Message From the Division Chair
Cassandra Coombs, College of Charleston

What a GREAT year for planetary sciences! 1997 / 1998 continuously bore new images and data that excited planetary science enthusiasts, from purely planetary types to educators and the general public. Missions like Galileo, Mars Pathfinder, Mars Global Surveyor, NEAR, Stardust, and new images from the Hubble Space Telescope have energized (or in many cases, re-energized) public interest. It is clear that much remains to be explored and learned. Upcoming science and sample return missions will continue to shed new information and provide new opportunities for young planetary scientists. In addition to the tremendous data return we have been treated to many new technologies and science advances. More now than ever before, the Planetary Division of the Geological Society of America is poised to open and maintain communication between the professional planetary geologist/scientist and the interested public. For example, the very successful Mars Pathfinder lander / Sojourner rover duo demonstrated new engineering and technology feats while accomplishing a spectacular geologic study. Many of our division officers and members have been very active as guest speakers, holding workshops, and working with their community and local school systems on a variety of space-related topics. Following our charter, the Planetary Division will continue to forge and strengthen such links, and guide GSA and the rest of the world as we use geology to examine our extraordinary planetary surroundings. Despite the increased interest however, membership numbers for the Planetary Geology division remain relatively low. I trust that the newfound interest in planetary science will spur an increase in our numbers, but it can only be done with your help! Fortunately, the successful rover sales at the annual meeting brought our fiscal numbers to a new high. Proceeds from the sale will be added to the Dwornik Student Award fund.

Division activity at recent meetings

Geological Society of America Meeting, Salt Lake City (Oct. 1997)

The Planetary Division of the Geological Society of America continues to exert a strong presence at our parent organization’s national meeting. Our activity in Salt Lake City is summarized as follows.

• On Tuesday night we sponsored a public Evening session entitled Return to the Surface of Mars: Mars Pathfinder Mission Initial Results convened by Larry Crumpler and Matthew Golombek (Mars Pathfinder Project Scientist). There were two special events associated with this session. First, the division took a moment to honor the memory of Gene Shoemaker, the first winner of our Division’s Gilbert Award and a man considered by many to be the father of Planetary Geology. Second, the division surprised Matt by awarding the rover Sojourner honorary membership in the Division. The session was exceptionally well received and wildly popular, with attendance in excess of 1000.

• Another well attended session, all seats filled and 3 rows of standing people in the back, was the Planetary Geology Symposium, entitled "Exploring Life in the Solar System" and convened by Cass Coombs. Our division also sponsored 3 theme sessions at the Denver meeting, including "Recent results from Mars Pathfinder", "Planetary Mantles and Basalts", and "Recent results from the Galileo mission to Jupiter".
Planetary Geology Division

The Planetary Geology Division again sponsored its very popular workshop entitled Exploring the Solar System in the Classroom: A Hands-on Approach (For K-12 Teachers). The workshop was organized by Cassandra Coombs, with help from Marilyn Lindstrom, Jeff Taylor and other researchers with a great outreach presentation.

The 1997 Planetary Division Business Meeting was held immediately prior to the Special Lecture held on Tuesday night. At that meeting, the following officers were announced and welcomed into the fold:

- Chair: Cassandra Coombs
- 1st Vice-Chair: Dan Britt
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Dave Kring
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ralph Harvey

The G.K. Gilbert Award was established by our Division in 1983 to recognize outstanding contributions to the solution of a fundamental problem of planetary geology in its broadest sense, including planetary geology, geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology and geophysics, and the field of meteoritics. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to planetary studies, the 1997 G.K. Gilbert Award was presented to Dr. Ronald Greeley. He was introduced and his accomplishments cited by Mike Carr of the USGS.

During the Salt Lake City meeting our division conducted a fundraiser that was both fun and productive. Taking advantage of the excitement generated by Mars Pathfinder, we sold the Mattel toys modelled after the famous martian rover. Although a glitch prevented us from having the rovers on hand at the meeting, more than 1370 orders were taken, and with the gracious help of GSA headquarters all orders were filled, producing happy costumers and helping to fill our divisions coffers.

29th Lunar & Planetary Science Conf., Houston (March, 1998)

One of the Planetary Division’s main activities at annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conferences is as sponsors of the Stephen E. Dwornik Planetary Geoscience Student Award. As at previous meetings, a reception was hosted by the Division, with gracious help from the Johnson Space Center and the Lunar and Planetary Institute, on Monday evening to honor the winners from the previous year (named on page one of this report). Judging for the 1998 award took place at this meeting, and the winners are listed on the left.

