April 2023 Newsletter

Spring is, uh, springing (at least in the northern hemisphere)!

Welcome to the second newsletter from your new AGU Planetary Sciences Section leadership!

This is an exciting time for planetary sciences, with a hugely successful Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in March and the launch this month of ESA’s JUpiter ICy moons Explorer (JUICE) mission. And you only have to look at the number of planetary-related workshops and meetings in the coming weeks to get a sense of just how vibrant the international planetary science community is right now!

Not all is well, however: NASA recently announced a delay to its selected Venus radar orbiter mission, VERITAS, by no fewer than three years. And the Agency faces continuing cost pressures on other fronts. Continued community engagement with all stakeholders, including the U.S. Congress where possible, is going to be crucial to ensure we’re able to realize the ambitious exploration program in the new Origins, Worlds and Life Decadal Survey.

Still, it’s hard not to be optimistic about our community! So I’m going to take inspiration from the new growth and opportunities that springtime represents, and I invite you to do the same.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or comments, don’t hesitate to reach out at paul.byrne@wustl.edu. If you have any deadlines, events or announcements you would like to share, please email Sarah Hörst at sarah.horst@jhu.edu.

Paul

Paul Byrne, President
Wendy Calvin, President-Elect
Sarah Hörst, Secretary
Emma Dahl, Early Career representative
An Li, Student representative
Michael Mischna, Past President
Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Upcoming Deadlines

• **18-20 April 2023**: 4th Workshop on Thermal Models for Planetary Science
• **23-28 April 2023**: European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2023
• **24-25 April 2023**: Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium (LSIC) Spring Meeting
• **24-30 April 2023**: 2023 International Conference of Deep Space Sciences
• **25-27 April 2023**: Extraterrestrial Materials Analysis Group (Spring Meeting)
• **26 April 2023**: Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium (LSIC) Funding Workshop
• **2-3 May 2023**: Outer Planets Assessment Group May 2023
• **3-5 May 2023**: 6th Chianti Topics- International Focus Workshop: Geology, Physics and Chemistry of Planetary Environments
• **4-7 May 2023**: 4th International Planetary Caves Conference
• **5-7 May 2023**: Second Barry Blumberg Memorial Workshop in Astrobiology
• **7-13 May 2023**: The Inner Disk of Young Stars: Accretion, Ejection, and Planet Formation
• **10-12 May 2023**: Apophis T-6 Years: Knowledge Opportunities for the Science of Planetary Defense
• **15-18 May 2023**: Brines Across the Solar System: Ancient and Future Brines
• **16-19 May 2023**: Planetary Systems and the Origins of Life in the Era of JWST
• **21-26 May 2023**: Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2023
• **23-16 May 2023**: 4th Advanced School on Exoplanetary Science: Astrophysics of Transiting Exoplanets
• **24-26 May 2023**: Dusty Visions 2023
• **25-26 May 2023**: Quantum Sensors for Science Exploration Workshop
• **28 May–2 June 2023**: AGU Chapman Conference on Advances in Understanding Alfven Waves in the Sun and the Heliosphere
• **29 May–2 June 2023**: Star Formation in the Era of JWST
Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

#1) DPS–EPSC 2023 Hybrid Meeting: Save the Date!

Join us 1–6 October 2023 for the 55th Annual Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) joint meeting with the Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC). Be sure to save the date and plan to attend, either in person or online. Being a joint meeting with the Europlanet Society (EPS), the topics cover all areas of planetary science, including those beyond the astronomical topics traditionally related to AAS/DPS meetings. As a hybrid meeting, we anticipate a large attendance both in person at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio, Texas and online. Solar eclipse aficionados and educators will enjoy an adjacent workshop on solar eclipse planning held on 29–30 September 2023: register now. Return to the websites above and watch #DPSEPSC2023 on social media for more details to come!

Kurt Retherford (Local Host), Catherine Neish (DPS Chair) and Lena Noack (EPSC Chair)

#2) Help Support VERITAS: Petition Congress for 2029 Launch Date

The VERITAS team needs your help. NASA selected VERITAS in June 2021 and then put the mission on hold this past November despite us being on time and on budget. Now we are scheduled to launch “no earlier than 2031.”

To maintain our schedule as much as possible, we are working to petition Congress to stipulate a 2029 launch date for VERITAS. If you are willing and able, please click here to see (and sign) the petition to our elected officials. We realize that many are unable to participate in this petition given your affiliations, but please share this with any U.S. friends and family you may have who are able to do so.

If you would like more information about the situation VERITAS finds itself in, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone else on the VERITAS team.

Thank you for your support,
Jenny Whitten
she/her
Associate Deputy PI of VERITAS
jwhitten1@tulane.edu

#3) NASA Planetary Data Training Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 23-26 May 2023

The next NASA Planetary Data Training Workshop will be an in-person only event held at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, on 23-26 May, 2023. This Workshop is intended for students and
newcomers who want to learn to use digital planetary data for research involving studies of the surfaces of the terrestrial planets and icy moons. We are offering two $2,000 travel grants for people from underrepresented groups who want to learn to use planetary data. For a description of the Workshop, registration form and travel grant applications, and information on hotels and other travel information, please visit this website.

Please contact David.Williams@asu.edu for questions.


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