
**AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #47
February, 2013**

- 1) Letter from the Section President
- 2) AGU PS position statement on 2020 Mars rover
- 3) Section awards and updated website
- 4) Fall AGU 2012 PS outstanding student papers announced
- 5) Co-editor sought for *JGR-Planets*
- 6) Section representative for the *Eos* Editorial Advisory Board needed
- 7) Survey on location for 2013 Fall Meeting Planetary Sciences Reception
- 8) WHISPERS (IEEE) Meeting, Gainesville, Florida
- 9) International Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IAPS2013), Shanghai, China
- 10) Planetary Graduate Program Clearing House

1) Letter from the Section President

Greetings P Section colleagues and friends! On January 1, I took over as President of the Planetary Sciences Section of AGU, starting a 2-year term. I plan to continue past-President Laurie Leshin's tradition of enclosed short messages in these newsletters to keep you apprised of Union and P Section happenings. Speaking of which, I would like to acknowledge and thank Laurie and Lindy Elkins-Tanton (our past Section Secretary) for their excellent work and dedication to making our section successful. I would also like to welcome Lindy, our Section President-elect, and Nathan Bridges, our Section Secretary, to their new roles.

There is a lot in this "inaugural" newsletter, and a lot going on in DC of great concern to all planetary scientists. The Section will have more to say about that shortly, but for now I draw your attention to a positive development, a commitment by NASA to return to the martian surface (item 2). In terms of section business, please note next month's deadline for the Greeley and Whipple Awards (item 3). Also, the AGU has advanced *its* deadline for Union awards, medals and Fellows nominations to March 15. I know it's right before LPSC, but if we want planetary to make its mark at the Union level, we should be nimble. Finally, if you noticed how fat the recent issue of *JGR Planets* was, it's because of the continued success and growth of the

journal under the current editorship. That said, the workload demands that we seek a second editor (if interested, please see item 5).

With best regards, and on behalf of the Planetary Section Executive Committee,
Bill McKinnon, P Section President

2) AGU Planetary Sciences Section Position Statement on 2020 Mars Rover

Prepared in collaboration with the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences and The Planetary Society

We applaud the recent announcement that NASA will return to Mars in 2020 with a new rover derived from the MSL Curiosity design. Continued study of Mars is crucial to the scientific community, important for building upon our decades-long investment in engineering and technology, and most importantly, continues this nation's exploration of the Solar System, maintaining our preeminent status as a leader in spaceflight and our focus on some of humanity's greatest unanswered questions. The scope of the Mars 2020 mission is currently being defined. We strongly believe that a principal goal of the mission should be the collection of Martian rock samples as recommended by the National Research Council's Planetary Science Decadal Survey. It is of the utmost importance that NASA and Congress follow the recommendations laid forth in the Decadal Survey (the result of detailed and intensive scientific evaluations of many possible missions) in order to maximize science return and support a balanced and affordable approach to the exploration of our solar system.

We must also emphasize that the serious budget cuts to NASA's Planetary Science Division have not been averted. The new rover mission is conceived to fit within the already reduced budget environment proposed by the Administration in February 2012, which if fully implemented, would result in deep cuts across the entire planetary exploration program. Likely outcomes include early termination of ongoing missions, delays of future missions in the *Discovery* and *New Frontiers* programs, and reductions in basic research grants that fund current and future scientists. It also precludes a mission to Europa, long-considered one of the most compelling and scientifically rich destinations in the Solar System.

We strongly urge Congress and the Administration to reverse these cuts and, at minimum, maintain the 2012 funding level of \$1.5 billion per year for NASA's Planetary Science Division.

