



PLANETARY SCIENCES SECTION NEWSLETTER #53 (February 2014)

1. Letter from the Section President
2. OSPA Winners
3. Section and Union Honors
4. JGR-Planets editor search
5. AGU Planetary Section Student Representative call
6. User workshop for Mars ChemCam/LIBS data at LPSC
7. AOGS 11th Annual Meeting
8. Planetary Photogrammetry Training Session

1. Letter from the Section President: Looking Back and Looking Forward

The AGU Fall Meeting is fast receding in the rear view mirror, but it was, to my mind, a smashing success. From the quality of the talks and posters, to the excellence of our Whipple and Greeley awardees, from our superb named lectures (Shoemaker, Sagan, and Whipple), to our deserving OSPA winners, and even to our splendid evening reception, all of us on the section Executive Committee wish to thank those responsible — you!

The 2013 Fall Meeting was also the biggest ever for the Planetary Sciences Section. With 882 abstracts submitted to our sessions (not counting cosponsored sessions in SPA and so forth), this puts the AGU Fall Meeting squarely in the top tier of annual planetary gatherings. One of our goals for 2014 is to make sure the breadth of science presented best reaches the public.

Looking forward—even though December 2014 seems far off—it is already time (by the AGU's measure) to think carefully about your deserving peers, and begin to suggest and/or nominate them for the honor of AGU Fellowship or AGU medal, award or prize, or Planetary Section awards. The details are given below, but I especially encourage nominations for [Union awards, Fellow, medals, and prizes](#) (which are due earliest). These are ultimately considered by a high-level AGU committee, so let's make sure planetary is well represented when it gets to that point. (Please note that conflict of interest rules prevent the Executive Committee from putting forward nominations, so this is truly up to the membership at large — you!).

As for the bigger political picture (in the U.S.), planetary science is holding steady for the moment. We finally have a NASA budget for the present fiscal year, one that partially restores the devastating cuts of two years ago, although issues of flight rate and R&A funding remain of deep concern to all. There has also been something of a respite from vicious political infighting in the U.S. Congress. The next real milestone will be the release of the President's FY15 budget in early March. At that point you will hear from us, and our sister societies, and we will forge onward. And, as always, be prepared for a call to action, for the era we are in requires constant engagement.

Per aspera ad planetae – Bill McKinnon

2. OSPA Winners

We are pleased to announce the Outstanding Student Paper Award winners from the 2013 AGU Fall Meeting: Ali Bramson, Benjamin Charnay, Kimberley Birkett, Lucas Kavanagh, and Shannon Curry. These students should be congratulated on their achievement. We look forward to their future

contributions to planetary science. For more details, visit the [Planetary Sciences Section website](#).

3) Section and Union Honors

Nominations are now being solicited for the Ronald Greeley Early Career and Whipple awards. Details are provided at the [Planetary Sciences section website \(http://planets.agu.org/\)](#). Please consider outstanding new researchers 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 are accepted online and the deadline for both awards is 15 April. Questions about the Greeley and Whipple awards can be directed to [Phil Christensen \(phil.christensen@asu.edu\)](#).

In addition, AGU is soliciting nominations for Union awards, Fellows, medals, and prizes. The deadline is 15 March. [Nominations are accepted online via the AGU website](#).

4. JGR-Planets Editor Search

AGU is looking for a dynamic, well-organized scientist with high editorial standards and strong leadership skills to serve a four-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.

Applicants from all fields of planetary science are welcome. 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. An honorarium will be provided that is commensurate with the expected workload of approximately one day per week. Editor duties will start at the end of 2014.

If you would like to be considered as an editor of JGR-Planets, send your CV 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 specify JGR-Planets in the subject line of the email.

5) AGU Planetary Section Student Representative Call

The AGU Planetary Section invites applicants for Graduate Student Representative (GSR). The GSR will serve a two-year term from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 and be a member of the AGU Planetary Science Section Executive Committee. All nominees should be graduate students working on research related to planetary science, be current AGU members (including international), and have a record of active contributions to the field. Candidates can self-apply or be recommended by other students or faculty members who are AGU members. To apply, please submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) summarizing the challenges and opportunities that you see facing students in space and planetary sciences right now, along with a current CV. E-mail the package to Section Secretary [Nathan Bridges](#) by 31 March 2014, with the subject line, "AGU Student Rep."

