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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #12

6. January. 2006

- 1) NASA's Planetary Geology and Geophysics Undergraduate Research Program
- 2) NSF Workshop: Bringing Mars data to the undergraduate curriculum
- 3) 20 Years of Nonlinear Dynamics in Geosciences, Rhodes Greece
- 4) Helmholtz Summer School in Supercomputational Cosmology, Potsdam, Germany

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**1) NASA's Planetary Geology and Geophysics Undergraduate Research Program (PGGURP)**

This program brings qualified and interested undergraduates into close contact with NASA's Principal Investigators during the summer. This is advantageous to both student and investigator: the student learns first-hand what it is like to do research in planetary geology, and the investigator is provided with research assistance on a NASA-sponsored project. PGGURP will cover the cost of student travel to and from the mentor's institution, housing, and a cost-of-living stipend; the PI pays nothing.

A more complete description of the program can be found at:  
<http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~tgregg/pggurp.html>

Submission deadline: January 30th, 2006

Please encourage qualified students to apply!  
If you have any questions about the program, or would like to host an intern, please email Dr. Tracy K.P. Gregg at [tgregg@geology.buffalo.edu](mailto:tgregg@geology.buffalo.edu).

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**2) NSF-funded program "On the Cutting Edge"**

The NSF-funded program "On the Cutting Edge" will offer a 2-day workshop "Discoveries from Mars: Using a Planetary Perspective to Enhance Undergraduate Geoscience Courses". The workshop will be held April 27-29, 2006 at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. You can find the on-line application and more information about the workshop at <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/mars06/index.html>

The purpose of the workshop is to address the fact that undergraduate geoscience courses are typically taught using only terrestrial examples. Integrating examples from other planets into commonly taught undergraduate courses provides a unique and timely opportunity for students to test their observation and data analysis skills in new planetary environments and to learn first hand that study of the Earth provides only one data point for exploring how and why planetary processes work. The wealth of recent data from Mars on everything from geophysics to climate change provides an opportunity to expand examples beyond the terrestrial realm in undergraduate courses ranging from hydrogeology to petrology, from structural geology to sedimentary geology.

Our aim in this workshop is to promote an approach of Mars across the curriculum so that more undergraduate students can have experience with the wealth of new data from Mars. The workshop will bring together Mars researchers and undergraduate geoscience faculty with interest or expertise in planetary geoscience with the aim of catalyzing an effort to make

resources, assignments, and activities readily available on line to faculty across the country to integrate into a wide variety of commonly taught undergraduate courses.

We very much hope that you will apply to attend the workshop and that you will pass this information on to other colleagues who might also make valuable contributions at the workshop. The workshop will be limited to 30 participants, and the application deadline is February 1, 2006.

Sincerely,  
Workshop co-conveners Barb Tewksbury, Tracy Gregg, Eric Grosfils, Phil Christensen, and Ron Greeley

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### **3) 20 Years of Nonlinear Dynamics in Geosciences, Rhodes Greece**

This is a reminder about the conference "20 Years of Nonlinear Dynamics in Geosciences" June 11-16, 2006, Rhodes, Greece. The purpose of this conference is to bring together scientists from the atmospheric sciences, hydrology, geology, and other areas of Geosciences to discuss the advances made and the future directions of nonlinear dynamics. Topics will include predictability, ensemble prediction, nonlinear prediction, nonlinear time series analysis, low-dimensional chaos, error growth in the models, nonlinear modeling, fractals and multifractals, bifurcation, and other aspects of nonlinear science. Submission of abstracts from all areas of Geosciences is welcome. For more information or to register and submit abstracts please visit <http://www.aegeanconferences.org>. We would like to invite you to participate in this exciting meeting. Please note that the cost of the accommodation package is 1290 Euro and includes registration, hotel accommodations at the Hilton resort in Rhodes, all meals (breakfast and lunches at the hotel, dinners at selected restaurants in the island), and an island tour. We sincerely hope that you will be able to participate. If you need further information, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. The meeting is endorsed by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the European Geosciences Union (EGU).

If you intent to participate we urge you to pre-register. At this stage this is very important. Pre-registering guides us with the planning and the logistics of the conference. Pre-registration does not require paying now. Payment is due March 15. The number of participants is limited to 150.

