



**Planetary Sciences (PS) Section
Newsletter #58: February 2015**

Dear Colleagues,

The February 2015 edition of the Planetary Science Section newsletter is now available. For more information and other news, visit the [Planetary Science Section Newsletters page](#). In this issue:

- 1) Letter from Section President
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- 9) IAA Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference Call for Abstracts

We hope you find it informative. Please let us know if you have questions or comments.

Best,

Linda T. Elkins-Tanton
AGU Section President, Planetary Sciences

**American Geophysical Union
Planetary Sciences Section
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1) PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of our planetary community for a successful AGU Fall Meeting! Here, for all of our science minds, are some statistics:

Planetary Sciences Abstract Submissions

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
353	265	410	551	501	631	601	696	571	829	827	882	850

2014 Fall Meeting

Total scheduled presentations: 23,305
Total scheduled Planetary Sciences presentations: 872

2014 Membership

Planetary Sciences Primary Affiliation: 1682

Planetary Sciences Secondary Affiliation: 5001

A very special thank you to everyone who worked on the Outstanding Student Paper Awards! Your efforts are highly valued, and your comments go back to each student, so participants benefit from feedback even if they aren't the lucky winners (see item 4, below). It's a big effort by an army of volunteers – many, many thanks!

With January 1 also came the changing of the guard for the Planetary Sciences Section. Our starting lineup is now:

Lindy Elkins-Tanton, President
Sarah T. Stewart, President-Elect
Barbara A. Cohen, Secretary
William B. McKinnon, Past President
Nathan Bridges, Advocacy Representative
Mark Hilverda, Web and Social Media Manager
Michael Mischna, Planetary Editor, *Eos*
Alexander Morgan, Student Representative

In future newsletters, look for updates on planetary science advocacy issues, decision and authority structures of AGU (who do you call or write?), awards, and more.

All my best –
Lindy Elkins-Tanton

2) PLANETARY SCIENCE BUDGET UPDATE: RELEASE OF PRESIDENT'S NASA BUDGET AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANETARY SCIENCE

As the nation emerges from an economic decline, NASA's budget for planetary science is looking up. With the release of the President's budget ([Link to NASA budget table](#)), the state of planetary science looks much brighter than it has in many years. Although the Congressional and Executive branches of government have yet to agree on a final plan, the AGU Planetary Science Section is cautiously optimistic and generally supportive of the proposal. Most significantly, the budget gives a new start for a much-delayed mission to Europa and provides full funding for Mars 2020. The Europa mission prevents the Outer Solar System "fading to dark" in regard to future missions, as had been feared by many, and continues a robust Mars exploration program. In addition, research and analysis funding, a mainstay in our community, is increased. However, all is not perfect. The budget zeroes out the Opportunity Mars Exploration Rover and Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, the funding profile for Europa will not support at 2022 launch, and overall the budget is still lower than needed to maintain the National Research Council's Decadal Survey recommendations for a balanced and robust planetary exploration program. So, the budget can be considered a glass half full or half empty, but at least one whose level is rising. In the AGU Planetary Science Section, we will continue to monitor the budget, update our members, and at necessary times, draft statements that will lend our support to a healthy NASA planetary science budget.

With this newsletter, AGU PS is introducing what we hope will be a regular feature updating our members on the latest developments in the NASA budget as it relates to planetary science, and roles that AGU and our section are playing in advocacy. This effort is being coordinated by Nathan Bridges, who now serves as the official "Advocacy Representative" for the PS Section.

3) AGU FALL MEETING 2014 PLANETARY SCIENCE CONTENT

Planetary Sciences had a very successful turnout at the Fall 2014 AGU meeting. You can stream hundreds of oral presentations and lectures and search thousands of ePosters from the comfort of your home or office at the [AGU Fall Meeting Virtual Options page](#). Featured Planetary Science Fall Meeting Videos include:

Public Lecture: Bruce Jakowski, [The MAVEN Mission to Mars](#)

Shoemaker Lecture: Ellen Stofan, [Searching for Earth-like planets in this solar system and beyond](#)

Whipple Lecture: Laurence Soderblom, [A Retrospective: Active Volatile-Driven Geologic Processes Across the Solar System—Lessons for Planetary Explorers](#)

4) AGU FALL MEETING 2014 PLANETARY SCIENCE STUDENT WINNERS

We are pleased to announce the Outstanding Student Paper Award Winners from the Fall 2014 Meeting: Catherine Elder (University of Arizona), Anna Grau Galofre (University of British Columbia), Jason Hofgartner (Cornell), James Keane (University of Arizona), and Tajana Schneiderman (Ohio State University). These students should be congratulated on their achievement. We look forward to their future contributions to planetary science.

