



## Planetary Sciences Section Newsletter: November 2016

Dear Colleagues,

In this newsletter:

1. Welcome incoming AGU officers!
2. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Program
3. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Planetary Science Section Events
4. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Planetary Science Student Events
5. 2016 Pierazzo International Student Travel Award
6. *Geosciences* Travel Award for Postdocs and Ph.D. Students
7. Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop

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### 1. Welcome incoming AGU officers!

The Governance Committee is pleased to announce the results of the 2016 AGU Election. Newly elected leaders begin their term on 1 January 2017 and serve a 2-year term. Please join us in congratulating them!

President: Sarah T. Stewart  
President-elect: Rosaly M. C. Lopes  
Secretary: Michael Mischna

The full roster of AGU and section officers can be found at <https://elections.agu.org/>.

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### 2. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Program

We have an exciting program this year with over 900 abstracts submitted in planetary science. We thank all of you who are convening and chairing sessions at the Fall Meeting and look forward to seeing all the presenters!

We have created a two-page PDF file listing all the Planetary Science Section sponsored and cross-listed sessions and activities that you can download from the Meetings tab on our website at <http://planets.agu.org/meetings.php>.

You can also search the Program online and create a customized schedule at <https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm16/meetingapp.cgi>.

There will be a rich virtual presence for us in the Planetary Discovery track of AGU On-Demand, starting with the AGU Public Lecture on Sunday, 11 December, 12:00–1:00 p.m., “How Do We Choose a Landing Site on Mars?” by Dr. Michael Meyer, Dr. Bethany Ehlmann, and Alex Longo. AGU On-Demand provides you with free global access—either live-streamed or on-demand viewing—to breakthrough research and prestigious presentations taking place during Fall Meeting. Log in or

register for AGU On-Demand for more information on each channel at <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/virtual-options/>

AGU meetings, open to AGU members and those interested in the geosciences, are among the most respected scientific meetings in the Earth and space science community. AGU is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AGU staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, AGU staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by the AGU Meetings Code of Conduct. This code of conduct applies to all AGU meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than AGU but held in conjunction with AGU events, in public or private facilities. More information on the AGU Meetings Code of Conduct can be found at <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/agu-meetings-code-of-conduct/>.

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### 3. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Planetary Science Section Events

The NASA Planetary Science Division will hold a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday at lunchtime, with plenty of time for discussion.

Our award and named lectures will be as follows:

- Shoemaker Lecture (Monday): Meenakshi Wadhwa, Arizona State University, “To See a World in a Grain of Sand: Insights into Solar System Formation and Evolution from Isotopic Analyses of Planetary Materials”
- Whipple Lecture (Monday): John Spencer, Southwest Research Institute, “Serendipity in the Outer Solar System”
- Sagan Lecture (Wednesday): Nathalie Cabrol, SETI Institute, “The Co-evolution of Life and Environment, and the Astrobiological Quest”

When you register for the meeting, please also buy your ticket for the Planetary Sciences Section Reception and Business Meeting, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Paragon Restaurant. If you have already registered, you can log back in to your registration and add a ticket. Your ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar for the first hour—and a celebration for the 25th anniversary of *JGR Planets*!

Please also consider helping with Outstanding Student Paper Award (OSPA) evaluations! OSPA coordinators will be contacting you to help evaluate students. Please take the time to help with this important feedback for our young scientists! You can volunteer by emailing Nathan Bridges ([Nathan.Bridges@jhuapl.edu](mailto:Nathan.Bridges@jhuapl.edu)) or OSPA directly at [ospa@agu.org](mailto:ospa@agu.org). More information at <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/students/outstanding-student-paper-award/ospa-judge-information/>.

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### 4. AGU 2016 Fall Meeting Planetary Science Student Events

AGU will host the third annual Student and Early Career Scientist Conference, which will be held the day before the Fall Meeting begins. The conference will provide opportunities for networking and workshops on sharpening your career skills. This is a ticketed event, so prospective attendees must purchase a ticket when registering for Fall Meeting. More information can be found at <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/students/events/student-early-career-scientist-conference/>

The annual Planetary Sciences/Space Physics and Aeronomy Career Night Mixer will be held on Sunday, 11 December, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, Salons 5–6.

This event is open to all students, and no ticket is needed. Join notable scientists in planetary science and space physics at this mixer, and find out about their careers in a variety of professional backgrounds (e.g., academics, industry, federal labs). Get a better understanding of what kinds of careers are available in planetary science and space physics and how to pursue them.

New this year, Planetary Sciences is jointly sponsoring a Student Mixer with the Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology Section (VGP) on Monday, 12 December 2016, 12:30–1:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, Sierra B. This event is open to all students, and no ticket is needed. Meet other young scientists in VGP and Planetary Science, get more details on the talks crucial to your research, and start building relationships with future collaborators.

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## **5. 2016 Pierazzo International Student Travel Award**

Application deadline: 9:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, 30 November 2016

This award was established by the Planetary Science Institute in memory of senior scientist Betty Pierazzo to support and encourage graduate students to build international collaborations and relationships in planetary science. Two awards will be made each year, contingent upon there being meritorious applications. One will be awarded to a graduate student working on his or her Ph.D. at an institution within the United States. This is to support travel to a planetary science–related meeting (conferences and workshops) outside of the United States. The second award will be to a graduate student working on his or her Ph.D. at an institution outside of the United States. This is to support travel to a planetary science–related meeting within the United States. Eligible meetings include general meetings that have planetary-focused sessions such as the AGU, Geological Society of America, European Geosciences Union, and International Association of Geomorphologists annual meetings.

The award will consist of a certificate and up to US\$2000. Awards will be announced on or before 9 December 2016. Additional information and application materials are available at <http://www.psi.edu/pista>.

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## **6. Geosciences Travel Award for Postdocs and Ph.D. Students**

The *Geosciences* editorial office invites applications for one travel award for postdoctoral students and Ph.D. students to attend a conference of their choice in 2017. The award will consist of 800 Swiss francs.

Please send your applications to [geosciences@mdpi.com](mailto:geosciences@mdpi.com) by 31 January 2017. The winners will be announced by 31 March 2017.

More information may be found at <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/geosciences/awards.pdf>.

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## **7. Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop**

The Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS), a NASA research coordination network dedicated to the study of planetary habitability, is pleased to announce a 5-day conference on "Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop" from 13 to 17 November 2017 in Laramie, Wyoming. The field of exoplanets is currently at the cusp of a watershed moment in finding life on other worlds, propelled by the discoveries of habitable zone terrestrial planets in both ground- and space-based surveys and the potential for future telescopes to characterize the atmospheres of some of these rocky planets.

Preparing for such a singular moment needs a diverse community, including Earth scientists, heliophysicists, planetary scientists, and astrophysicists.

For future details on the meeting, please sign up to our conference mailing list at <https://nexss.info/community/workshops/habitable-worlds-2017>. Any questions may be directed to [HabWorlds17@gmail.com](mailto:HabWorlds17@gmail.com).

[AGU Planetary Sciences Facebook page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences Twitter page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences LinkedIn page](#)

To submit future newsletter items, please contact the section secretary, [Barbara Cohen](#).

Best Regards to All,

Sarah Stewart  
President, Planetary Sciences Section, AGU