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**AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #43  
February, 2012**

- 1) Planetary Origins and Frontiers of Exploration Workshop
- 2) Planetary Data: A Workshop for Users and Software Developers
- 3) Nominate your colleagues for AGU Medals and Awards: March 16
- 4) Submit session proposals for Fall AGU 2012

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**1) Planetary Origins and Frontiers of Exploration Workshop**

We are excited to announce a workshop on Planetary Origins and Frontiers of Exploration to be held *May 27 - June 3, 2012* at the *Weizmann Institute of Science* in Israel.

The theme was chosen to bring together experts in aspects of planetary formation, solar system evolution, and interpretation of exoplanetary discoveries. We plan to organize keynote talks around five topics: Solar system formation, Gas giants formation and interiors, Moons and icy objects as keystones, Exoplanets, and Extreme environments. We plan afternoon trips to Tel Aviv and the Old City in Jerusalem, and a weekend field trip to the Dead Sea, Masada, Ramon Crater, with return to Tel Aviv area on June 3. The cultural, historic, geologic and geo-biological excursion promises to be stimulating.

We have identified keynote speakers and discussion leaders; our panels will include both junior and senior colleagues, and expected to include (so far) David Stevenson, Bob Pappalardo, Lindy Elkins Tanton, Kaveh Pahlevan, Jerry Schubert, Mark Wieczorek, Kevin Walsh, Athena Coustenis, Kevin Hand, Adam Showman, Heike Rauer, Doris Breuer, Yohai Kaspi, Itay Halevy, Ravit Helled, Frances Westall, Aharon Oren, Tsvi Mazeh, Re'em Sari, Julie Castillo, Tilman Spohn, and Oded Aharonson.

The format is inspired by Gordon Research Conferences, with full-length talks followed by substantial time for discussion in the mornings, and shorter presentations in the afternoon. Please consider contributing a presentation on topics relatable to planetary origins, not necessarily from the list of five above.

Some funding is available to support local accommodation, food, and travel expenditures in Israel, the level will depend upon the total number of participants. Student participants may be considered for additional support. We welcome broad attendance.

Our approximate agenda is as follows, but will adjust on the basis of contributions:

**Sunday May 27:** Afternoon: Welcome reception

**Monday May 28:** Morning: Solar System formation Afternoon: Contributed talks

**Tuesday May 29:** Morning: Gas giants, formation and interiors Afternoon: Contributed talks Evening: Tel Aviv

**Wed. May 30:** Morning: Moons and icy objects as keystones Afternoon: Jerusalem

**Thursday May 31** Morning: Exoplanets Afternoon: Contributed talks

**Friday June 1:** Morning: Astrobiology and extreme environments Afternoon: Depart to field excursion to the South

**Saturday June 2:** Dead Sea, Masada, Ramon Crater

**Sunday June 3:** Return to Tel Aviv area.

If you plan to attend, please complete the registration form using the following link. If you wish to present a talk or a poster, please also include a short abstract.

<http://www.weizmann.ac.il/conferences/frontiers/>

We hope you can join us for this rare opportunity.

Oded Aharonson, Julie Castillo, and Tilman Spohn

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## 2) Planetary Data: A Workshop for Users and Software Developers

**Flagstaff, AZ (USA)**

**June 25-29, 2012**

**Abstracts due by April 30, 2012**

**Please visit <http://on.doi.gov/PlanetD> to view full announcement.**

We are pleased to announce Planetary Data: A Workshop for Users and Software Developers to be held June 25-29, 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 April 30, 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.

**Overview:** This workshop track will provide a forum for discussion of available planetary data, including a summary of how these data are located, downloaded, processed, and

used for cartography and scientific data analysis. Although a detailed agenda is not yet available, topics to be addressed may include: basic data search and retrieval tools (e.g., the Planetary Image Atlas, the Orbital Data Explorers, the Analysts Notebook, PILOT, etc.) for data from current planetary missions, summary of data processing and visualization tools (e.g., ISIS, JMARS/JMOON, Google Mars/Moon, ArcMap, etc.), and an introduction to PDS4 for users and data providers. Other potential agenda items can be found [here](#).

### **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.

**Overview:** To facilitate planetary research, differing techniques are used across the community to solve issues related to data access, calibration, processing, fusion, and the creation of derived scientific products. These individual products help scientists to portray morphologic, topographic, and spectral compositions but prove to be more valuable by bringing the observations into a common spatial and visualization system. The topics for this workshop track will heavily depend on community participation but will range from in-situ and orbital data integration, data processing, software development and methods, data interoperability, visualization techniques, high-speed and volume cluster processing, photogrammetry procedures and [more](#).

The *Planetary Data Userstrack* 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**

April 30, 2012	Deadline for <a href="#">Abstract Submission</a> (for presentation or poster)
June 15, 2012	<a href="#">Registration</a> Deadline (if not submitting an abstract).
June 25-29, 2012	<b>Workshop:</b> Data Users (June 25-27), Software Developers (June 27-29)

The primary points of contact for the workshop are Trent Hare ([thare@usgs.gov](mailto:thare@usgs.gov)) or Lisa Gaddis ([lgaddis@usgs.gov](mailto:lgaddis@usgs.gov))

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### **3) Nominate your colleagues for AGU Medals and Awards**

It's Awards season, and while they may not be honoring any of us at the Oscars, AGU Awards and Medals are even more important, and you don't have to deal with the pesky paparazzi! NOW is the time to organize nominations for Union-level Awards and

Medals – **nominations are due MARCH 16**. Planetary Science isn't always well represented in these Union-level Awards, so it would be great if folks could rally to make and support nominations. Awards where we might have great candidates include:

- Bowie Medal
- Macelwane Medal
- Fleming Medal
- Smith Medal
- Whitten Medal
- Hess Medal
- Flinn Award
- Spilhaus Award
- Excellence in Geophysics Education Award

More information on these awards and the process for nomination can be found at:

<http://sites.agu.org/honors>      There is a great FAQ page...

Also, if you want to discuss potential nominees, you can email any of the section officers (contact info here: <http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/about.php>).

Info about our Section awards will come in a later newsletter, as the deadlines are later.

Finally, AGU has changed the timeline for Fellows nominations – the 2012 Fellows have been announced (see above!), and nominations for 2013 will open next January. Since there are no Fellows nominations this year, let's focus on medals and awards!

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#### **4) Deadline for submitting session proposals for Fall AGU 2012**

Submit your proposals for sessions for Fall AGU 2012 during the period February 20 through April 20.

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For future newsletter items please contact:  
Section Secretary Lindy Elkins-Tanton, [ltelkins@dtm.ciw.edu](mailto:ltelkins@dtm.ciw.edu).

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