
**AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #46
October, 2012**

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1) Letter from the Section President

It's been an exciting time in Planetary Science since our last Newsletter – the most visible event is that the Curiosity Rover successfully landed on Mars! We are now roving the Red Planet with the most capable machine ever sent there, and by Fall Meeting I'm sure we will all witness the presentation of exciting results (in our Union Session on Monday afternoon!). In this Newsletter, our planned schedule of sessions and activities for Fall Meeting is included. There are a few things I'd like to highlight.

First, we will be presenting our inaugural Ronald Greeley Early Career Award on Wednesday afternoon – and I am pleased to announce that the winner is Dr. Alex Hayes, currently of the University of California at Berkeley (and soon to assume a faculty position at Cornell University). Alex has made important contributions both to studies of Titan and Mars, and his nominator and supporters made a strong case both for the impact of his current research and his strong future promise. Congratulations Alex!

On Wednesday afternoon we will also hear the Shoemaker Lecture from Maria Zuber (MIT) and present the Whipple Award to Steve Squyres of Cornell and hear a lecture from him. Congratulations, Maria and Steve!. It should be an exciting afternoon, so please reserve it now on your schedule!

In terms of Planetary Sessions, we received an impressive 827 abstracts! These have been scheduled into more than 40 oral sessions and more than 30 poster sessions. A special thanks to Jörn Helbert and Nathan Bridges for Program Committee duties this year!

As for other events at Fall Meeting, our Planetary Science Reception is always a fun social event. It is scheduled for Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 PM at Seller's Market, the same place as last year. This event does tend to sell out, so get your tickets soon (when you register for the meeting). And, for all you students, we will be having our 3rd Annual Joint P/SPA Student Mixer Sunday evening from 7-9 PM at the Marriott Marquis.

A couple of closing thoughts – thanks to all of you who have responded to our calls for action to try to Save Planetary Science from current and future budget cuts. I know our work has made an impact in Congress, and I hope we can have the same effect on the

NASA FY2014 budget request. If you haven't yet sent in your letter of support, please go to our website at

<http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/planetarybudget.php>

and follow the instructions there. Even our overseas colleagues should feel free to send in letters of support!

Finally, it is AGU election season – you should have received an email with instructions about voting. Make your voice heard – vote before Oct. 4!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Meeting!

Laurie Leshin
P Section President

2) Fall meeting planetary schedule

The AGU 2012 [Fall Meeting planetary schedule](#) is now available.

For future newsletter items please contact:
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