



Planetary Sciences

June 2017 Newsletter

Upcoming Deadlines & Events:

June/July Deadlines

- June 15: Registration deadline, Accretion: Building New Worlds Conference
- June 21: Early registration closes, 12th Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference
- June 23: Early registration closes, 80th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society
- July 7: Domestic registration closes, NASA Exploration Science Forum
- July 18: Abstract submission deadline, 4th International Conference on Early Mars
- July 26: Abstract submission deadline, 49th Annual DPS Meeting

Upcoming Conferences

- June 12-15: [3rd 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: [1st IUGG Symposium on Planetary Science](#), Berlin, Germany
- July 18-20: [NASA Exploration Science Forum \(NESF\)](#), Moffett, Field, CA
- July 23-28: [80th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society](#), Santa Fe, NM
- August 6-11: [14th Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society](#), Singapore
- August 15-17: [12th Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference](#), Pasadena, CA

- August 15-18: [Accretion: Building New Worlds Conference](#), Houston, TX
- September 17-22: [European Planetary Science Congress 2017](#), Riga, Latvia
- October 2-6: [4th International Conference on Early Mars](#), Flagstaff, AZ
- October 10-12: [Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group \(LEAG\)](#), Columbia, MD
- October 15-20: [49th Annual DPS Meeting](#), Provo, UT
- October 22-25: [2017 GSA Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA

Upcoming AGU Events

- June 15: Fall Meeting abstract submissions and Student travel grant applications website opens
- June 15: AGU Council Meeting
- June 30: AGU Section and Focus Group Honor Recipients Announced

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.
- 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 and the societal benefits of research through a compilation, 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 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: MICHAEL A’HEARN (1940-2017)

Dr. Michael F. A’Hearn passed away on May 29, 2017 at his home in University Park, MD at the age of 76. His research emphasized the observation and study of comets,

Michael was an alumnus of Boston College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a Distinguished Professor of Astronomy Emeritus and Research Professor at the University of Maryland, where he served continuously since graduating UW in 1966. His earliest studies involved molecular densities in comets and polarization within the interstellar medium, and he was actively researching up until the present, most recently on results from the Rosetta spacecraft around Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

He served as PI of the Deep Impact mission to study the interior of comet Tempel 1 and the extended mission, EPOXI to comet Hartley 2. Results from this extremely successful mission refined our understanding of the composition and structure of comets.

Michael served as the PI for the Small Bodies Node of NASA’s Planetary Data System until his death, archiving, cataloging and distributing scientific data sets relevant to asteroids, comets and interplanetary dust.

Mike was instrumental in mentoring the careers of many planetary scientists, and has left behind a legacy of compassion, curiosity and keen scientific insight. He will be dearly missed.

Tributes:

<http://www.planetary.org/blogs/guest-blogs/2017/0607-remembering-michael-ahearn.html>

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?fhid=6151&n=michael-ahearn&pid=185660344>

- NASA POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

The NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) provides early-career and more senior scientists the opportunity to share in NASA’s mission, to reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind.

NASA Postdoctoral Fellows work on 1 to 3 year assignments with NASA scientists and engineers at NASA centers and institutes to advance NASA’s missions in earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics, space bioscience, aeronautics,

engineering, human exploration and space operations, astrobiology, and science management.

NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellows contribute to our national scientific exploration, confirm NASA's leadership in fundamental research, and complement the efforts of NASA's partners in the national science community.

The current proposal cycle deadline is July 1 at 6:00 pm EDT. For more information, please visit <http://npp.usra.edu>

- CALL FOR EXTERNAL REVIEWERS, NASA POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM

Reviewers are sought for the NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) managed by USRA. USRA is recruiting well-qualified reviewers for upcoming applications.

Reviewers may be asked to review up to 5 applications (each application is 15 pages, including figures and citations; double-spaced). Proposal deadlines are March 1, July 1, and November 1. The reviewer evaluations are submitted online and those who are eligible will receive an honorarium of \$50 for each review submitted.

Reviewers should have the following minimum qualifications: three (3) years past PhD; 10 or more peer-reviewed publications; at least five (5) peer-reviewed publications as first author; work in a field relevant to NASA; and show national and international prominence through awards and invitations to speak at major scientific meetings.

If you are interested in being a reviewer, and create an account, visit:

https://npp.usra.edu/reviewer_connect/

For additional questions email nppreviews@usra.edu.

- EUROPA LANDER INSTRUMENT INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

This community announcement is an advance notice of NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) plan to release a Program Element Appendix (PEA) for the Third Stand Alone Missions of Opportunity Notice (SALMON-2) for instrument investigations for a Europa lander mission. This opportunity will solicit proposals describing the full lifecycle development and operation of instrument investigations. Proposed investigations will be evaluated and selected through a two-step competitive process, with approximately 10 proposals selected for Step 2. The Step 2 Phase A Concept Study will be capped at approximately twelve months and a \$1.5M (FY2018) budget per investigation. At the conclusion of these studies, NASA may downselect some concept studies to complete Phase A and subsequent mission phases.

Additional information may be found at <http://europalander.larc.nasa.gov/>

- JPGU-AGU JOINT MEETING REPORT: OUTER SOLAR SYTEM EXPLORATION TODAY, AND TOMORROW

There was a successful outer planet exploration session at the joint JpGU (Japan Geoscience Union)-AGU meeting in Makuhari, Japan last month.

The session was led by Jun Kimura, and co-convened by Yasumasa Kasaba, Steve Vance, and myself.

You can see our session's description and abstracts for the oral presentations in the first morning session:

https://confit.atlas.jp/guide/event/jpguagu2017/session/PPS01_23AM1/class

Second morning session:

https://confit.atlas.jp/guide/event/jpguagu2017/session/PPS01_23AM2/class

Afternoon session:

https://confit.atlas.jp/guide/event/jpguagu2017/session/PPS01_23PM1/class

And posters:

https://confit.atlas.jp/guide/event/jpguagu2017/session/PPS01_23PO1/class

Of course, there were other successful sessions well-attended by AGU members as well:

<https://confit.atlas.jp/guide/event/jpguagu2017/sessions/class/PPS?page=1&type=1>

It was the first time a JpGU meeting was jointly held with AGU. There were quite a few prominent AGU members who traveled from the US to attend the meeting and present their research in our session. We would like to advocate for AGU to continue their support for future JpGU meetings.

Sincerely,

Kunio Sayanagi

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 to be included in a future newsletter.