
AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #24

November 2, 2007

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1) Named lectures at Fall AGU

Dr. Raymond Arvidson will receive the 2007 Whipple Award at the Fall meeting, where he will give the Whipple lecture “The Importance of a Program of Mars Exploration” on Wednesday (Dec. 12) at 1:40 pm. Dr. Alfred McEwen will give the Shoemaker lecture “The Geology of Mars as Seen by MRO’s HiRISE” on Wednesday (Dec. 12) at 2:40 pm. Dr. Ralph Larentz will give the Sagan lecture “Exploring Titan, an Earth-like Organic Paradise” on Thursday (Dec. 13) at 6:30 pm in a lecture that will be open to the public, co-sponsored by the Biogeosciences section and the Planetary Society. The complete program for the 2007 Fall meeting should be posted very soon on the AGU web site.

2) ESA to select two planetary missions for assessment study

The Space Science Advisory Committee of ESA, chaired by T. Spohn (the Planetary Sciences section president), on Oct 17th selected six mission proposals for assessment study in their Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 program. Among these are a mission to the giant planets and an Asteroid sample return mission. Two successful missions will be expected to fly in 2017/2018. More detail about the missions, the Cosmic Vision program, and the selection can be found on www.esa.int.

3) Section officer candidates for 2008-2010

The October 2, 2007, issue of *Eos* (page 400) lists the slate of candidates approved by the AGU Council for the election of officers for 2008 to 2010. In the Planetary Sciences section, the candidates for President-elect are Laurie A. Leshin and Christophe Sotin, and the candidates for Secretary are Stephen W. Bougher and W. Bruce Banerdt. The article also describes the process whereby additional nominations can be submitted by the membership at large, but the complete nomination packages must be received at AGU by no later than November 9, 2007. Be sure to cast your vote when the election information is provided by AGU.

4) Cassini symposia

With the endorsement of the Cassini Project, we have embarked upon an effort to organize two symposia and produce 2 books which will capture the overall efforts of the Cassini-Huygens mission to the Saturn-Titan system. These books will be published by Springer-Verlag in the second half of 2009. One of the symposia linked to the “Titan after Cassini-Huygens” book will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas in June 2008; and the other linked to the “Saturn after Cassini-Huygens” book will be held at Imperial College London between 28th July – 1st August 2008.

The primary purpose of the Imperial College symposium will be to exchange ideas which will culminate in the publication of the Springer-Verlag book on the Saturn system. Authors for all of the chapters are in place and attendance of up to 400 international scientists are expected at the meeting. The format will include invited talks on the various chapters and poster sessions with summary plenary reporting for introducing new ideas and material which will be incorporated into the final text. The meeting will conclude with presentations and discussions regarding the status of future plans by ESA and NASA to return to the Saturn system for further exploration. Press conferences and public lectures linked to the results being presented will take place during the week. Further details can be found at www.saturnaftercassini.org.

Conveners : Michele Dougherty, Larry Esposito, Tom Krimigis

5) NASA SMD /SCDT workshops at Fall AGU and AAS

You are invited to attend community workshops at the upcoming AGU and AAS Meetings on Student Collaboration opportunities within NASA’s Science Mission Directorate.

AGU: Sunday, December 9th, 2007, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, CA.

AAS: Monday, January 7th, 2008 1:00-6:00 p.m., Hilton Hotel, Austin, TX.

A Student Collaboration Definition Team (SCDT) was initiated by NASA in February 2007 to provide community perspectives to NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) on participation of college and university students in NASA's science missions. These Student Collaboration community workshops offer the opportunity for space and earth science community members and educators to learn about SMD Student Collaborations and provide further input to the SCDT. The specific emphasis during these workshops is to discuss the outcome and draft white paper of the SCDT (due out in mid-November).

Format of the Workshop:

1:00-2:30: Outline and Discussion of the Science Definition Team Progress and White Paper (Dr. Emily CoBabe-Ammann, University of Colorado and Dr. David Klumpar, Montana State University, chairs)

2:30-3:30: Short community-member presentations that highlight the wide variety of Student Collaborations.

3:30-6:00: Open discussion.

Anyone interested in presenting a 5-10 minute overview on a specific Student Collaboration should contact Emily CoBabe-Ammann (ecobabe@lasp.colorado.edu) or David Klumpar (klump@physics.montana.edu).

The NASA/SMD Student Collaborations Definition Team White Paper will be available by November 16th and circulated widely.

6) Opportunities

UCLA is seeking to fill 2 positions in planetary science, one specifically in the area of planetary atmospheres and the other in any area of planetary studies. Applications are sought by December 17, 2007. Details about these positions can be found at www.ess.ucla.edu.

For future newsletter items, please contact Section Secretary Jim Zimbelman,
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