

AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #44
April, 2012

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1) Letter from the Section President

Thanks to all of you who are mobilizing to help save Planetary Science by fighting the proposed cuts to NASA's Planetary Science budget. Congressional staffers assure us that they are doing everything they can to help our cause. So, stay tuned and let's see if our action has an impact. The next steps will be to see how the Planetary budget fares in the House and Senate mark-up, and in late-breaking news, the Senate markup happened Tuesday, and they added back \$100M of the Planetary Science cut. Let's see what the House does. At that point it may be necessary to gear up again, and we may look at a dedicated Congressional Visits Day with DPS. So, stay tuned for more details on that. And if any staffers are reading this, THANKS for your support of discovery and exploration that can change that way we see ourselves in the cosmos! Thanks for enabling the next transformational discoveries!

In the meantime, Planetary Science goes on! Make sure you submit your special session to AGU (through the [2012 Fall Meeting Web site](#)) by THIS FRIDAY.

The other thing that goes on is the rise of excellent young Planetary Scientists. In order to recognize the accomplishments and promise of the rising stars of our community, while honoring the memory of a prolific mentor, I am very pleased to announce a new section award: the **Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science**. The Award honors Ronald Greeley, our beloved colleague and active planetary scientist who passed away in late 2011. Ron mentored or influenced a large fraction of the planetary scientists working today, and we feel it is a fitting way to honor his legacy to name this early career award for him. Please see below for information on eligibility and nomination submission. Now is the time to nominate for this and our other section award, the Whipple Award – please nominate a deserving colleague!

All the best for a productive, discovery-filled spring!

—Laurie Leshin
President, Planetary Sciences Section

2) Nominate your colleagues for AGU Awards: 15 July

Two of the major planetary section awards, the Whipple and the brand-new Greeley award, have nomination deadlines of 15 July. *Please think about your colleagues and consider nominating!*

The [Whipple Award](#) was established in 1989 to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of planetary science. The award is named after Fred Whipple, a gifted astronomer most noted for his work on comets. Whipple was an AGU Fellow elected in 1962 and the Section's first Whipple Award honoree in 1990. Whipple passed away in 2004. [Past awardees](#) have spanned the breadth and depth of the planetary sciences section.

The new [Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science](#) is being awarded in 2012 for the first time. Nominees must be a member or affiliate of the Planetary Sciences Section of AGU and must be within 6 years of receiving their Ph.D. on the first day of the year in which the award is to be made (e.g. on or after 1 January 2006 for the 2012 award.) Parental leave, if provided by the candidate's institution and taken by the nominee during this 6-year period, can extend the six-year period.

Nomination packages must be received by the deadline. Packages should include a current CV and publications list for the nominee, and a nomination letter outlining the candidate's significant contributions. The nomination should be accompanied by three to six supporting letters from members of the section.

To send nomination packages, or for more information:

[Phil Christensen](#)

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Deadline: 15 July 2012

3) Planning your James Webb Space Telescope Solar System Observations

Workshop at the Division of Planetary Science of the AAS (DPS) Meeting, 14–19 October 2012, in Reno, Nevada

The James Webb Space Telescope is an infrared-optimized space facility scheduled for launch in 2018. Moving target (non-sidereal) tracking is a "Level1" requirement for JWST, and has been implemented.

At the DPS meeting, JWST team members will host a workshop specifically tailored for solar system observers. The workshop will start with an overview of the capabilities of the observatory and its science instruments. Workshop attendees will also learn about the representative science observing cases for solar system objects developed for the JWST Science Operations 'Design Reference Mission.' JWST team members will be available to answer your specific questions regarding special use cases for solar system requirements, in particular observational issues and approaches. A white paper about JWST planetary observations - to be revised after this workshop - can be downloaded [here](#).

As the DPS meeting draws closer, more details about the workshop will be available on the [JWST Team Web page](#).

4) Winning Student Presentations at Fall AGU 2011

Many congratulations to our planetary science outstanding student paper award winners!

Gina DiBraccio, University of Michigan/NASA
Mark Salvatore, Brown University
Sarah Crites, University of Hawaii
Charles Miller, New Mexico State University

5) Date Changes for Fall AGU 2012

The dates for the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting have been changed to **Monday, 3 December 3–Friday, 7 December**, with pre-meeting events and workshops scheduled for Sunday, 2 December. Previously published deadlines will not change. The **deadline for session proposals will remain 20 April**; abstract and town hall submissions will open on 12 June and will close on 8 August; and registration and housing will open on 12 July.

Due to a change in the Moscone Center schedule, AGU was able to change the meeting dates for 2012. The new dates will allow the meeting to return to its traditional Monday–Friday schedule, and will help to address peak travel day concerns, and other expense and scheduling issues for attendees. Visit the [AGU 2012 Fall Meeting Web site](#) for more information.

6) Last Call for Abstracts for [Planetary Data Workshop](#)

Last Call for Abstracts Planetary Data: A Workshop for Users and Software Developers, Flagstaff, AZ (USA), 25–29 June 2012

We are pleased to announce [Planetary Data: A Workshop for Users and Software Developers](#) to be held 25–29 June 2012, at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona. The meeting facility is at the du Bois Conference Center on the NAU campus. The two content tracks will share a common day on Wednesday to hold talks of overlapping interest. One or both tracks can be attended and there is no registration fee for either. Abstract submissions for presentations and/or posters are due by **30 April 2012**.

Planetary Data Users Track

- * Share information on digital planetary data, including availability, access and analysis methods.
- * Present how-to guides for locating, acquiring, processing and working with digital planetary data.

Planetary Software Developers Track

- * Bring researchers and technology experts together to discuss and exchange ideas to identify difficult planetary research issues that can be addressed by software development.
- * Present planetary data processing and software development methods and techniques.
- * If you **cannot attend**, we would like to invite you to share your thoughts on needed software technologies for the planetary community (5-10min survey).

The *Planetary Data User* track is sponsored by the NASA Planetary Data System, the Planetary Geology and Geophysics Program, and the Regional Image Facility network. The *Planetary Software Developers* track is sponsored by the NASA PG&G Cartography Program.

Schedule

30 April 2012	Deadline for Abstract Submission (for presentation or poster)
15 June 2012	Registration Deadline (if not submitting an abstract).
25–29 June 2012	Workshop: Data Users (25-27 June), Software Developers (June 27-29)

For future newsletter items please contact:
Section Secretary [Lindy Elkins-Tanton](#).
