



Planetary Sciences Section Newsletter: March 2016

Dear Colleagues,

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Regards,

Sarah Stewart
AGU Section President, Planetary Sciences

1. Message from the President

2015 was a fantastic year for planetary science: New Horizons dazzled us all, and Mars continues to entice us with water. These stories, which headlined many lists for top science discoveries last year, exemplify the spirit of exploration that drives our field.

We also had also a good year for the NASA Planetary Science Division budget. Your efforts in contacting Congress and expressing strong support for the goals of the decadal survey paid off!

It is time to once again contact your congresspersons to support a strong NASA budget. You can read about the details of the 2017 NASA budget request at the Planetary Society and see how it compares with previous budgets. The bottom line is that we have work to do to keep the planetary budget from shrinking. Take a moment to send a note to your representatives.

Please also take a moment to consider nominating a colleague for a section award or AGU Fellowship. You may be surprised who you think is a Fellow but has not yet been nominated. Take a moment to review our current AGU Fellows.

Finally, I thank Lindy Elkins-Tanton for her bountiful service to our community and wish her well with the next phase of her Discovery proposal!

2. AGU Honors—Nominate a Deserving Colleague!

AGU Honors are now open. Nominations for Union Honors are due **15 March** (and **15 April** for

Section and Focus Group Awards and Lectures). Please consider nominating a deserving colleague. If you have suggestions for nominations but do not have the time to complete the nomination, please contact the secretary, Barbara Cohen, who will try to coordinate responses for all deserving colleagues. Prior winners are listed [online](#).

Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science

Established in 2012, the Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science is given annually to one honoree (no more than 6 years postdegree) in recognition of significant early career contributions to planetary science. This award is named in honor of AGU Fellow Ronald Greeley for his influential contributions made to training and mentoring planetary scientists.

Whipple Award

Established in 1989, the Whipple Award is given annually to one honoree in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of planetary science. This award is named in honor of AGU Fellow Fred Whipple, a gifted astronomer most noted for his work on comets. The Whipple Award includes an opportunity to present an invited lecture during the AGU Fall Meeting, held in San Francisco, Calif. The Whipple Lecture is webcast and made available as an archived presentation on the AGU website.

American Geophysical Union Fellows

This honor is given to individual AGU members who have made exceptional scientific contributions and attained acknowledged eminence in the fields of Earth and space sciences. Since the establishment of the AGU Fellows program in 1962 and in accordance with AGU bylaws, no more than 0.1% of the total membership of AGU is recognized annually. The current list of Fellows is [here](#).

Fellows nomination deadline is 15 March 2016. [Click here](#) for more information.

For more information about nominations for Planetary Sciences section awards, please visit our [webpage](#).

3. 2015 Fall Meeting—Report

Planetary Sciences had a very successful 2015 Fall Meeting thanks to all your support and research. We hope you enjoyed the program and activities.

If you weren't able to attend or missed sessions you were interested in, AGU On-Demand provides free access to recordings of selected sessions whenever you are ready to watch them. This is a great way to share our prize lectures with your class or colleagues. Tune into the [Planetary Discovery channel](#).

On-Demand sessions within the Planetary Sciences section include

P12A Results from the MAVEN Mission to Mars I

P14 Shoemaker & Whipple Lectures

P31F Carbon on Mars I

P32A Sagan Lecture

P33E The Rosetta Mission: Postperihelion II

P41E Exploring the Kuiper Belt: New Horizons Reaches the Pluto System I

U53A New Horizons at Pluto-Charon: Results from the First Months of Data Return

Congratulations to our Fall Meeting 2015 Outstanding Student Paper Award winners!

Kynan Hughson, University of California, Los Angeles, "Preliminary Geological Map of the Ac-H-5

Fejokoo Quadrangle of Ceres: An Integrated Mapping Study Using Dawn Spacecraft Data”

Lauren Jozwiak, Brown University, “Intrusive Magmatism and Explosive Volcanism on the Moon and Mercury: Insights from Floor-Fractured Craters”

Peter Gao, California Institute of Technology, “Frozen Fractals All Around: Aggregate Particles in the Plumes of Enceladus”

Madison Douglas, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Analysis of Volcanic Deposits on Venus Using Radar Polarimetry”

4. 2016 Fall Meeting—Submit Your Session Proposals!

Help make our next fall meeting a great one for Planetary Sciences by submitting a potential session! The [session proposal site](#) is now open!

Before submitting a session proposal, remember to:

- Read the guidelines to ensure that you have not missed important information that may hinder your submission
- Make sure that your 2016 AGU membership dues are up to date
- Search for and view session proposals submitted by your colleagues

The submission deadline is **20 April, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time**. Letters of notification will be distributed in June 2016.

5. 2017 and 2018 Fall Meetings—New Locations

2017: New Orleans, La.

2018: Washington, D.C.

In the fall of 2017 and 2018, construction associated with the renovation of the Moscone Center in San Francisco poses a significant risk to our ability to deliver a successful scientific program at the Fall Meeting, including potentially fewer sessions and lectures, and constraints around new formats and activities that are in development. Therefore, AGU set out to find acceptable alternative venues for these years. All members were invited to complete surveys to help AGU understand their needs and expectations. The priorities that emerged were space that supports the sharing of their science and attendees’ ability to make connections with one another, as well as convenience (e.g., hotel space, walkability, and public transit).