6) User Workshop for Mars ChemCam/LIBS Data, 3 P.M., Sunday, 16 March, The Woodlands, TX
ChemCam on Curiosity provides a large and varied geochemical dataset available for the planetary community including laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS), passive VIS reflectance spectra,

and the highest resolution remote micro-images (RMI) from the rover. More than 8 GB of data are available at the Planetary Data System (PDS) node, including compositions from more than 2500 locations along the rover traverse and more than 1500 RMI images. Already more than 25 submitted papers have included results from this data.

A three-hour workshop will be held for community members interested in using this dataset at 3 P.M. on Sunday, 16 March, in the Alden Bridge Room of The Woodlands conference center, in conjunction with the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. In the workshop we will describe the LIBS technique as used on ChemCam and data processing for the levels 1 and 2 provided in the PDS. We will also provide a couple of tools to help understand and use the spectra. Attendees are strongly encouraged to [RSVP](#). The contact is [Roger Wiens](#).

The ChemCam data can be found on the [PDS Geosciences webpage](#). Presentation materials will also be posted on the PDS.

7) AOGS 11th Annual Meeting

Join us at the AOGS 11th Annual Meeting
28 July–1 August 2014, Royton Hotel, Sapporo

For further information, visit the [2014 AOGS conference website](#).

Submit Abstract/Apply For Reduced Fee (Deadline: 11 February 2014)

[Submit your abstract now!](#) Please consider submitting an abstract to the following sessions:

- [PS02 : Icy satellites and rings](#)
- [PS03: Outer solar system satellites with an atmosphere](#)
- [PS08 : Outer planets and their analogs in exoplanets](#)

We look forward to receiving your contributions. Please contact [Athena Coustenis](#) for further information and proposals. We apologize for the multiple postings.

8) Planetary Photogrammetry Training Session

The Planetary Photogrammetry Guest Facility at the Astrogeology Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey would like to announce a call for participation for a training opportunity on 29 April–1 May 2014, on Photogrammetric Processing of Planetary Stereo Imagery using SOCET SET®. **The training is free to participants**, and will cover end-to-end, hands-on photogrammetric procedures for surface extraction from Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter HiRISE image pairs. The topics include:

- **An introduction to photogrammetric procedures and surface generation techniques;**
- **Overview of HiRISE imagery; and**
- **Workflow and data exchange between ISIS and SOCET SET.**

The hands-on training will include ISIS preprocessing, SOCET SET import of image and reference data, control point selection, orientation procedures, triangulation and bundle adjustment, manual and automated surface extraction of digital terrain models (DTM), editing, and data export.

If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please send an email to [Dr. Raad Saleh](mailto:Dr.RaadSaleh@usgs.gov) (PlanetaryPhotogrammetry@usgs.gov) with the following information: your name, title, affiliation, address, full contact information, and a short statement describing your interest in the training. Please note that seating for this session is very limited, so express your interest as soon as possible.

Please note the following:

1. Training will be three days, from Tuesday, 29 April through Thursday, 1 May 2014.

2. The training will be based exclusively on a standard set of HiRISE stereo images.
3. ISIS, SOCET SET and the Guest Facility support the use of images from several planetary cameras in addition to HiRISE. While this hands-on training will be based on HiRISE images, it would be our pleasure to advise participants on the suitability of other planetary cameras for their research projects. Furthermore, we can provide one-on-one support to producing DTMs at later days.
4. The Guest Facility has a single workstation available year-round for users who need to generate their own products. If you would like to stay longer (after this training) or come at a later date to generate your own products using the Guest Facility, please let us know the kind of images you would be using and how many DTMs you hope to produce so that we can schedule your visit accordingly.
5. For more information about the Guest Facility, and for frequently asked questions, please visit: <http://astrogeology.usgs.gov/geology/photogrammetry-guest-facility>. Go to Downloads at the bottom of the page and follow the link Planetary Photogrammetry Guest Facility FAQ.
6. If you are interested in ISIS training, please visit the [ISIS Workshop webpage](#).

With your participation, we look forward to realizing another successful and productive training session. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or require further information.

[Dr. Raad Saleh](#), Training Coordinator, The Planetary Photogrammetry Guest Facility, United States Geological Survey

Keep abreast of the latest AGU PS updates:

<http://planets.agu.org/> (for job advertisements, click on Jobs in the Menu bar; if you are interested in posting a job ad, please contact [Nathan Bridges](#) and [Mark Hilverda](#))

[AGU Planetary Sciences Facebook page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences Twitter page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences LinkedIn page](#)

For future newsletter items please contact the Section Secretary, [Nathan Bridges](#)