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### **4) Helmholtz Summer School in Supercomputational Cosmology**

The HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE for SUPERCOMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS announces the 6th Summer School (2006) on SUPERCOMPUTATIONAL COSMOLOGY, July 17 - August 11, 2006  
Astrophysical Institute Potsdam (AIP)/University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

Unifying theme of the school is the evolution of structures in the expanding Universe: from clusters of galaxies to galaxies and their satellites.

We will learn how to develop numerical algorithms and to write codes to simulate and analyze the formation of different objects in the Universe. Among different projects, the students will write their own N-body code, which will allow them to study the formation of superclusters and giant voids. We will use the simulations to "observe" the evolution of first

objects in the Universe and to measure physical properties of forming galaxies and dark matter halos hosting them.

Substantial emphasis will be the parallelization with OpenMP and MPI and the visualization of the different simulated structures.

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR: Prof. Anatoly Klypin, New Mexico State University

LECTURERS:

Prof. Andrey Kravtsov, University of Chicago

Prof. Nick Gnedin, Fermilab/University of Chicago

Dr. Volker Springel, Max-Planck-Institute for Astrophysics, Garching

Applications are invited from students, graduate students, post-docs and researchers working in scientific disciplines related to the content of the summer school. Deadline for application is April 30, 2006.

Grants are available to cover accommodation, travel and living expenses. Numbers will be limited and those who are interested are advised to make an early application.

Please, find more information and the application form on our website

----- <http://www.hisp.agnld.uni-potsdam.de/> -----

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For future newsletter items please contact:

Section Secretary Wendy Calvin, [wcalvin@unr.edu](mailto:wcalvin@unr.edu)

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #13

15.Feb. 2006

- 1) Congratulations to New Fellows
- 2) Outstanding Student Papers - Fall Meeting
- 3) Joint Assembly Abstract Reminder

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**1) Congratulations to new AGU Fellows!**

AGU has selected four individuals nominated by the Planetary Sciences section as new AGU Fellows:

Raymond E. Arvidson, Washington University, St Louis -- for seminal contributions to our understanding of planetary surface processes, for major contributions to the robotic exploration of the surface of Mars, and for exemplary service to the planetary sciences community.

Frances Bagenal, University of Colorado, Boulder -- for fundamental contributions to the understanding of planetary magnetospheres and small solar-system bodies.

Larry W. Esposito, University of Colorado, Boulder -- for outstanding contributions to experimental and theoretical studies of planetary systems and fundamental leadership in solar system research.

Christopher P. McKay, NASA Ames Research Center, California -- for insights into the suitability of the solar system as an abode for life, past, present and future.

*New Fellows nominated by other sections but affiliated with the PS section include:*

Harry Y. McSween, Jr., University of Tennessee

Melvyn Goldstein, NASA Goddard SFC, Greenbelt, MD

David Scholl, Stanford University, Stanford, California

Robert J. Bodnar, Virginia Tech

Colin J. N. Wilson, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Catherine McCammon, Universitat Bayreuth, Germany

Petr Chylek, Los Alamos National Lab

New Fellows will be honored at the Spring Joint Assembly in Baltimore, 23-26 May

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## **2) Congratulations for Outstanding Student Papers, Fall Meeting**

The following have been selected for outstanding student papers at the Fall Meeting:

June Clevy, Dept Geological Sciences, Univ. Idaho, Moscow, ID  
P31C: Relationship Between Topography and the Eastern Equatorial Hydrogen Signal on Mars

T.H. McConnochie, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY  
P21E-03: THEMIS-VIS Measurements of the Altitude and Velocity of Clouds in the Martian Mesosphere

Our thanks to members who helped this process by participating as judges.

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## **3) Joint Assembly Abstract Reminder**

The Joint Assembly will be held 23 -26 May in Baltimore, MD. Planned sessions for the section include the Chicxulub Impact and Outer solar system ices. See the web site for full details:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja06/>

Abstracts are due 1.Mar at 23:59UT

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For future newsletter items please contact:

Section Secretary Wendy Calvin, [wcalvin@unr.edu](mailto:wcalvin@unr.edu)

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #14

3.May. 2006

- 1) NASA Planetary Science Summer School - Deadline May 15th
- 2) AGU Fellows Deadline June 15th
- 3) JGR Planets in Search of an Editor - applications or nominations due by May 12th

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**1) NASA Planetary Science Summer School**

