
**AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #37
20 November, 2010**

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1) Message from the Section President

As Fall AGU approaches, I look forward to seeing members of the section and hearing your ideas and how we can improve AGU's service to the Planetary Science Community. In this newsletter, you will see that we are looking for new ways to connect with you and with the broader public through a new website and new Facebook and Twitter feeds. Mark Hilverda is our new section web/FB/Twitter-czar and we are thrilled to have him. Please check out our new website, "like" us on Facebook (70 people "like" us now – would love to get that up to several hundred by Fall Meeting!), and follow our tweets. If you have comments on any of these, communicate with us through the website or on Facebook. We are excited to be able to share the great science of the Planetary Sciences Section with as many people as possible.

Speaking of engaging new audiences, I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a Student Representative to the Planetary Science Executive Committee for the first time (or at least the first time in awhile). Nina Lanza is a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico where she is working on martian debris flows and the calibration of the ChemCam instrument on Mars Science Lab. Nina is getting involved with our new career night, scheduled for Sunday evening at AGU, and will be bringing the student perspective to P section activities. So, if you're a student and want your voice to be heard, contact Nina at nlanza@unm.edu, or track her down at Fall Meeting. Also, if you're a student, please join me and Nina at the AGU Student Breakfast at 6:45 am (ug, but there is free food!) at the Marriott Marquis.

Finally, as AGU aligns to a new governance structure (<http://www.agu.org/about/governance/>), moves out on our new strategic plan (http://www.agu.org/about/strategic_plan.shtml), with the guidance of our new Executive Director (<http://www.agu.org/about/ed/>), we are taking a hard look at the future of our field. Now is an excellent time to position AGU to contribute to a bright future of Earth and Space Science, and the Union is trying to do just that. And we need your input. Please see section (4) below for a message from the "MAP" project about how you can get involved.

Ah, San Francisco at Christmastime – look forward to seeing you all at Fall Meeting!

Best regards,
Laurie Leshin

2) NEW Planetary Section Website, plus Facebook and Twitter

The final web address will be the same as the current site:
<http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/>

We are now on Facebook and Twitter! We hope to use these channels to keep you informed of AGU events, current research, space missions, and other items of planetary interest. Most importantly we hope we can connect with you and others interested in the planetary sciences.

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/AGUPlanetary>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AGUPlanetary>

3) AGU Fall Meeting Planetary Sciences Schedule Grid

This three-page pdf file gives the times and locations of all Planetary Section oral and poster sessions, plus a selection of special lectures, town halls, and events.

<< insert pdf here >>

4) Input to MAP

The AGU Council has begun an important research project on the future of our science and what that means for AGU. This project, titled Mission:Alignment Project, will be discussed at the Council meeting on 12 December in San Francisco but we'd like your involvement as well. At the Fall Meeting, you have two opportunities to voice your opinion:

1. Attend one of the guided group discussions being held on Monday and Tuesday. Specific times are listed below.
2. Participate in an online survey. Details will be provided at our business meeting in San Francisco.

The newly configured AGU Council now includes a wide range of constituent voices - the leaders of all sections and focus groups, five committee chairs, five students and young careerists, along with the AGU President and Executive Director. The Council's first order of business is aligning to the new mission and strategic plan. The group will be addressing the following question:

Given our strategic plan, stakeholder expectations of AGU, and what is being asked of science and our members -- How does our science need to be organized, recognized and rewarded, disseminated and promoted?

We'd like to hear from all AGU members as we move forward on this important project. Please help us shape the future of AGU!

Guided Group Discussions are being held in Moscone West 2012

| Participants | Date | Time |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Session 1 for Section/Focus Group members | Monday 13 December 2010 | 4pm – 5:45pm |
| Session 2 for Section/Focus Group members | Tuesday 14 December 2010 | 10:30am – 12:20pm |
| Session 3 for international members | Tuesday 14 December 2010 | 1:30pm – 3:30pm |
| Session 4 for students/young careerists | Tuesday 14 December 2010 | 4pm – 6pm |

Please come and tell us what you think!

5) Lunar Exploration Summer Intern Program

The Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) is hosting a special lunar exploration summer intern program to evaluate possible landing sites for robotic and human exploration missions. The LPI invites applications from graduate students in geology, planetary science, and related programs. The program is also open to undergraduate students in geology, astronomy, chemistry, and physics with at least 50 semester hours of credit. The goal of this program is to integrate NASA's lunar science priorities with the exploration components of the Constellation program. This will be a unique team activity that should foster extensive discussions among students and senior science team members. The 10-week program runs from May 31, 2011, through August 5, 2011. Selected interns will receive a \$5000.00 stipend to cover the costs associated with being in Houston for the duration of the program. Additionally, U.S. citizens will receive up to \$1000.00 in travel expense reimbursement, and foreign nationals will receive up to \$1500 in travel expense reimbursement. Please pass this information on to any students who might be interested. Application deadline is January 21, 2011.

http://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar_intern/

Julie Tygielski
Lunar Exploration Summer Intern Program
lunarintern@lpi.usra.edu

For future newsletter items please contact:
Section Secretary Lindy Elkins-Tanton, ltelkins@mit.edu.