We stress that with a flat budget at the FY12 level, the Mars 2020 rover and a reduced-cost mission to Europa, the top-two major mission recommendations of the Decadal Survey, could be pursued. Additionally, even a flat budget would allow NASA to conduct *Discovery*- and *New Frontiers*-class missions at a tempo closer to the recommendation given by the Decadal Survey. Proper funding for scientific research and technology development, both crucial aspects of the planetary program, would also be possible. We believe it is vitally important to provide NASA's Planetary Sciences Division with the minimal funds necessary to provide a proper balance between its five key elements of strategic missions, *Discovery* missions, *New Frontiers* missions, research and analysis, and advanced technology development. A restored budget could achieve this.

Congress deserves credit for restoring some of this funding in the FY13 appropriations bills taken up last year. While these bills are currently on hold while Congress tackles broader fiscal issues, it demonstrates a strong commitment to the program by both the House and the Senate. A vocal, coordinated, and focused response by the scientific community and the public provided crucial support for this effort. Continued support by the AGU Planetary community in this regard is critical, and we urge Planetary Section members to make their voices heard to their elected representatives.

In summary, we strongly support the decision by NASA to pursue a 2020 Mars rover mission. We urge Congress and the Administration to maintain NASA's leadership in planetary science by restoring the division's budget to FY12 levels of \$1.5 billion per year.

3) Section awards and updated website

Nominations are now being solicited for the Ronald Greeley Early Career and Whipple Awards. Details are provided at the Section website (<http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/about.php>), which has also been updated with biographies of your new Section Officers. Please consider outstanding students for the Greeley Award and colleagues for the Whipple Award. Awardees represent the best and brightest in our community, showing the talent and vitality of the Planetary Section within AGU. Nominations should be sent to Phil Christensen (phil.christensen@asu.edu) and are due March 29.

4) Fall AGU 2012 Planetary Science Section outstanding student papers announced

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Outstanding Student Paper Award within the Planetary Sciences section at the Fall 2012 AGU meeting. The competition was very strong. We congratulate these students and look forward to their future contributions to our section. The winners are:

Anton Ermakov, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Modeling of Vesta's Interior Structure using Gravity and Shape Models from the Dawn Mission and Hydrodynamic Impact Simulations

Abigail Fraeman, Washington University in St. Louis
Hematite Bearing Ridge as Evidence for Anoxic Water Discharge in Gale Crater

Divya Allu Peddinti, Arizona State University
Convection Models for Ice-Water System: Dynamical Investigation of Phase Transition

Kelsey Williams, Brown University
The Effect of Cr content on the Reflectance Properties of Mg-Spinel

|

5) Co-editor sought for *JGR-Planets*

AGU is looking for a dynamic, well-organized scientist with high editorial standards and strong leadership skills to serve a 4-year term as editor for the Planets section of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. Applicants should be respected leaders in the community, independent-minded, and even-handed. As editor you should be committed to further strengthening *JGR-Planets* as the leading journal in planetary sciences and be proactive in attracting innovative contributions in traditional disciplines and in emerging areas.

Given the steady increase in submissions to *JGR-Planets* over the past several years, this position is for a second editor that will complement the duties of the current editor-in-chief. Applicants from all fields of planetary science are welcome, but those with specializations in Mars and planetary surface processes will be given special consideration. As editor, you will have full authority to accept or reject submitted papers, and you will be expected to guarantee a fair and timely review process.

A search committee will evaluate prospective candidates and conduct personal interviews with a small number of individuals. The AGU President makes the final selection and appointment, and the editor serves at the pleasure of the President. An honorarium will be provided that is commensurate with the expected workload of about 1 day per week.

If you would like to be considered as an editor of *JGR-Planets*, send your curriculum vitae with a short letter of interest via email to pubmatters@agu.org. If you would like to nominate a highly qualified colleague, send a letter of recommendation to the same email address. **Please make sure that you specify *JGR-Planets* in the subject line of the email.** Deadline for applications is March 25, 2013.