Thank you also to the volunteer judges and liaisons who contributed their time during the Fall Meeting to evaluate and provide feedback. To view all the 2014 Fall Meeting OSPA winners by section and/or focus groups, please [click here](#).

Students may view their scores and feedback on their "My Presentation" page on the [OSPA website](#).

5) AGU UNION AND PLANETARY SCIENCE SECTION AWARDS

The Planetary Sciences Section depends on your active engagement for its continued success. Please take a few moments to consider the two sets of calls for nominations listed below.

NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION AND UNION HONORS

Receiving an AGU Honor is an esteemed recognition for those who have made profound contributions and breakthrough achievements in the Earth and space sciences. Now is the time to nominate a student, colleague, peer, or mentor whose achievements have made a difference in the Earth and space sciences.

UNION HONORS

Nominations Deadline: 15 March

There are more than 20 [AGU Union Awards, Medals, and Prizes](#). All Union Awards the Climate Communication Prize are interdisciplinary, and recognize outstanding work across scientific fields.

Union Medals of interest to our group include the [Bowie Medal](#), AGU's highest honor, is given annually to one honoree in recognition for "outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research. Other medals that would appeal to our group include the [Macelwane Medal](#) and [Fleming Medal](#).

SECTION AND FOCUS GROUP AWARDS

Nominations Deadline: 15 April

Please take a moment to review our section's awards and consider your peers who could benefit from being nominated.

[Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science
Whipple Award](#)

HOW TO NOMINATE

Visit the [AGU Section and Focus Group Awards and Lectures website](#), where awards are categorized by science and section. The Union awards, prizes, medals, and Fellows honors are described in detail, together with their qualifying criteria. Nominations can be submitted by clicking the button on the right-hand side of any AGU Honors web page.

“NEW Effective in 2015, the Honors and Recognition Committee has approved for all section and focus group named lectures to be assigned at the invitation of the respective section and/or focus group. “Invitation-only” simply indicates that lectures need not follow a nomination cycle process (i.e., submit a nomination package). While nominations are no longer accepted for named lectures, recommendations for prospective lecturers are welcome.”

6) JGR-PLANETS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Add Journal of Geophysical Research-Planets to your social media streams: Twitter (@jgrplanets) and Facebook (JGR-Planets)

- All "Recently Published" articles are highlighted and linked to as they go online
- Each monthly issue is highlighted
- The journal provides a weekly summary of newly published papers.

7) iSAMPLES RESEARCH COORDINATION NETWORK

The NSF-sponsored iSamples research coordination network (RCN) is committed to advancing the sharing of physical samples and data on samples by engaging a broad community of scientists who work with physical samples in the Earth and space sciences to advance access and sharing of physical samples and data on samples for the benefit of science. To develop a clear baseline understanding of current practice and views, iSamples has developed a stakeholder survey for academics, government workers, museums, data repositories, and others who work with samples.

If you want to review the survey, it can be taken at the following URL and your responses will be included in the data: <http://maps.waymarksystems.org/s3/iSamples-Stakeholder-Survey-2014-consent>
Participation is voluntary and confidential -- no individual identifying information will be reported.

If you just want to see what questions are being asked without actually taking the survey, [Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld](#) or [Mike Haberman](#) can arrange for your doing so without the results being recorded.

8) UPCOMING AGU MEETINGS

The 2015 Joint Assembly will be held 3-7 May 2015 in Montréal, Canada. Cosponsored by AGU, the Canadian Geophysical Union, the Geological Association of Canada, and the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Joint Assembly will consist of a diverse program covering topics in all areas of the geophysical sciences. There will be several Planetary Science sessions during the week.

It's not too soon to start thinking about the [Fall Meeting 2015](#)! Below are some important dates for session proposals and abstracts:

Session Proposal Submissions: 22 April

Abstract Submissions: 5 August

Fall Meeting: 14-18 December

9) CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 11TH IAA LOW-COST PLANETARY MISSIONS

CONFERENCE, LCPM-11, JUNE 9-11, 2015, BERLIN, GERMANY.

The organizers of LCPM-11 call your attention to a key date: Abstract submittal deadline is March 2, 2015. Please see the URL below for details.

<http://www.dlr.de/pf/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-9912/>

Also, please note that NASA employees and contractors must enter their forecast into the NASA Conference Tracking System as soon as possible.

Keep abreast of the latest AGU PS updates at the following websites: <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 [Barbara Cohen](#) 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, [Barbara Cohen](#) (Barbara.a.cohen@nasa.gov).