

AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #45
June, 2012

- 1) Letter from the Section President
- 2) Nominate your colleagues for AGU Awards: 15 July
- 3) Fall meeting special sessions**
- 4) Winning Student Presentations at Fall AGU 2011
- 5) Position open at NASA Goddard

1) Letter from the Section President

It's Spring, a time of change and renewal, and change has been a hallmark of AGU for the past few years as well. Some of you may have heard about a change being considered at AGU right now. As the Union seeks to focus on our strategic goals of advancing scientific leadership and collaboration, they are examining the option to outsource *only* the operational and production aspects of AGU publications. This would allow AGU to focus its efforts on the scientific aspects of the publications, including all editorial content and considerations of creating new journals to respond to the evolving nature of our science, rather than focusing significant energy on being an operational publishing house. There has been lots of discussion about this proposal, and please look for more information from AGU on this soon, including some FAQs. We in the leadership of the section are engaged in AGU discussions on this issue, and the whole concept is being very carefully considered before any decision or action is taken. If you would like to express a view on what criteria might be used to make this decision, please feel free to email me about this ([Laurie Leshin](#)).

Speaking of renewal, how about the new, incredible data that will be highlighted in our approved special sessions for Fall Meeting? It is an amazing slate! Don't forget to submit your abstracts by 8 August.

And finally, it's time to make your voice heard in renewing the leadership of the section and AGU – it's election season! While we won't have any super-PAC's or run-offs (thank goodness!), we do have a slate of excellent candidates who have agreed to stand for election as Section Officers. Of course, our current President-elect, Bill McKinnon, will become Section President on 1 January. For President-elect, Lindy-Elkins-Tanton and Jack Mustard have agreed to run, and for secretary we have Neyda Abreu and Nathan Bridges. All great candidates! In addition, I have accepted the nomination to run for President-elect of AGU in the upcoming election. It has been an honor serving our community as Section President, and it was likewise an honor to be asked to stand for election to represent the whole of AGU at this critical time for Earth and Space Science. All the candidates are qualified and excellent, so be sure to make your voice heard and vote in September!

Enjoy your Spring and Summer!
Laurie Leshin
P Section President

2) Nominate your colleagues for AGU Awards: 15 July

Two of the major planetary section awards, the Whipple and the brand-new Greeley award, have nomination deadlines of 15 July. *Please think about your colleagues and consider nominating!*

The **Whipple Award** was established in 1989 to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of planetary science. The award is named after Fred Whipple, a gifted astronomer most noted for his work on comets. Whipple was an AGU Fellow elected in 1962 and the Section's first Whipple Award honoree in 1990. Whipple passed away in 2004. [Past Awardees](#) have spanned the breadth and depth of the planetary sciences section.

The new **Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science** is being awarded in 2012 for the first time. Nominees must be a member or affiliate of the Planetary Sciences Section of AGU and must be within 6 years of receiving their Ph.D. on the first day of the year in which the award is to be made (e.g. on or after 1 January 2006 for the 2012 award.) Parental leave, if provided by the candidate's institution and taken by the nominee during this 6-year period, can extend the six-year period.

Nomination packages must be received by the deadline. Packages should include a current CV and publications list for the nominee, and a nomination letter outlining the candidate's significant contributions. The nomination should be accompanied by three to six supporting letters from members of the section.

To send nomination packages, or for more information:

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Deadline: 15 July 2012

3) Special Sessions at [Fall Meeting!](#)

Here is the preliminary list of planetary sessions. The [2012 abstract submission site](#) will open in a few days, and the final deadline for submission is **8 August**.

Accretion, core-mantle differentiation and early planetary evolution
Airless body petrology through samples and remote sensing: Diverse approaches to common problems
Atmosphere of Mars: New Findings from Modeling and Observations
Cosmic ray muon and neutrino imaging: emerging tools for Earth and Planetary Sciences
Cratering Processes Throughout the Solar System
Eyes on Enceladus
Forty Years After Apollo 17: Lunar Science From and Since Apollo
Geophysics of Satellites and Small Bodies
GRIDVIEW: IDL Image Manipulation for Moon and Mars
Internal Structure & Composition of Small Solar System Bodies
Laboratory Investigations Supporting Analysis of Datasets from Mars, the Moon, and Other Planetary Bodies
Mercury: New Insights from MESSENGER's Extended Mission
Nonlinear Processes in Exoplanet Atmospheres and Protoplanetary Disks
Origins, Evolutions and Processes of the Outer Planet Satellites
Planetary Atmospheres and Evolution
Planetary Evolution and Life
Planetary Magnetism
Planetary Radar Investigations: Observations, Lab Measurements, Field Analogues, and Future Opportunities
Planetary Rings: Theory and Observation
Planetary Surfaces in Motion
Polarimetry as an invaluable tool to study the Solar System and beyond
Preparations for Rosetta encounter: Comet Observation and Modeling; Lessons Learned from Enceladus
Rapid environmental change and the fate of planetary habitability
Recent advances in planetary aeolian studies: Commemorating the career of Ronald Greeley
Science Of, On and From the Moon: NLSI and the Lunar Scientific Community
Small Bodies and Moons and Their Interaction With the Space Environment
Solar System Dusty Plasma
Titan – A Dynamic World
Titan's Enigmatic Upper Atmosphere and Ionosphere
Using Numerical Models to Understand the Venus Atmosphere and Surface
Using Topography to Investigate the Evolution of Solar System Bodies
What Lurks in the Martian Rocks and Soil? Investigations of Sulfates, Phosphates, and Perchlorates.

4) Winning Student Presentations at Fall AGU 2011

Many congratulations again to our planetary science outstanding student paper award winners! Here we are also listing their paper titles.

Gina DiBraccio, University of Michigan/NASA GSFC, "MESSENGER observations of magnetopause structure at Mercury."

Mark Salvatore, Brown University, "Widespread, Juvenile Alteration of the Ferrar Dolerite in Beacon Valley, Antarctica."

Sarah Crites, University of Hawaii, "In-situ production of organic molecules at the poles of the Moon."

Charles Miller, New Mexico State University, "Time-varying Atmospheric Circulation Patterns Caused by N2 Condensation Flows on a Simulated Triton Atmosphere."

5) Position open at NASA Goddard

The Science and Exploration Directorate, Solar System Exploration Division (SSED), Planetary Magnetospheres Laboratory, in Greenbelt, Maryland, is seeking a researcher to provide expertise in new capabilities for modeling the interactions between the solar wind and the Moon, and other near-airless bodies, transport and trapping of lunar volatiles, volatile sources and losses, and plasma/surface interactions. In addition to research, you will provide expertise in associated planetary and exploration robotic missions and instrument development projects. You will participate in preliminary and critical design reviews and develop and defend instrument and mission requirements. You will be called on to demonstrate strong teaming capability applied to the solution of relevant problems. Missions that you could support include the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), MESSENGER, and future lunar and planetary projects of the SSED.

A PhD in a relevant field of Physics or Astronomy is preferred. Candidates must have experience modeling solar wind/plasma interactions with the surface and near surface environments of the Moon and other solar system bodies. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. U.S. citizenship required. To view the full vacancy announcement which contains further information, including how to apply go to [USA Jobs Web site announcement](#). For information about the research program, please contact [Robert MacDowall](#), Lab Chief, Planetary Magnetospheres, [301-286-2608](#). NASA, GSFC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For future newsletter items please contact:
Section Secretary, [Lindy Elkins-Tanton](#)