Applications are due May 15, 2006, for NASA's 18th Annual Planetary Science Summer School, which will hold two sessions this summer, July 24-28 and July 31 -August 4, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. Science and engineering post-doctoral and graduate students with a strong interest in careers in planetary exploration are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to U.S. citizens. The student teams will carry out the equivalent of an early concept study responsive to a selected NASA Announcement of Opportunity, prepare a proposal authorization review presentation, present it to a review board, and receive feedback. At the end of the week, students will have a clearer understanding of the relationships among mission design, cost, and schedule, and the trade-offs necessary to stay within cost and schedule while preserving the opportunity to acquire high-quality science. They will also understand the lifecycle of a space mission. Partial financial support is available to a limited number of individuals to help defray the expense of travel and lodging only. Applications are to be submitted electronically by May 15, 2006 at <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/pscischool/>.

For further information, visit <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/pscischool/> or contact Ms. Anita M. Sohus, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, M/S 111-B29, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109; phone 818-354-6613; e-mail [Anita.M.Sohus@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Anita.M.Sohus@jpl.nasa.gov).

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**2) Nominate AGU Fellows - Deadline June 15th.**

This year the nominations for Fellows of AGU has moved forward. This award is bestowed on less than 0.1% of the membership in any given year for acknowledged eminence in Earth and Space Sciences.

For full information please refer to the AGU Guidelines at:

<http://www.agu.org/inside/fellguides.html>

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**3) JGR Planets in search of an Editor**

AGU is looking for dynamic, well-organized scientists with high editorial standards and strong leadership skills to serve as Editors of JGR-Atmosphere, JGR-Planets, JGR-Earth Surface, and Radio Science.

As editor you will have

- ) have full authority to accept or reject submitted papers
- ) ensure fair and timely review
- ) seek out stimulating papers for inclusion in the journal

The Union is interested in attracting papers in newly developing areas and assuring that readers of AGU journals receive the best and most timely information possible.

If you would like to serve your community as an Editor, send your curriculum vitae with a letter of interest to the Editor Search Committee. If you would like to nominate a qualified colleague, send a letter of recommendation. Please indicate the journal of interest in your communication.

To submit applications or recommendations, contact Marian Thor at [mthor@agu.org](mailto:mthor@agu.org)

For additional information go to [http://www.agu.org/pubs/AGU\\_Editors.html](http://www.agu.org/pubs/AGU_Editors.html)

Deadline for applications is 12 May 2006

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For future newsletter items please contact:  
Section Secretary Wendy Calvin, [wcalvin@unr.edu](mailto:wcalvin@unr.edu)

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #15

30.May. 2006

- 1) Call for Fall Meeting Sessions: Due June 8
- 2) AGU Fellows Nominations: Now Due June 30
- 3) Welcome Incoming Executive Committee

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**1) Call for Fall Meeting Sessions: Due June 8**

The call for Special Sessions for the Fall AGU is open on line.  
<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm06/>

Session topics rely on our membership to identify the most timely and compelling areas of research and to volunteer as conveners. The number of oral session rooms our Section receives for the meeting is directly linked to the number of abstracts submitted to our Section's sponsored sessions.

The job is not difficult and won't take too much time. Contact your Section Secretary if you need more specifics (email below).

Please help make Fall AGU a dynamite meeting! Propose your session today!

**Note: Fall AGU will be held Dec 11-15, 2006 in San Francisco.**

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**2) AGU Fellows Nominations: Now Due June 30**

This award is bestowed on less than 0.1% of the membership in any given year for acknowledged eminence in Earth and Space Sciences.

For full information please refer to the AGU Guidelines at:

<http://www.agu.org/inside/fellguides.html>

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**3) Welcome Incoming Executive Committee**

Welcome to Bruce Jakosky, President-Elect, and Jim Zimbelman, Secretary of the Planetary Sciences Section for 2006-2008. Their tenure begins July 1, with Tilman Spohn moving into the role of President.

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For future newsletter items please contact:

Section Secretary Wendy Calvin, wcalvin@unr.edu

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #16

6.July. 2006

- 1) Letter from our new President
- 2) Whipple Award Nominations Due 17 July
- 3) EOS Editor needed

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**1) Letter from our new President**

Dear fellow planetary section members,

Beginning July 1st I have the pleasure to serve the section as president. I will be assisted by Bruce Jakosky as president elect and by Jim Zimbelman as secretary. Carle Pieters has agreed to replace Sean Solomon as chairperson of the fellows committee. We are looking forward to collaborating for the benefit of our section. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gerald Schubert and Wendy Calvin on behalf of the section for their work as president and secretary for the past two years. Both have agreed to continue to support the present executive committee. I would also like to thank Sean Solomon for his work as chairman of the fellows committee.

