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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #26

February 10, 2008

- 1) Joint Assembly abstracts due March 5
- 2) New officers for section
- 3) Whipple Award nominations
- 4) Workshop about simplifying NASA AOs

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**1) Joint Assembly abstracts due March 5**

American Geophysical Union Joint Assembly 2008, May 27-30, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

The deadline for abstracts submitted to the Joint Assembly (Spring AGU) meeting is March 5. April 18 is the deadline for both registration and for housing requests. Plan now to participate in the next major AGU meeting. For complete details, see: [www.agu.org/meetings/ja08/](http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja08/).

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**2) New officers for section**

The Planetary Sciences section membership has elected **Laurie Leshin** as the President-elect, and **Bruce Banerdt** as the section Secretary. Congratulations! These new officers will take their place on the Executive Committee for the section on July 1, when **Bruce Jakosky** will begin his term as the section President. The entire roster of newly elected officers for AGU will be printed in the February 19 issue of Eos.

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**3) Whipple Award nominations**

It is not too early to consider nominating a worthy colleague for the Whipple award, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the section. The deadline for receiving a nomination is **July 1, 2008**. For a list of the materials needed to comprise a nomination package, see [www.agu.org/sections/planets/psaward.html](http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/psaward.html). Gerald Schubert has accepted the invitation of the section president to replace Stan Peale on the Awards committee for the section. Our sincere thanks go to both Stan, who served many years on the committee, and to Jerry for accepting this new role of service to the community.

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**4) Workshop about simplifying NASA AOs**

The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA Headquarters has initiated an effort to simplify NASA Announcements of Opportunity (AOs). To support this effort, SMD is planning a Proposers Lessons Learned Workshop for proposers to the recent Discovery, Mars Scout, and Small Explorer (SMEX) AOs. The workshop will be held in central city (probably Dallas, Texas)

on February 28-29, 2008. We hope you will be able to join us and are sending this notice so that you can "save the date." I will send you a follow-up email when the workshop details are posted at <http://sso.larc.nasa.gov/aosimplification.html>.

This workshop will provide critical feedback to NASA on the AO process and on improving future AOs. The workshop will focus on the experience and lessons learned by proposers from the Discovery and Mars Scout 2006 proposal cycles, and also the recently completed SMEX proposal cycle. Additional information on the workshop (location, registration information, agenda, etc.) will be posted on the web at <http://sso.larc.nasa.gov/aosimplification.html> as soon as it is available.

The draft workshop agenda is being shaped by preliminary feedback that SMD has received on AO improvements; the agenda will be posted at <http://sso.larc.nasa.gov/aosimplification.html> as soon as it is available. The workshop will pay particular attention to the following topics: AO Requirements (perception and reality), Technical Data including Telecom (how much is too much), Cost and Schedule Data (how much is needed), Launch Services and other external factors (interactions with the cost cap), Education and Public Outreach (including student collaborations), and Letters of Commitment (including endorsements and foreign support). If you wish to make a 5-7 minute presentation on one of these topics, or any other appropriate topic, please send email to [aosimplify@nasa.gov](mailto:aosimplify@nasa.gov).

Many industry partners do not appear as team members on the cover of proposals, yet NASA is very interested in their participation as well. Please forward this email notice to the proposal lead at your industry partner as well as to any other participants in recent NASA AO proposal activities.

Even if you cannot attend the workshop, NASA is soliciting your input on improving the AO and the AO process. Please see the announcement requesting community input at <http://sso.larc.nasa.gov/aosimplification.html>.

For further information on the workshop or AO Simplification, please see <http://sso.larc.nasa.gov/aosimplification.html>, send email to [aosimplify@nasa.gov](mailto:aosimplify@nasa.gov), or contact Paul Hertz (202-358-0986) or Brad Perry (757-864-8257).

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For future newsletter items, please contact Section Secretary Jim Zimbelman,  
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