Christopher Corbally
MEMBERS: Robert Garrison, Richard Gray (Newsletter Editor)

The Working Group exists to examine, organize, and coordinate the various sets of standard stars for the fields in which they are used: radial velocities, spectral classification, photometry, astrometry, and others. It also provides a forum for discussion and education. All those working with and upon standard stars are considered members of the WG.

As its main activity the WG has published “The Standard Star Newsletter” in March and October of each year. This has contained research notes, abstracts of papers, websites of interest, and reports and announcements of meetings, all with relevance to standard stars and their use in astronomy. These newsletters can be downloaded from
<http://stellar.phys.appstate.edu/ssn/>

With all the current attention on ultracool dwarfs, it is good to report that some members of the WG are successfully coordinating spectral classification schemes for these objects (both stars and brown dwarfs). Progress is being made both on the philosophy and physics of such classification and on the standards used.

While no meetings were specifically organized by the WG, its members have had significant organizational and scientific input in many meetings, such as the Vilnius meeting on a GAIA photometric system in July 2001, the IAU Symposium 211 on brown dwarfs in May 2002, and the Garrison Festschrift/MK meeting in June 2002. All these provided informal opportunities for the coordination of standards.

Christopher Corbally
Chairperson of the Working Group