August 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

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

- 27 August: 2018 AGU elections open
- 27-30 August: 3rd Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets, Houston, TX
- 31 August: AGU Fall Meeting Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop application deadline
- 31 August: 50th Division for Planetary Sciences Conference late abstract submission deadline
- 10 September: Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition Meeting early registration deadline
- 11-14 September: International Venus Conference 2018, Niseko, Japan
- 11-12 September: Outer Planets Assessment Group, Pasadena, CA
- 11-13 September: Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS), Irvine, CA
- 12-14 September: International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2018), Berlin, Germany
- 19 September: Venus Exploration Analysis Group Meeting abstract deadline
- 16-21 September: European Planetary Science Congress 2018, Berlin, Germany
- 25 September: 2018 AGU elections close
- 28 September: AGU/AGI Heads and Chairs webinar, Helping Smaller Departments Fund-Raise Effectively
- 1 October: 2018 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting early registration deadline
- 1-3 October: Late Mars Workshop, Houston, TX

- 9-11 October: Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition, Houston, TX
- 10-12 October: 7th Joint Workshop on High Pressure, Planetary and Plasma Physics (HP4), Berlin, Germany
- 16–18 October: 4th Mars 2020 Landing Site Workshop, Glendale, CA
- 21–26 October: 50th AAS Division for Planetary Sciences Conference, Knoxville, TN
- 4-7 November: 2018 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
- 6–8 November: Venus Exploration Analysis Group meeting, Laurel, MD
- 13–15 November: Lunar Exploration Analysis Group meeting, Columbia, MD
- **10-14 December:** AGU Fall Meeting 2018, Washington, DC
- 29–31 January: Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) meeting, Houston, TX

Planetary Sciences Section Announcements

AGU Fall Meeting Late-Breaking Session on the Global Dust Storm of 2018
Consider submitting an abstract to the new, late-breaking session covering the large Martian global dust storm that began in June 2018! Extended abstract deadline is **15 September**. Even if you have already submitted an abstract to the Fall Meeting, you may still submit a second abstract to this session. Please visit the AGU Fall Meeting website for more information.

Conveners: Richard Zurek and Leslie Tamppari, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Session Abstract: On 1 June, a local dust storm moved out of the north circumpolar jet stream in the Martian atmosphere, expanding and triggering new dust-raising centers. By late June, the growing ensemble of storms had become a planet-encircling dust event (PEDE), the first since 2007. This PEDE was the second-earliest such event, just a few days later than the 2001 PEDE. These events are the major component of interannual to decadal variability on Mars, and they pose a challenge to solar-powered, surface-based flight systems, namely, the Opportunity rover and possibly the upcoming InSight lander. This session solicits observational and modeling presentations related to this year's PEDE, its onset and decay phase, and its context within the history of such events. This includes data acquired by observers from the various Mars flight missions and from Earth-based observers, both in orbit and on the ground.

On the Insensitive Use of the Term "Planet 9" for Objects Beyond Pluto
We the undersigned wish to remind our colleagues that the IAU planet definition adopted in 2006 has been controversial and is far from universally accepted. Given this and the incredible accomplishment of the discovery of Pluto, the harbinger of the solar system's third zone—the Kuiper Belt—by planetary astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh in 1930, we the undersigned believe the use of the term "Planet 9" for objects beyond Pluto is insensitive to Prof. Tombaugh's legacy. We further believe the use of this term should be discontinued in favor of culturally and taxonomically neutral terms for such planets, such as Planet X, Planet Next, or Giant Planet Five. — Paul Abell, Michael Allison, Nadine Barlow, David Bartlett, James Bauer, Gordon Bjoraker, Paul Byrne, Eric Christiansen, Rajani Dhingra, Timothy Dowling, David Dunham, Tony L. Farnham, Harold Geller,

Alvero Gonzalez, David Grinspoon, Will Grundy, George Hindman, Kampalayya M. Hiremath, Brian Holler, Stephanie Jarmak, Martin Knapmeyer, Rosaly Lopes, Amy Lovell, Ralph McNutt, Phil Metzger, Sripada Murty, Michael Paul, Kirby Runyon, Ray Russell, John Stansberry, Alan Stern, Mike Summers, Henry Throop, Hal Weaver, Larry Wasserman, Sloane Wiktorowicz

Opportunities for the NASA Mars 2020 Project

NASA, in cooperation with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), has published an announcement for proposals (AFP) for a partnership agreement related to science engagement opportunities for the NASA Mars 2020 Project (NNH18ZDA016K). The Mars 2020 rover mission is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the Red Planet.

