
AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #38 February, 2011

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1) Message from the Section President

Happy 2011 Planetary Science community! 2011 will be a HUGE year for us – whether it's the Temple 1 flyby, arrival of MESSENGER at Mercury, the launch of JUNO and MSL, or the release of the Decadal Survey for Planetary Science, this will be a year of excitement for our science. Share the excitement through organizing special sessions at AGU! This year, ***the dates for special sessions and abstracts have been moved up*** – so mark your calendars now and participate in AGU in this, the Year of the Solar System!

The key dates for the 2011 Fall Meeting will now be:

1. Session proposal submission opens 25 February and Closes 20 April, and;
2. Abstract submissions open 8 June and close 4 August.

I look forward to a great year of excitement and discovery!

Best regards,
Laurie Leshin

2) Nominate a planetary scientist for an AGU award!

AGU has a diverse honors program for recognizing members and others who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the geophysical sciences, to the service of the community, and to the public's understanding of science.

Both the 2011 AGU Medals and Union Awards nomination sites are currently open. Please do not miss the opportunity to nominate a colleague for the

recognition of a lifetime.

The [Awards nomination submission site](#) will close on **15 March 2011**.

The [Medals nomination submission site](#) will close on **15 March 2011**.

A [full list of AGU Medals and Union Awards](#) is available on the AGU website.

3) Planetary Science Undergraduate Teaching Workshop, March 6th at LPSC

Planetary Education Share-A-Thon: Identifying Challenges in the Planetary Science Classroom and Their Solutions

As part of the new NASA Planetary Science Education Forum, we are putting together the second workshop just prior to LPSC for undergraduate teaching faculty in planetary science.

The workshop will be held the Sunday before LPSC, March 6th, at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott, from 1:00-5:30 p.m.

Our goal is to have participants identify one content challenge they faced when teaching a particular course and how they solved it. Participants would then present both the challenge and the resource they used — whether they developed it themselves or borrowed it from another source. It might be a specific demo, activity or animation used to convey a specific concept.

The new Higher Education Clearinghouse (HECI), a place where you can share your classroom materials, is ready to debut! It has all of the features that many of you identified at last year's workshop and through the faculty survey. We want to use it at during the workshop to show how it can be used to share the materials people present.

We are hoping that you can attend the March's workshop! Bring a classroom asset to present! RVSP to Emily CoBabe-Ammann at ecobabe@spaceeducation.org.

4) Job announcements at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

(1) LABORATORY MANAGER for the MSFC Noble Gas Research Laboratory (MNGRL) to assist in initial set-up and subsequent routine maintenance and operation of the new multi-collector noble-gas mass spectrometry facility. The incumbent will also participate in collaborative or independent research on geochronology of planetary materials. Qualifications include an MS or PhD in planetary or earth sciences and experience in high-precision mass spectrometry (noble gas and/or ICPMS, TIMS, etc.).

Applications will be reviewed starting Feb. 1. Please go to <http://cspar.uah.edu/research/lunarjobopportunity.html> for more information and how to apply.

(2) POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW in noble-gas isotopic analysis of planetary materials. Postdocs will conduct a mix of directed and original research using noble gas mass spectrometry (Ar, Ne, Kr, Xe) on lunar, martian, and/or asteroid samples to obtain their isotopic age, cosmic ray exposure age, or isotopic composition. The application deadline is March 1. Candidates must apply through the NASA Postdoctoral Program http://www2.orau.gov/NASA_Catalog/Opportunity/18395 and are encouraged to contact us directly to develop a research proposal.

Additional information, application instructions, and more about the MSFC Planetary Science group and facilities can be found on our website (<http://planetary.msfc.nasa.gov>), or by contacting Dr. Barbara Cohen (Barbara.A.Cohen@nasa.gov).

