



**Planetary Sciences (PS) Section
Newsletter #55: July 2014**

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1) Letter from the Section President

Dear Colleagues:

This letter will be short. We are now entering into the second half of the year, and are gearing up once again for our fabulous Fall Meeting in San Francisco. See items #2 and #3 below. On the U.S. political front, we are in a peculiar position. The Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives almost entirely restores the planetary budget, which was cut severely two years ago. The Senate bill is good to NASA overall, and to Science at NASA as well. However, the Planetary Science part of the budget is not very different from the present (i.e., low), and if signed into law will do substantial damage to our field (R&A is cut 16%). As I write this, the full Senate has not passed their bill, but assuming it does, the next step is the House-Senate conference committee. It is at this point that your vocal support for planetary science, especially a strong program such as outlined in the House version, will be important. You will hear from us, and no doubt from other professional societies and organizations that support planetary exploration, at that time. Until then, and on behalf of the PS Executive Committee, have a wonderful summer.

Best regards,

Bill McKinnon
AGU Section President, Planetary Sciences

2) Planetary Science Section Awards and Named Lectures for the 2014 AGU Fall Meeting

The Planetary Sciences (PS) Section is extremely pleased to announce the following:

- The 2014 Whipple Award for "outstanding contributions in the field of planetary science" will be given to Larry Soderblom of the U.S. Geological Survey. His award will be accompanied by the Whipple Lecture. Congratulations to Larry for his long standing and pioneering work in our field.
- The 2014 Greeley Award for "significant early career contributions to planetary science" will be given to Catherine Neish of the Florida Institute of Technology. Congratulations to Catherine for this deserving award in her early career.
- The Shoemaker Lecture, part of the AGU Bowie series, will be delivered by Dr. Ellen Stofan, NASA Chief Scientist.
- The Sagan Lecture, co-sponsored by the Planetary Sciences and Biogeosciences Sections, will be announced soon.

3) Planetary Science Sessions at the 2014 AGU Fall Meeting

Although the schedule will not be decided until September, the Program Committee, with your representatives Joern Helbert and Nathan Bridges, has vetted and approved Planetary Sciences sessions for the AGU Fall Meeting. Please note that some of these could later be merged, dropped, or moved to other sections depending on the number of submissions and other factors. For now, use the following list as a guide to where you would like to submit your abstracts. We also include a Union session in this list that should be of interest to many members in our section.

Union

- Upstairs Downstairs: Consequences of Internal Evolution for the Habitability of Planetary Surfaces

Planetary Science

- Accretion, Differentiation and Early Planetary Evolution
- Alteration and secondary phases on Mars: Indicators of habitable environments
- Cassini at Saturn: Science Today and in the Final Three Years
- Comet C/2013 A1 (Siding Spring) at Mars
- Cross-cutting in situ earth and planetary science instruments
- Current Processes in the Atmosphere of Mars
- Dynamics of the Io-Jupiter System
- Enceladus: A Habitable World
- Evolutions, interactions and origins of Outer Planet Satellites
- Exploring the igneous evolution of Mars with observations and analogs.
- Geophysical Investigations of Planetary Volatiles
- Geophysics of Satellites and Small Bodies
- Icy World Eruptions and Their Analogues
- In Advance of the Encounter: New Horizons at the Pluto System
- In and Out of Jove: Giant Planet Interiors, Atmospheres, Aurorae, and Ionospheres
- Mars Science Laboratory's Prime Mission: An Exploration of Fluvial and Lacustrine Environments on Gale Crater's Plains
- Mercury: Results from MESSENGER's low-altitude campaign
- Planetary Atmospheres and Their Evolution
- Planetary magnetic fields, interior dynamics, and measurement techniques
- Planetary Rings: Theory and Observation
- Planetary Sciences General Contributions
- Polarimetry as an invaluable tool to study the Solar System Exoplanets, Brown Dwarfs and Disks
- Preparing for Mars sample return: Geobiological approaches to discovering the history of life on Mars
- Rapid Environmental Change and the Fate of Planetary Habitability
- Recent Solar System Discoveries Using the Deep Space Network
- Reconstructing Habitable Environments on Ancient Mars
- Rosetta 2014
- Shoemaker Lecture
- Solar System Dusty Plasma
- Solar System Small Bodies: Relics of Formation & New Worlds to Explore
- Surface Boundary Exospheres: Comparing the Moon, Mercury, and Much More
- The Martian Crust: Synergism of Meteorites and Missions
- The Rite of Spring: The Changing Seasons on Titan
- The Science of Exploration as enabled by the Moon, Near Earth Asteroids and the moons of Mars

- The Solar System Collapsing Disc: Evidence from Comets, Meteorites and Giant Planet Atmospheres
- Titan's Enigmatic Atmosphere and Ionosphere
- Topography in the Solar System
- Volatiles in the Martian Crust
- Whipple Lecture

4) New AGU Incentive to Submit Abstracts

Did you know that research presented at last year's Fall Meeting generated 4500 print and online news stories? Let's make sure our section's sessions receive the exposure they deserve this year by submitting a record number of abstracts! As an added incentive, AGU is offering a \$1,000 credit to the Section or Focus Group that receives the highest percentage of abstracts submitted to their sessions by 30 July. The \$1,000 credit may be used to enhance the catering at our Fall Meeting social event on Tuesday. Please encourage your colleagues and peers to [submit](#) their abstracts, and get their research noticed by nearly 24,000 attendees.

Important Author Tips:

- Make sure you are current in your 2014 [AGU membership dues](#).
- Read the [guidelines](#) to ensure that you have not missed important information that may hinder your submission
- Review the [tutorial](#) which will take you step-by-step as you complete the process
- [Search and view](#) abstracts submitted by your colleagues

Abstracts must be submitted by Wednesday, 30 July, 11:59 p.m. EDT to qualify for the \$1,000 AGU incentive!

The official abstract submission deadline: is Wednesday, 6 August, 11:59 p.m. EDT.

5) Reminder of Planetary Sciences Website Job Advertisements

We would like to remind our members that the Planetary Sciences Section website maintains an active job advertisement page (see footer of this e-mail). In an era of tight hiring, this is a good venue for seeking employment in our field.

Keep abreast of the latest AGU PS updates:

<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 [Nathan Bridges](#) and [Mark Hilverda](#))

[AGU Planetary Sciences Facebook page](#)
[AGU Planetary Sciences Twitter page](#)
[AGU Planetary Sciences LinkedIn page](#)

For future newsletter items please contact the Section Secretary, [Nathan Bridges](#)