- During the Dwornik reception it was a great honor for the Planetary Geology Division to announce the creation of the Shoemaker award, at the bequest of Carolyn Shoemaker in honor of her late husband Gene. More on this development below.
- During the Dwornik reception we also announced the winner of our Gilbert reprint auction. The signed copy of G.K. Gilbert’s paper went to a former Gilbert awardee for the astounding sum of $1000! Thanks so much for the generous bid!
- During the conference the Division officers held a business meeting. Topics discussed included our upcoming activities for the Toronto National GSA meeting, division finances, Dwornik, Gilbert and Shoemaker awards, and officer nominations.

Presenting the 1998 Dwornik Prize Winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student, Affiliation</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Chabot, University of Arizona</td>
<td>The Origin of Ni-bearing Sulfides in CI Carbonaceous Chondrites (oral presentation).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Minitti, Brown University</td>
<td>Assessment of shock effects on hornblende water contents and isotopic compositions (poster presentation).</td>
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Honorable Mentions:

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<th>Student, Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>C. Van der Bogert, Brown University</td>
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<td>A. Yen, California Inst. of Technology</td>
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<td>N. Spaun, Brown University</td>
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<td>L. Kirkland, Lunar and Planetary Institute</td>
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Geological Society of America, Toronto

Preparations for the 1998 meeting began early and continue today. The Division Symposium entitled “Pathfinder and Global Surveyor: New Views of Mars” has been selected as a Pardee Keynote by the program committee, and will take place on Thursday morning. The symposium was organized by Dan Britt, and presentations include:

Announcing the 1998 G. K. Gilbert Award Winner

John B. Adams, University of Washington

Quick Schedule: GSA- Toronto

Saturday

Workshops:

Tuesday

Hot Topics at Noon:
Extraterrestrial chemistry- implication for origin of life on Earth.

Thursday

Pardee Keynote Symposia:
K2. Pathfinder and Global Surveyor: New views of Mars

Business Meeting and Gilbert Award Ceremony ??

Theme Sessions (date and time not yet announced):
T54. Assembling a new understanding of Mars.

ALL WEEK:
Visit the Planetary Division Booth in the Exhibit Hall!

Planetary Geology Division

Announcing the Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies

The Planetary Geology Division is proud of its role in supporting and recognizing excellence among the students who become the planetary geologists of the future. We are happy to announce the creation of the Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies (The Shoemaker Award). This award was established at the Geological Society of America Foundation with generous gifts from Dr. Shoemaker’s widow Carolyn S. Shoemaker, herself a distinguished planetary geoscientist, and his family and many friends, and is dedicated to the study of impact crater, either on Earth or on the other solid bodies of our solar system. In Carolyn’s own words...

“Four decades of space exploration have revealed most strikingly that most of the solid surfaces of planets and their satellites are heavily cratered by collisions of minor planets and comets. Impact is one of the most fundamental processes on the terrestrial planets; indeed, the formation of these planets probably depended on the collision and accretion of smaller objects. Evidence points to the possibility that collision of large objects has played a major role in the extinction and evolution of life on Earth. The study both of planet-approaching asteroids and comets, which may eventually impact a planet, and of the craters and remaining structures of craters made by collision on the planets in our solar system is basic to our understanding of Earth’s history.”

Currently the division is working with Carolyn to establish the details of the award. Look for more information at upcoming National GSA and Lunar and Planetary Science meetings. Donations are welcome (see the ballot for details).
Finances and membership

The financial standing of our division is healthier than it has been in several years but should improve as we continue to cut costs and try new fundraisers. This newsletter represents our latest cost-cutting measure; shortening it reduces our costs significantly. Our largest single yearly cost is the Division’s annual business meeting at National GSA, and we will continue to search for ways to reduce this expense. The financial activity of our Division over the past 16 months can be summarized as follows:

**Income**
- Division Balance 12/31/97: $111.80
- Contribution: $20.00
- 1996 Division Dues Income: $1922.00
- 1996 Workshop Income: $355.00
- Rover Sales: $8838.00
- Postage reimbursement (Mattel): $500.00
- **Total Division Resources**: $11746.80

**Expenses**
- Annual Meeting: $408.68
- Rovers: $4891.50
- Award Certificates: $21.20
- Rover mailing costs: $1191.66
- Newsletter & Ballot: $907.39
- **Total Division Expenses**: $7420.04

**Division Fund Balance 4/2/97**: $4326.76

(This Division balance does not reflect an upcoming transfer from the Division to the Dwornik fund of the major portion of profits from the Rover sales, reducing the Division fund balance by approximately $2000).

Planetary Geology Division

Membership has apparently increased slightly over the last year. A year ago, on April 2, 1997, Division membership was 308. The same figure for March 3 of 1998 is 328. Increasing our membership is a major goal of the Division for the coming year.