The past couple of years have seen the great successes of Cassini, the MER rovers, and Mars Express. This has helped our section to grow as well as the number of papers presented at our meetings. We can look forward to more data from Venus Express and Corot. And more in the future, we can look forward to more Mars missions and the Mercury missions and an ever broadening international community. What many of us as a community of planetary geophysicists are missing are small stations, or better even networks, for in-situ geophysical measurements. Proposals to build such stations for Mars have been submitted on both sides of the Atlantic.

The AGU has increasingly become a forum for planetary scientists. This is witnessed by the 20 special sessions proposed for the 2006 fall meeting. Last year we had a very successful get-together in San Francisco during the fall meeting. We plan to have such an event this year as well.

The Whipple award is the sections award to honor an outstanding individual who has made substantial contributions to our field. Please consider nominations. The deadline of July 17th is approaching soon.

All the best  
Tilman Spohn

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## **2) Whipple Award Nominations due 17 July**

The Whipple Award was established to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Planetary Science. Nominations require a letter outlining significant contributions, CV, bibliography, and 3 supporting letters.

Full details are available at: <http://www.agu.org/sections/planets/psaward.html>

Nominations should be submitted to Carle Pieters, [carle\\_pieters@brown.edu](mailto:carle_pieters@brown.edu)

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## **3) EOS Editor for Planetary Science**

EOS, the weekly publication of AGU will need a new editor for Planetary Science. Duties are to represent the Section on matters pertaining to EOS, write occasional blurbs pertinent to the Section, and most importantly stimulate submissions of planetary articles to EOS. Interested parties should contact the current Executive Committee, Tilman Spohn ([Tilman.Spohn@dlr.de](mailto:Tilman.Spohn@dlr.de)) or Bruce Jakosky ([bruce.jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu](mailto:bruce.jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu)).

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For future newsletter items please contact:

Jim Zimbelman; [zimbelmanj@si.edu](mailto:zimbelmanj@si.edu)

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #17

7. August. 2006

- 1) 2006 Joint Assembly Outstanding Student Paper Award
- 2) The passing of George Wetherill
- 3) Fall 2006 AGU Planetary Sciences sessions
- 4) Special Sessions for 2007 Joint Assembly
- 5) EOS Editor for Planetary Science still needed

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**1) 2006 Joint Assembly Outstanding Student Paper Award**

The section winner of the outstanding student paper award at the 2006 Joint Assembly in Baltimore was Mark J. Loeffler, of the University of Virginia. His winning presentation (P23A-05) was given Tuesday afternoon, titled "Hydrogen peroxide and water ice out of equilibrium: Implications for the outer solar system", with co-author R. A. Baragiola. Congratulations, Mark!

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**2) The passing of George Wetherill**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing away of George Wetherill on Wednesday, July 19. George was a Hess Medalist, a recipient of the National Medal of Science, and a long-time contributor to the Planetary Sciences section. Efforts are underway for the preparation of an obituary for a future issue of EOS.

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**3) Fall 2006 AGU Planetary Sciences sessions**

The following sessions have been approved for the fall meeting:

- P01: Planetary Sciences General Contributions
- P02: Studies of the Interiors of Giant Planets
- P03: Earth to Titan: Terrestrial Morphology and Modeling Analogues in Support of Cassini-Huygens Data Interpretation
- P04: Enceladus: Water, Warmth, Organics. . .and Life?
- P05: Mars Exploration Rovers: Two Martian Winters at Gusev Crater and Meridiani Planum
- P06: Multi-Instrument Studies of Objects in the Saturn System
- P07: Mars Express: Scientific Results After Three Years in Orbit
- P08: Stardust Mission: What Have We Learned About Comet Wild 2 After One Year of Sample Analysis?
- P09: Interactions of Icy Moons and Rings with Outer Planet Magnetospheres
- P10: Planetary Rings: Observation and Theory
- P11: Once in a Blue Moon: The Surprising Diversity of Outer Planet Satellites
- P12: Titan
- P13: Saturn
- P14: Venus Express: A New Start of Venus Exploration