This AFP solicits proposals from commercial, educational, or nonprofit organizations to partner with NASA on a nonreimbursable, (i.e., no-exchange-of-funds) basis to define, organize, and execute a contest for K–12 students in U.S. schools to select a name for the Mars rover that will be launched in 2020. NASA seeks proposals from organizations that are innovative and inspirational and that use avenues of high impact for reaching a variety of populations and broadening participation. NASA views such contests as opportunities that further the agency's objectives to inform the public and distribute knowledge gained from the space program to a broad audience.

NASA will accept responses until 11:59 p.m. ET, 9 October. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal submitted via NSPIRES; see the AFP for details. NASA will judge proposals on their science engagement value and the expected breadth and depth of penetration into the national K–12 student population via a variety of both traditional and innovative channels. NASA is interested in reaching homeschoolers, U.S.-affiliated students abroad, and all K–12 age students residing within the United States. The successful proposer will conduct a contest during the 2019 spring academic semester to evaluate, select, and deliver to NASA by 31 July 2019 the top 25 names that have been proposed and the associated nomination materials submitted by the students. The AFP is available on NSPIRES, interested parties are encouraged to read the AFP carefully, as it differs significantly from a ROSES-type solicitation. Send questions by email to George Tahu, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters. AFP questions and responses, with identifying information removed, will be posted as Frequently Asked Questions.

NASA Seeks Public Policy Experts

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is looking for one or more public policy experts to join our Strategic Integration and Management Division, located at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D. C. Interested individuals should apply using the links below. The individual or individuals selected would join a seven-person team focused on providing policy support to SMD's more than 90 missions that span astrophysics, Earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, and various reimbursable projects for other agencies. In support of SMD's policy functions, the policy team manages SMD's relations with external groups, including Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and external advisory committees and boards. In partnership with other SMD divisions, the policy branch also supports the SMD associate administrator by providing integrated guidance, strategy, and focused advocacy for NASA's science program.

The specific responsibilities of the policy branch include the following:

- Develop and coordinate testimony, congressional correspondence, white papers, congressional reports, staff briefings, and responses to congressional and Executive Branch actions

- Monitor, support development of, and track interagency agreements; coordinate interagency meetings; and manage SMD's coordination with OSTP and OMB
- Coordinate SMD international activities and relationships, including agency and SMD international policy, agreements status tracking, export control, and international meetings
- Manage the NAC Science Committee and support the SMD divisions in the management of the division advisory committees
- Oversee and coordinate directorate audit and review activities with the NASA inspector general, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and other auditors or reviewers
- Coordinate and support the development of SMD elements of the NASA strategic plan and directorate science plan, and provide support to the Resource Management Division's activities in response to the Government Performance and Results (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010

NASA Headquarters released two vacancy announcements on 13 August for a career position or positions on the SMD Policy Team. There are two Program Planning Specialist (Policy Analyst) GS-12/13 positions: One announcement is open to all U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals and one announcement is open for candidates with special status based on their current or past government service. Both close on 24 August.

