



Planetary Sciences

## May 2017 Newsletter

### Upcoming Deadlines & Events:

#### May Deadlines

- May 8: JpGU-AGU Joint Meeting early registration deadline
- May 8: EPSC 2017 abstract submission deadline (1300 CEST)
- May 15: 1<sup>st</sup> IUGG Symposium on Planetary Science abstract deadline
- May 21: Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems application deadline
- May 26: 12<sup>th</sup> Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference abstract deadline (1700 PDT)

#### Upcoming Events

- May 9-11: [Venus Modeling Workshop](#), Cleveland, OH
- May 15-19: [International Conference on Mars Aeronomy](#), Boulder, CO
- May 16-19: [5<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop](#), St. George, UT
- May 20-25: [Japan Geoscience Union-American Geophysical Union \(JpGU-AGU\) Joint Meeting](#), Chiba City, Japan
- June 12-15: [3<sup>rd</sup> Planetary Data Workshop](#), Flagstaff, AZ
- June 13-15: [Dust in the Atmosphere of Mars and its Impact on Human Exploration](#), Houston, TX
- June 13-15: [Small Bodies Assessment Group \(SBAG\) Meeting](#), Greenbelt, MD
- June 18-23: [Gordon Research Conference on the Origins of Solar Systems](#), South Hadley, MA
- July 3-5: [1<sup>st</sup> IUGG Symposium on Planetary Science](#), Berlin, Germany
- July 23-28: [80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society](#), Santa Fe, NM

- August 6-11: [14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society](#), Singapore
- August 15-17: [12<sup>th</sup> Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference](#), Pasadena, CA
- September 17-22: [European Planetary Science Congress 2017](#), Riga, Latvia

### Executive Announcements:

- The updated AGU [Section and Focus Guidebooks](#) are now available! These guidebooks provide detailed information on membership statistics, AGU staff and affiliate role responsibilities, committee information, calendars, various program policies and more. Be sure to visit the resources sidebar on the (section/focus group name) website to read more.
- AGU has published [Earth and Space Science is Essential to Society](#), a special collection of commentaries from AGU journals. This anthology explains the relevance of geoscientific research for the and the societal benefits of research through a compilation of collection, featuring 25 essays from notable scientists highlighting the important role Earth and space science research plays in society. They discuss the critical role of research, the growing importance of data and the increasing globalization of the scientific enterprise. Together, they highlight how Earth and space science research can help grow our economy and enable our society to thrive.
- The newly launched AGU Webinars channel is a great informational source for the Earth and space sciences. Each week will feature guest speakers from the Earth and space science community presenting topics important to you! Tune in Thursdays at 2 p.m. ET. and visit [webinars.agu.org](http://webinars.agu.org) for the schedule of upcoming webinars and to watch past webinars.
- AGU has released a new position statement, "[The Responsibilities and Rights of Scientists](#)." The statement charges all scientists with three key responsibilities: demonstrating excellence in research conduct; adhering to the highest professional ethics and integrity; and supporting a diverse, inclusive environment. In turn, all scientists have the right to conduct science without fear of retaliation; to collaborate with others independent of political opinion or affiliation; and to freely and openly communicate their findings, protect data, and respond to inaccurate portrayals or usage of science. The statement asserts that "the free, open, and responsible practice of science is fundamental to scientific advancement for both human and environmental well-being." This new position statement was adopted by AGU's Board and Council on April 13, 2017.

## Planetary Science Notices

- In Memoriam: Nathan Bridges (1966-2017)

Dr. Nathan T. Bridges passed away unexpectedly on April 26, 2017. Nathan studied planetary surface processes, focusing on aeolian particle transport on Mars, Earth and Titan.

Nathan was an alumnus of the University of Massachusetts and was jointly a research scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and Associate Research Professor of Earth and Planetary Science at Johns Hopkins. Prior to his time at APL, Nathan was a scientist with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

His studies into aeolian and surface processes led him to fruitful investigations on a number of Mars missions, including as co-I on the MRO HiRISE camera, the ChemCam instrument on MSL and the MEDA environmental station on the upcoming Mars 2020 rover, among others.

Nathan was committed to service within our AGU Planetary Science section, and was the current Planetary Science editorial advisory board member for *Eos*. In recent years, he also served as Secretary (2013-2014) and President-Elect (2015-2016) of our section.

To those of us who knew Nathan personally, his loss is a profound shock; he was a wonderful friend, mentor and colleague to all. His friendship and camaraderie made it a joy to work with him—he truly saw science as a collaborative, rather than competitive, effort. He will be dearly missed by friends and colleagues across the world.

You can read a tribute to Nathan on [The Planetary Society](#) or write condolences on his [Legacy](#) page.

- The [Cassini Grand Finale](#) is underway! In a little over four months (September 15, 2017), Cassini will end her record-breaking, 20-year survey of the Ringed Planet. Beginning on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cassini is doing a series of 22 orbits between Saturn's rings and atmosphere, exploring a region heretofore unobserved. On the final orbit, Cassini will plunge into Saturn's atmosphere, sending back new and unique science to the very end. After losing contact with Earth, the spacecraft will burn up like a meteor, becoming part of the planet itself.

## FYIs

- With a membership of over 6500 planetary scientists worldwide, your announcements and notices in the AGU Planetary Sciences newsletter will reach a wide range of professionals and students in precisely the areas in which you should advertise. If you have any job postings, conference announcements or other planetary-related material, please send it to [michael.a.mischna@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:michael.a.mischna@jpl.nasa.gov) to be included in a future newsletter.