P15: Geophysical Field Investigations of Mars Analog Environments  
P16: Trans-Neptunian Objects: Observations, Models, and Laboratory Studies  
P17: Laboratory Measurements of Ice Properties Relevant to the  
Geophysics and Geology of Ice-Rock Bodies  
P18: Instruments for in Situ Exploration of Planets: How Do They Measure Up?  
P19: The Remotely Sensed Mineralogy of Mars  
P20: The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter: A New Look at Mars

Union:

U06: The Cretaceous/Tertiary (K/T) Boundary: 25 Years of Controversial Discussion  
U15: Science Of, On and From the Moon: Scientific Investigations Enabled by Lunar  
Exploration

Sessions Co-Sponsored by Planetary Sciences:

B24: Biogeochemistry in Extreme Environments  
B32: Archaea in the Earth System  
ED17: Teacher Professional Development Programs Promoting Authentic  
Scientific Research in the Classroom  
ED22: Incorporating Public Policy and Outreach in Graduate Curricula of the  
Earth and Environmental Sciences  
G12: Planetary Geodesy  
GP04: Magnetism of the Terrestrial Planets and Icy Satellites  
GP06: Earth's Magnetic Field Variability, Links with Orbital/Rotational  
Motions and Paleoclimate: Data and Models  
IN15: Unifying Discovery, Access, and Knowledge Extraction From Space  
and Geoscience Virtual Data Repositories  
IN20: Revolutionary Space Exploration Concepts Using Onboard Computing  
MR04: Ironworkers Reunion: Iron in the Earth and Planets  
MR11: Shock Processes in Terrestrial and Planetary Materials  
PA02: Educating the Public About Science Through the Media: Lessons  
Learned and Ways Forward  
SA01: SPA-Aeronomy General Contributions, Including Planetary Aeronomy  
SM03: Magnetospheres and Magnetotails: Cassini at Saturn, New Horizons at Jupiter  
SM11: Heliophysics Science Enabled by the Return to the Moon  
V03: Innovations in Isotope Mass Spectrometry in Geochemistry  
V13: The Early Earth: Insights From Petrology, Geochemistry, and Geodynamics

Abstracts must be submitted by **September 7!!!**

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#### **4) Special Sessions for 2007 Joint Assembly**

The 2007 Joint Assembly will be held May 21 to 25 in Acapulco, Mexico. The deadline for  
submission of special session proposals is September 22. Session proposals can be submitted at:  
[www.agu.org/meetings/ja07/](http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja07/)

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**5) EOS Editor for Planetary Science still needed**

EOS, the weekly publication of AGU, still needs a new editor for Planetary Science. Duties are to represent the Section on matters pertaining to EOS, write occasional short contributions pertinent to the Section, and most importantly to stimulate submissions of planetary articles to EOS. Interested parties should contact the current Executive Committee, Tilman Spohn (Tilman.Spohn@dlr.de) or Bruce Jakosky (bruce.jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu).

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For future newsletter items please contact: Section  
Secretary Jim Zimbelman, zimbelmanj@si.edu

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AGU Planetary Sciences Section NEWSLETTER #18

8.November. 2006

- 1) 2006 Fall AGU Planetary Sciences
- 2) Evening Reception at Fall AGU Meeting
- 3) 2007 Joint Assembly
- 4) New EOS Corresponding Editor

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**1) 2006 Fall AGU Planetary Sciences**

Below is the list of Planetary Sciences sessions (oral except where labeled 'Posters'). There are interesting planetary topics throughout the entire week. Following the session list is the section 'highlights' text that will be printed in the program volume. A section social event will be held Tuesday evening (see item 2 below).

Monday, December 11

- Titan I and II – am
- Mars Express Scientific Results I and II – pm
- Mars Atmospheres Posters – am
- Titan III Posters – pm
- Enceladus Posters – pm
- Trans-Neptunian Objects Posters – pm

Tuesday, December 12

- Mineralogy of Mars I and II – am
- Titan IV, Enceladus – am
- Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Posters – pm
- Mineralogy of Mars Posters – pm
- Mars Express Scientific Results Posters – pm
- Satellites, Rings and Ices Posters – pm

Wednesday, December 13

- Outer Planet Satellites I and II - am
- Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter – pm
- Planetary Rings – pm
- Mars Geology and Analog Studies - pm
- Mars Geology and Analog Studies Posters – am
- Solid Planet Geophysics Posters – am
- Venus and Venus Express Posters - am
- Mars Geology and Analog Studies Posters - am
- Mars Polar Regions Posters – am