Support The Dwornik Fund

Since first awarded in 1991, the Dwornik prize has established itself as the premier method of recognizing outstanding American graduate students in the Planetary Sciences. We are happy to report that the Dwornik fund grew in 1997, increasing from $16,203 to $17,831. Most of this growth came in the forms of investment value, contributions, and interest. Further growth will come in a lump sum later this year, as profits from our fundraising sale of Mars Pathfinder toys are added to the fund. However, the fund still is still barely self-supporting. Given the importance of this award, which elevates the level of both student and faculty research, we hope the fund can grow to allow us to expand the scope of the awards, both in monetary value and exposure for the research.

**Donations to the Dwornik fund are welcome** (see ballot for details).

Visit the Planetary Geology Division Website

http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/geol/plandiv/
Planetary Geology Division


Biographies of nominated officers (continued):

Harvey, Ralph P., b Portsmouth, RI, 1960; Igneous Petrology and geochemistry. Education: Beloit College, BS (Geol.) 1982; Univ. Pittsburgh, Ph.D. (Geol. and Plan. Sci.) 90. Professional Experience: Staff Geologist, Huntley & Huntley, Inc., 84-85; Post-doctoral Research Associate, Univ. Tennessee, 90-92; Research Associate Professor, Univ. Pittsburgh, 92-95; Senior Research Associate, Case Western Reserve Univ., 95-present; Summer Faculty Fellow, NASA/JSC, 96. Member: GSA, AGU, Meteoritical Society. Service: Meteorite Working Group (V.Chair) 93-present; Judge, Int. Sci. Eng. Fair,94, Dwornik Prize, 91-93, 96; Sec./Treas., Planetary Division GSA, 1996-present. Honors and awards: Tallman scholarship, 78-82. Research: igneous meteorites; micrometeorites; equilibrated ordinary chondrites; terrestrial igneous Archean rocks; general igneous petrology; Antarctic field research. Address: Dept. of Geological Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106-7216. (216) 368-0198 ph. (216) 368-3691 fx. rph@po.cwru.edu

Gregg, Tracy K.P. b Bellevue, NE, Sept. 12, 1968; Volcanology, Marine Geology, Planetary Geology. Education: Brown University BS (Geol. Sci. with honors) 90; Arizona State University Ph.D (Geol.) 95. Professional Experience: RIDGE Post-doctoral Fellow, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 95-97; Lecturer, Bridgewater State College, 97; Assistant Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 97-98; Assistant Professor, SUNY-Buffalo, 1998-pres. Member: GSA, AGU, AWG, IAVCEI. Honors & Awards: Stephen R. Dwornik Best Student Talk (honorable mention) 91; Stephen R. Dwornik Best Student Poster, 93. Research: Submarine, Venusian and Martian volcanology; subaerial effusive volcanism, mapping; geomorphology; mid-ocean ridge processes. Address (until 20 August, 1998): Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, MS#8, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 02543 (508) 289-2615 ph. (508) 457-2183 fax. tgregg@whoi.edu
Dear Fellows and Members of the Division:
The 1998 slate of officers of the Division, presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Management Board, is presented below. Biographical data for these candidates are available on the previous page. Please vote by checking the appropriate box or by writing in the name of your nominee in the space provided.

Your ballot must be returned no later than September 15, 1998, and must be signed in the space provided in order to be valid. You may use simply fold the ballot sheet; if you wish to include a donation, however, please put your ballot in an envelope addressed to GSA Headquarters (see below). In either case, make sure the ballot is signed, and affix first class letter postage.

The election results will be announced at the annual business meeting of the Planetary Geology Division, held during the Geological Society of America Annual meeting.

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<th>Chair:</th>
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<th>First Vice-Chair:</th>
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<th>Second Vice-Chair:</th>
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<th>Secretary-Treasurer:</th>
<th>Tracey Gregg</th>
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PLEASE RETURN THIS BALLOT RIGHT AWAY (Or by September, 1998 at the latest) to:
GSA Headquarters, 3300 Penrose Place, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301
Signature _____________________________ Date ______________

THIS BALLOT IS NOT VALID WITHOUT YOUR SIGNATURE

If you are inclined, this would be a great time to make a contribution to either the Dwornik fund or the Shoemaker fund! Unlike many other charitable donations, your donation to these funds will produce positive results you can see for yourself as you encourage and support your future colleagues. Please include a check or money order with your ballot, made payable to Planetary Geology Division, GSA.

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<tr>
<th>YES I have enclosed a check as a donation to:</th>
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<td>The Shoemaker Fund</td>
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WHEN MAKING A DONATION, PLEASE PUT THE BALLOT AND CHECK IN AN ENVELOPE AND MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.