May 2021 Newsletter

Greetings from Your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!

Spring is here and so are a lot of new activities in the planetary science community – Ingenuity has been flying around Mars and the Discovery selection is on the horizon. Several Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal committees are holding open meetings – be sure to check those out. As far AGU activities, keep your eyes peeled for upcoming volunteer opportunities for section awards committees. Feel free to contact Jennifer Whitten if you are interested in getting involved with the Planetary Sciences Section.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Mischna, President
Paul Byrne, President-Elect
Jennifer Whitten, Secretary
Sam Birch, Early Career Representative
Ashley Schoenfeld, Student Representative
Rosaly Lopes, Past-President

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

For the latest Planetary Sciences updates and events, please visit the section calendar.

Upcoming Deadlines

- ROSES-2021: Rolling Submissions
    - Several program will transition to No (Fixed) Due Dates (NoDD):
        - Emerging Worlds (EW)
        - Solar System Workings (SSW)
        - Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration, and Tools (PDART)
        - Exobiology (ExoBio)
        - Solar System Observations (SSO)
        - Planetary Instrument Concepts for the Advancement of Solar System Observations (PICASSO)
        - Laboratory Analysis of Returned Samples (LARS)

Upcoming Conferences (All conferences virtual unless otherwise noted)

- **May 17-21, 2021:** 52nd Annual Meeting of the AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy
- **May 17-21, 2021:** Applications of Statistical Methods and Machine Learning in the Space Sciences
- **May 17-21, 2021:** EANA International Spring School: Hydrothermal vents
- **May 20, 2021:** 2021 In Situ Science and Instrumentation Workshop for the Exploration of Europa and Ocean Worlds
- **May 30-June 6, 2021:** Japan Geoscience Union Meeting [Hybrid format]
- **June 4-28, 2021:** Arecibo Observatory Options Workshop
- **June 7-8, 2021:** 25th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group

Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. NASA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP – APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 1, 2021

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers US and international scientists the opportunity to advance their research while contributing to NASA's scientific goals. The NPP supports fundamental science; explores the undiscovered; promotes intellectual growth; and encourages scientific connections.

Selected by a competitive peer-review process, NPP Fellows complete one- to three-year Fellowship appointments that advance NASA's missions in earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics, space bioscience, aeronautics and engineering, human exploration and space operations, and astrobiology.

Current NPP research opportunities in planetary science can be viewed here: NPP Planetary Science Research Opportunities

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in hand before beginning the fellowship, but may apply while completing the degree requirements. Please see current eligibility requirements.

Stipends start at $60,000 per year, with supplements for high cost-of-living areas and for certain academic specialties. Financial assistance is available for relocation and health insurance, and $10,000 per year is provided for professional travel.

Applications are accepted three times each year: March 1, **July 1**, and November 1.

For further information and to apply, visit website.

Questions: npphelp@usra.edu

2. ADVISORS NEEDED FOR HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Center for Lunar Science and Exploration (CLSE) is looking for volunteers to advise a team of high school students participating in the 2021-2022 Exploration of the Moon and Asteroids by Secondary Students (ExMASS) program. ExMASS is an academic year-long lunar/asteroid research program that envelops teams of students, paired with a scientist, in the process of science. At the end of the year, teams compete for a chance to present their research during the annual NASA Exploration Science Forum.

ExMASS program goals:

Provide an opportunity for secondary students to engage in multiple practices of science, foster positive student attitudes towards science, and enhance student lunar and asteroid science content knowledge.

Advisor time commitment varies; in the past, advisors reported spending on average 1-3 hours a week communicating with their team. Information about the expected role of an advisor can be found on the ExMASS website.

The 2021-2022 ExMASS program begins September 1, 2021 and concludes by May 2022. Advisors will be placed with teams no later than September 30, 2021.

If you are interested in being an advisor, or would like more information, please contact Andy Shaner.