6) Section representative for the *Eos* Editorial Advisory Board needed

What's involved in being a member of the *Eos* Editorial Advisory Board? The *Eos* editors call on members of the Editorial Advisory Board to help with the review of feature articles and other submissions. For the feature articles, we may ask for review because the person's expertise most closely matches the topic covered. For those manuscripts, we ask Editorial Advisory Board members to review manuscripts and comment on their merit in light of current science as well as for accuracy and balance. In doing so, we ask board members to identify points that may need to be covered better, what should be avoided, and potential biases, hidden agendas, or conflicts of interest of which we should be aware. We also turn to the Editorial Advisory Board members as "cross-disciplinary readers" for comments on features that are outside their discipline. The purpose is to get input on whether submitted features are accessible and appropriate for a broad spectrum of the *Eos* readership, not just for those working within the topic covered by the feature.

In addition, we ask members of the Editorial Advisory Board to send ideas for manuscripts that should be encouraged along with potential authors. We call on the board for general advice and input on ways to improve *Eos*. In that vein, we have periodic conference calls and usually gather for a face-to-face meeting at the AGU Fall Meeting.

If you are interested, please contact Nathan Bridges at nathan.bridges@jhuapl.edu.

7) Survey on location for 2013 Fall Meeting Planetary Sciences Reception

For the past several years the Planetary Sciences Reception for the Fall AGU Meeting has been held at Sellers Market, 595 Market St., San Francisco (<http://www.sellersmarkets.com>). Please let us know if you would prefer to keep this venue, or search for something new. Your vote can be tallied by going to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XJD6JCB>

8) WHISPERS (IEEE) Meeting

WHISPERS is the premier meeting of IEEE for hyperspectral image processing. The international annual meeting will be held this year in Gainesville, Florida, June 25-28, 2013, on the campus of the University of Florida. We invite members of the planetary science community to join colleagues from the terrestrial remote sensing and signal processing communities. This year we are proposing a special section devoted to exploring cutting-edge techniques in planetary image processing (described below) with a data users workshop. Note that the deadline for papers is soon (February 15) and that these are 4-pages, peer-reviewed prior to acceptance, and published in IEEE Transactions. It is the perfect venue for your technically-focused advances. We hope you can join us in Florida. Please contact Sylvain Doute (sylvain.doute@obs.ujf-grenoble.fr) and Bethany Ehlmann (ehlmann@caltech.edu) for more information. (http://core.ieee-whispers.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=211&Itemid=55)

9) International Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IAPS2013)

The International Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IAPS2013) will be held at the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, July 1-4, 2013, Shanghai, China, which will bring together international scientists to present the latest results of research and development in planetary exploration and science. Topics include planetary geodesy, navigation, remote sensing, atmosphere, ionosphere/plasma physics, magnetic and gravity field, geomorphology, geophysics, geology, petrology, geochemistry, interior physics, Life & Astrobiology, Giant & Extrasolar Planets, etc. More information can be found at <http://202.127.29.4/meetings/iaps2013>.

We welcome you to attend the International Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IAPS2013), July 1-4, 2013, Shanghai, China.

Look forward to seeing you in Shanghai.

Best Regards

Shuanggen Jin <sgjin@shao.ac.cn>

10) Planetary Graduate Program Clearing House

Do you advise undergraduates on where to apply to grad school? Do you have trouble remembering all the programs and keeping up to date? Do you want to get the word out on your own graduate program? The DPS Education & Public Outreach Subcommittee has assembled a listing of 68 institutions offering graduate degrees with opportunities in planetary science:

<http://dps.aas.org/education/graduate-schools>

So, please send this link to students you mentor and to mailing lists of undergraduates. We especially want the webpage to be up-to-date and accurate, so please also send it to your own graduate admissions liaisons for updates and corrections. Application deadlines are imminent, so please help get the word out!

Dave Klassen, Brian Jackson & Nick Schneider
Education & Public Outreach, Division for Planetary Sciences, American Astronomical Society
dpsed@aaas.edu

.....

For future newsletter items please contact:
Section Secretary Nathan Bridges, nathan.bridges@jhuapl.edu.

.....