5) Outer Planets Colloquium Series

Would your institution like a visit and colloquium presentation from an expert in outer solar system science, at no expense to you? Would you like travel support to share your outer solar system research? Presenters and host institutions are sought for the Outer Planets Colloquium Series, a program that matches planetary scientists with university campuses and research institutions.

Participation is open to two- and four-year undergraduate colleges, and to research institutions throughout the United States. Host institutions commit to making the necessary local arrangements. Presenters are encouraged to address the needs of the next generation of scientists (graduate students, interns, and undergraduates) and to give an additional presentation that is free and open to the general public. Other interactions that increase awareness of outer solar system science may also be considered as part of the visit. These may include guest teaching a class, interacting informally with students and faculty, visiting local precollege campuses, or other outreach activities.

A range of topics is covered on the basis of speaker participation. A current list of presenters and their prospective talks is provided on the Series website. Those interested in becoming speakers are encouraged to apply using the online application form.

The Colloquium Series will cover the presenter's travel expenses. There will be no honorarium for the speaker.

Application details and further information may be found at:
<http://outerplanets.jpl.nasa.gov/>

6) AOGS Session: Outer Planets and Icy Worlds (PS.06)

Annual Meeting of the AOGS (Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society)
Taipei, Taiwan August 8-12, 2011

<http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm>

This session will be devoted to outer planet satellites, including Io and icy worlds large (e.g. Titan) and small (e.g. Enceladus), rings and icy dwarf planets. The session will include solicited, contributed, and poster presentations addressing observational, laboratory, and theoretical studies relevant to past, ongoing, and future missions. Relevant topics include:

- (1) interior structure, composition and thermal evolution,
- (2) surface geology and composition,
- (3) composition and dynamics of neutral atmospheres
- (4) orbital dynamics and satellite interactions,
- (5) structure and dynamics of planetary rings,
- (6) physical properties of ring particles and small satellites of outer planet satellites.

Contact: Dr. Steve Vance (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech, United States)
svance@jpl.nasa.gov

7) AOGS Session: Astrobiology—Life in the Universe (PS.14)

Annual Meeting of the AOGS (Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society)
Taipei, Taiwan August 8-12, 2011

<http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm>

This session invites solicited, contributed, and poster presentations addressing

- (1) conditions on the early Earth that may have been necessary for the origin of life
- (2) subsequent events and conditions that may have contributed to the evolution of organisms and the development of Earth's climate
- (3) biological and geochemical characterization of extreme environments
- (4) habitability of extraterrestrial atmospheres, surfaces and interiors
- (5) methods or technological approaches for detecting biosignatures.

Contact: Dr. Louise Prockter (Johns Hopkins University , United States)
louise.prockter@jhuapl.edu

8) Section representative for the EOS Editorial Advisory Board needed

What's involved in being a member of the EOS Editorial Advisory Board? The Eos Editors call on members of the Editorial Advisory Board to help with the review of feature articles and other submissions. For the feature articles, we may ask for review because the person's expertise most closely matches the topic covered. For those manuscripts, we ask Editorial Advisory Board members to review manuscripts and comment on their merit in light of current science as well as for accuracy and balance. In doing so, we ask board members to identify points that may need to be covered better, what should be avoided, and potential biases, hidden agendas, or conflicts of interest of which we should be aware. We also turn to the Editorial Advisory Board members as "cross-disciplinary readers" for comments on features that are outside their discipline. The purpose is to get input on whether submitted features are accessible and appropriate for a broad spectrum of the Eos readership, not just for those working within the topic covered by the feature.

In addition, we ask members of the Editorial Advisory Board to send ideas for manuscripts that should be encouraged along with potential authors. We call on the board for general advice and input on ways to improve Eos. In that vein, we have periodic conference calls and usually gather for a face-to-face meeting at the AGU Fall Meeting.

If you are interested, please contact Laurie Leshin at laurie.a.leshin@nasa.gov .

For future newsletter items please contact:
Section Secretary Lindy Elkins-Tanton, ltelkins@mit.edu.