Thursday, December 14

Shoemaker Lecture – am

Venus Express I and II – am

Lab Measurements of Ice – am

Mars Exploration Rovers II and III – pm

Mars Exploration Rovers I Posters – am

Moon/Ring Interactions with Magnetospheres I Posters – am

Giant Planets Posters – am

Friday, December 15

Moon/Ring interactions with Magnetospheres – am

Giant Planets – am

Comet Wild 2 Samples – am

Geophysical Field Investigations for Mars Analogs - am

Instruments for In Situ Exploration II and III – pm

Instruments for In Situ Exploration I Posters – am

New Instrumentation Posters - am

Asteroids, Comets, Impacts, Dynamics Posters – am

Stardust Mission and Meteorites Posters – am

#### PLANETARY SCIENCES HIGHLIGHTS

The Planetary Sciences section typically covers a very broad range of topics, but at this fall meeting there is a strong emphasis on both Mars science and studies of objects in the outer solar system. More than 500 abstracts submitted to the section are distributed between oral and poster sessions throughout the week.

*Mars Express: Science Results After Three Years in Orbit* presents recent insights gained from the on-going operations of the ESA Mars Express spacecraft. *Remotely Sensed Mineralogy of Mars* highlights new interpretations of mineral identification on Mars using a variety of remote sensing techniques. *The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter: A New Look at Mars* provides the latest information obtained from the spacecraft that began regular operations at Mars in late September. *Mars Exploration Rovers: Two Martian Winters at Meridiani Planum and Gusev Crater* gives the latest information from the two rovers that continue their remarkable explorations on opposite sides of the planet.

*Titan*, the largest Saturnian moon, continues to reveal amazing discoveries through on-going analysis of the data from both the Cassini orbiting spacecraft and the Huygens probe that landed on the moon in 2004. *Enceladus: Water, Warmth, Organics ... and Life?* presents new thoughts about the surprisingly dynamic nature of this small icy moon of Saturn. *Once in a Blue Moon: The Surprising Diversity of Outer Planet Satellites* covers the many other icy moons of Saturn that are not the focus of other individual sessions. Additional outer solar system sessions include *Interactions of Icy Moons and Rings with Outer Planet Magnetospheres*, *Planetary Rings: Observation and*

*Theory, Giant Planets: Observations and Interior Studies, and Laboratory Measurements of Ice Properties Relevant to the Geophysics and Geology of Ice-Rock Bodies.*

Two special lectures are either sponsored or co-sponsored by the section at the fall meeting. The Shoemaker lecture is entitled "The Atmosphere and Climate of Venus"; it will be given by Fred Taylor on Thursday morning prior to the sessions about the latest results from the Venus Express mission. The Sagan lecture is entitled "Exploring Mars Broadens the Biogeosciences into the Realm of Astrobiology"; it will be given by David DesMarais Thursday evening in the Marriott at a session that will be open to the public.

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## **2) Evening Reception at Fall AGU Meeting**

This years Planetary Science Evening Reception will take place on December 12th at the California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103. The event starts at 6:30pm.

The overwhelming success of last year's event when we were quickly sold out has motivated us to rent a bigger place and we expect that this year everybody who wants to attend will have a chance to buy a ticket. Tickets can be bought via the internet from the AGU Fall meeting registration web site and in San Francisco at the registration desks. The ticket price of \$24 will include food and drinks. The ticket price was kept very competitive thanks to our sponsors, who are:

DLR (German Aerospace Center)  
The Planetary Society  
The Aerospace Corporation  
Orbital Sciences Corporation  
Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation

Their help is thankfully acknowledged. Please take this opportunity to meet your colleagues and friends and have a drink and chat in a nice and inspiring environment.

See you there  
Tilman Spohn  
Section President

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## **3) 2007 Joint Assembly**

The 2007 Joint Assembly meeting will be May 21-25 in Acapulco, Mexico. Make plans now to attend! Rossman Irwin (irwinr@si.edu) is the newly appointed section representative on the Spring program committee; contact him with questions regarding this meeting.

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**4) New EOS Corresponding Editor**

Susan Sakimoto is the new corresponding editor for planetary sciences contributions to EOS; contact her (ssakimoto@ND.edu) for information regarding submissions. Thanks to Louise Prockter for her many efforts as the previous corresponding editor for the section!

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For future newsletter items please contact: Section  
Secretary Jim Zimbelman, zimbelmanj@si.edu

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