Mars 2020 Returned Sample Science Participating Scientist Program

The preparation of a cache of Martian rock and regolith samples for possible return to Earth via a future mission is a central objective of the Mars 2020 mission. The Returned Sample Science Participating Scientist (RSSPS) Program seeks individuals whose addition to the mission's science team will enhance the value of the samples to be selected, characterized, and cached by the Mars 2020 rover. The selected investigators should anticipate the needs of future investigators who may analyze these samples for a very wide range of studies in Earth-based laboratories. Selected RSSPSs will become members of the Mars 2020 Science Team and are expected to contribute collaboratively to any and all aspects of the surface science mission. Specifically, RSSPSs are sought to contribute to the following Mars 2020 Science Team efforts:

- Identify, articulate, and prioritize the scientific questions that potentially may be addressed through analysis of returned samples cached by the Mars 2020 rover at its selected landing site
- Using the rover's instruments, characterize the geology of the landing site and its past habitability and potential for preservation of biosignatures
- Informed by the observations in second bullet, identify individual samples and suites of samples that can best meet the priorities identified in first bullet
- Prepare detailed "field notes" that document both the geologic context and the rationale used for sample selection to a level that justifies return of samples to Earth
- Participate in science team meetings and training events
- Contribute regularly to daily rover operations during the surface mission, including serving in at least one operational role

Mandatory notices of intent are due by 24 August and proposals are due by 24 October. Information about this program may be found at the NSPIRES home page. Questions concerning this program element may be directed to Mitch Schulte.

Support Planetary Sciences
Planetary Sciences relies on its member contributions to fund such activities as student travel grants, Fall Meeting events, and other section programs. No contribution is too small; please consider donating today by visiting the AGU donations site and clicking on "Planetary Sciences." Individual donors (those who donate more than $50) will also help Planetary Sciences take advantage of the Section Incentive Program , which enhances primary member donations by giving an additional $1,000–$5,000 to section funds, depending on participation rate!

AGU Announcements

AGU has launched its Centennial and corresponding Centennial website!
The Centennial website designed to be the go-to destination for all information about Centennial events and activities. To coincide with the launch, AGU introduced the public outreach campaign series “100 Facts and Figures” to highlight aspects of Earth and space science. The campaign calls attention to some of the most meaningful, interesting, and relevant Earth and space science facts and figures from the past 100 years. You can be a part of the Centennial and join the conversation by suggesting an Earth and space science fact to be considered in the campaign.

Apply to Share Your Science with K-12 Educators at Fall Meeting
AGU and the National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA) are now soliciting proposals from scientist/educator presenter teams at the Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop at the AGU Fall Meeting. Each selected team of presenters will have approximately 1.5 hours during one of the two workshop days to present their work, accompanied by a closely related hands-on activity or set of activities, to the educators. This collaborative workshop enables scientists to work closely with an education specialist to develop and share material with K–12 and informal educators. Each team of presenters will receive one free full-week registration to AGU Fall Meeting. Note that this is in addition to the free registration to the Fall Meeting for all K–12 educators with valid credentials. Applications are open now through 31 August. Please contact us with any questions.

AGU Instagram Takeover: Share Your Section’s Science
We're looking for scientists of all career stages and disciplines to take over AGU's Instagram account with photos and videos of your work this summer. Email us if you are interested in taking over our Instagram account this summer during or after your field work, or for a few days while you're working in the lab. While you're out in the field, you can also share pictures of your work and field site with us by submitting a Postcard from the Field via our Tumblr site.

Publicizing Your Work at Fall Meeting
Are you presenting new research findings at the 2018 AGU Fall Meeting or chairing a session at the Fall Meeting where new research will be presented? Do you think the research might be newsworthy? If so, please fill out this publicity form to tell AGU’s press office why your research or research in your

session might be of interest to the press and public. Press office staff will contact you if they are interested in publicizing the work at the meeting. If you're unsure about what makes scientific results newsworthy, check out our handy newsworthiness criteria guide. For any questions, email news@agu.org.

FYIs

Get Social with Planetary Sciences!
Looking for even more Planetary Sciences happenings? Our section website is packed with updates, employment opportunities, key contacts, and section specific announcements. Be sure to also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest PS activities.

Publish Your Notice in the AGU Planetary Sciences Newsletter
The AGU Planetary Sciences section has more than 6500 scientist members worldwide. Your announcements and notices in the Planetary Sciences newsletter will reach a wide range of professionals and students in precisely the areas in which you should advertise. If you have any job postings, conference announcements, or other planetary-related material, please send it to Michael Mischna to be included in a future newsletter.