New Orleans has been selected as the location for 2017 and Washington, D.C., for 2018. Both venues were chosen because the meeting space is all under one roof, thus allowing us to support existing programming; pilot new models for presenting, engaging, and sharing scientific research and findings; and accommodate all of the planned and impromptu connections and meetings that occur each year. They also offer a great deal of convenience to our attendees (e.g., the number of hotel rooms within 1 mile). AGU is planning to return to San Francisco to celebrate our centennial in the new and improved Moscone Center in 2019.

6. Japan Geoscience Union Meeting

The 2016 Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU) Meeting will be held 22–26 May in Chiba, Japan. The 2016 JpGU Meeting is the beginning of a multiyear collaboration between AGU and JpGU and will feature 49 joint sessions (in English) between the two societies. This partnership offers a great opportunity to further advance the geosciences and foster participation and engagement more globally.

AGU members receive JpGU member registration rates. The Early Registration Deadline is 10 May 2016, 3:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. [Register here](#)

7. AGU Congressional Visits Day

AGU is now accepting applications for its second members-only Congressional Visits Day (AGU CVD), 20–21 April 2016. AGU CVD will provide an opportunity for members interested in science policy to share the wonder and value of Earth and space science with their legislators in Washington, D.C.

This opportunity is open to members from California, Colorado, Illinois, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Texas. If you're unable to apply for this opportunity, you may know a member who might be interested. If so, please forward this message on our behalf.

Selected applicants will

- Become part of the legislative process and speak directly to their elected officials or staff about the scientific issues that are important to them and the scientific community they represent
- Have the chance to highlight the importance of science and advocate for funding increases for scientific research in the United States
- Learn more about the policy process
- Gain tools for communicating science to policy and lay audiences
- Network with other scientists interested in science policy

Applicants selected to come to Washington, D.C., will participate in a learning and preparation workshop on 20 April at AGU Headquarters and congressional visits on 21 April on Capitol Hill.

For more information and to apply, visit the [AGU website](#).

8. Congressional Office Visits for Students

Are you a graduate student who is interested in lobbying and advocating for science funding? With AGU's public affairs office, the Planetary Sciences section is setting up a program where graduate students will visit their representatives' local congressional offices to talk about their research. Similar to AGU's Congressional Visits Day, this will be an opportunity to meet lawmakers and take an active role in the legislative process. We are hoping to have webinars for training in May, and visits would occur in August or September. Please contact [Alex Morgan](#) if you are interested in participating.

9. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets* Topical Special Sections

Are you organizing a topical meeting or a special session at a larger conference this year? The *Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets* (JGR-Planets) is soliciting proposals for special sections on topics of a timely, crosscutting, or broad nature. Special sections are a great way to collect and share knowledge on important topics in a timely fashion. A few previous topical special sections have included "[Vesta's Giant Southern Impact Basins](#)," "[Exploring Venus as a Terrestrial Planet](#)," "[Radar Investigations of Planetary and Terrestrial Environments](#)," and an early meeting on the "Detection of Extrasolar Planets," as well as many spacecraft mission and instrument investigation-based special sections. If you are interested in proposing a special section, please contact the [JGR-Planets editors](#), Steven Hauck, David Baratoux, and Sabine Stanley.

10. AGU Elections Coming Up

AGU elections will be coming up this summer. AGU has a paired slate, meaning we nominate and elect a president-elect, who moves into the presidency. In our case, Sarah Stewart will serve her full 2-

year term as president, and we will elect a new president-elect. We will also elect a new secretary for a 2-year term.

The president-elect will serve on the AGU Council for 4 years and be president during AGU's centennial (2019). Candidates should also be familiar with AGU's strategic plan, are expected to attend four meetings per year, and should abide by the Council code of conduct.

Please consider running for these important positions within our section. To be nominated, please send an email indicating your willingness to serve to Barbara Cohen by Monday, 28 May. AGU is an international organization, and we would like to maintain gender diversity and increase our international diversity.

11. NASA Planetary Science Summer School Applications Open

NASA is accepting applications from science and engineering postdocs, recent Ph.D. recipients, and doctoral students for its 28th Annual Planetary Science Summer School, which will be held 25–29 July 2016 at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

During the program and pre-session webinars, student teams will carry out the equivalent of an early mission concept study, prepare a proposal authorization presentation, present it to a review board, and receive feedback. By the end of the session, students will have a clearer understanding of the life cycle of a space mission; relationships between mission design, cost, and schedule; and the trade-offs necessary to stay within cost and schedule while preserving the quality of science.

Applications are due 6 April 2016. Partial financial support is available for a limited number of individuals. Further information is available [online](#).

12. Job Announcements and Links to Social Media

Check the [AGU Planetary Sciences Web page](#) for current employment opportunities in the planetary sciences. If you are interested in posting a job announcement, please contact the AGU Planetary Sciences section secretary, Barbara Cohen.

[AGU Planetary Sciences Facebook page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences Twitter page](#)

[AGU Planetary Sciences LinkedIn page](#)

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