



**American Geophysical Union
Planetary Sciences Section (PS)**

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Regards,

Lindy T. Elkins-Tanton
AGU Section President, Planetary Sciences

1. AGU Planetary Science Website

Our new section website is now live! We completed a site-wide redesign integrating updated web standards. Explore our Website at <http://planets.agu.org/> where you can learn about the researchers behind the science by reading some recent articles, get details about upcoming meetings, browse job opportunities, learn about opportunities for student involvement, and get social by connecting with us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

2. AGU Fall Meeting update:

We are already planning for the AGU Fall Meeting (14 – 18 December) in the Moscone Center, San Francisco. Thank you to those who submitted special session ideas for the Planetary section – we will be reviewing them in May. Abstract Submissions will be open from 10 June – 5 August.

When planning for AGU, consider arriving in San Francisco a couple of days early to participate in the 2015 AGU Fall Meeting Student and Early Career Scientist Conference, which will again be taking place on the Sunday just prior to the start of AGU. Last year's inaugural event was a huge success, with over 100 students participating. The day consisted of a General Track (career workshops) and a Hydrology Track (social and scientific program), followed by a social at the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company, and was organized by AGU staff with the help of a group of students from the Hydrology Focus group to propose sessions, invite speakers, and design the Hydrology Track Program. The 2015 AGU Fall Meeting Student and Early Career Scientist Conference will also consist of a general track and an interdisciplinary science-specific track. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact [Alex Morgan](#).

3. Budget and Advocacy Update

The PS Section by and large remains pleased with the President's FY2016 NASA budget request, as discussed in our February newsletter. After many years of uncertainty and limited budgets, it is encouraging to see a Europa Clipper new start, increased cadences of Discovery and New Frontiers missions, and an uptick in Research and Analysis funding. There are, however, two cuts in the budget for which this section is highly concerned: The zeroing out (i.e., cancellation) of the highly successful and very productive Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity and Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Whether Congress will reverse these cuts is uncertain, but the PS Sections stands on record as supporting continued funding for Opportunity and LRO. If our fellow members share this sentiment, we urge you to contact your Congressional representatives to the extent allowed by your employer, or as a private citizen. Nathan Bridges (PS Advocacy Representative)

Several students from the Planetary Sciences section took part in a legislative blitz (over 150 meetings with Congressional offices) organized by Space Exploration Alliance (a collaboration of ten societies including the Planetary Society and the Mars Society) to advocate for continued funding and support for NASA. They found members of Congress to be very responsive to students and generally excited about research being done in planetary science, and we encourage other students to consider taking part in similar advocacy events in the future For more details, please contact [Alex Morgan](#).

4. Arxiv, Astro-ph, and new open access policies for AGU journals

Over the past year AGU Publications policies have been updated to provide even wider dissemination of our scientific work. In late spring of 2014 all AGU journals, including JGR Planets, JGR Space Physics, GRL, etc., made all papers published from 1997 through 24 months ago open access. Any new paper in an AGU journal will be freely available for everyone 2 years after it is published – or sooner if an author takes advantage of the full open access option. Also, AGU revised its [Dual and Prior Publication Policy](#) to permit postings to non-profit sharing sites such as Arxiv and Astro-ph. Use of these sites is common in planetary science and now papers in AGU journals can be posted there too.

5. Research Spotlights from AGU journals in Eos

Research Spotlights are articles in Eos and on [Eos.org](#) highlighting recent papers in AGU's scientific journals, as selected by the Editors of those journals, which are of broad interest to the community and the general public. Recent highlights include the [source of hydrocarbons in Titan's upper atmosphere](#), [indications of pyroclastic activity on Mars](#), and [electrical currents flowing through Mercury's crust](#). A feature article that also was on the cover of a recent issue of Eos focused on [human and robotic missions to the Moon](#).

6. Call for Papers: MSL (Curiosity) Rover at the Kimberley, Gale Crater

JGR Planets announces a Call for Papers for a Special Section on "[The Mars Science Laboratory Rover Mission \(Curiosity\) at The Kimberley, Gale Crater, Mars](#)."

Studies that examine results from Curiosity's campaign at the Kimberley (sols 500-650), and/or observations from larger regional context of the Kimberley region that contribute to an integrated story of the depositional environment, geochemistry and mineralogy of the Kimberley sedimentary rocks are invited for this special section.

7. Fact Sheet - Connecting Physics Students to Career Opportunities

The AIP's Statistical Research Center has posted a [new report](#): This report is a guide created by the Career Pathways Project (CPP) and is designed to enhance the work being done by career services professionals with physics undergraduates and physics faculty members. This document provides tips on resume writing, identifies some of the skills developed during the typical undergraduate physics experience, lists common job titles held by recent physics bachelor's degree recipients, and offers suggestions for effective career advising of physics undergraduates. The CPP was a collaboration of the Education Division and the Statistical Research Center, both of the American Institute of Physics. The Career Pathways Project was supported by the National Science Foundation.

8. THE FORUM FOR NEW LEADERS IN SPACE SCIENCE

The Space Studies Board of U.S. National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council and the National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences invite applications for the 2015-16 Forum for New Leaders in Space Science. The Forum's 2015-2016 session will provide opportunities for a highly select group of young Earth and planetary scientists from the United States and China to discuss their research activities in an intimate and collegial environment at meetings to be held in Shanghai, China (9-10 October, 2015) and Irvine, California (16-17 May, 2016). The application deadline is 29 May, 2015. Details can be found [online](#).

9. Charles A. Barth Memorial Symposium

15 May, 2015: 9:00 AM—5:30 PM MDT at CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), 3665 Discovery Drive, Boulder, CO

This symposium will include invited and contributed talks on topics to which Barth made significant contributions. Subjects include Earth and planetary atmospheres, UV spectroscopy, rocket studies, solar UV irradiance, nitric oxide, mission operations, student and PI-led missions. (Invited speakers: Scott Bailey, Phil Eberspecker, Paul Feldman, Bill Possel, Gary Rottman, Kent Tobiska.) Given Barth's long commitment to education, we also solicit talks and posters from current students, former Barth students, and students of his former students. The symposium will close with a dinner and presentation of the first Barth Scholarship recipient. More information and registration, please visit the [Charles A. Barth Memorial Symposium webpage](#).

Keep abreast of the latest AGU PS updates at the following websites: <http://planets.agu.org/> (for job advertisements, click on Jobs in the Menu bar; if you are interested in posting a job ad, please contact [Barbara Cohen](#) and [Mark Hilverda](#)).

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For future newsletter items please contact the Section Secretary, [Barbara Cohen](#).