“Underfoot lay potato peelings and empty tin cans, but overhead, 
by the grace of God, the exceeding beauty of the stars.”
-Anon. maternity nurse in Alberta, Canada, 1910.

What leads us into planetary geology, as opposed to 
the geology of the mainstream? For most of us, it just 
feels right – it scratches some primordial itch. It’s 
hard to be more specific than that and have it apply to 
all of you; words are invested with meaning by the 
reader, not by the writer. But despite the fact I can’t 
write words that explain that feeling, I know how to 
summon it. I simply raise my head and stare into a 
brilliant clear night sky.

It's an amazing universe that lies in front of us. 
There's great depth of mystery there, even in the most 
familiar objects like our Moon. I cannot fathom how so many dismiss the sun, the Moon, the planets and 
stars as having little relevance to our everyday lives – 
to me, it seems the only path toward knowing our 
place in the universe. There's something deeply satisfying about unraveling the complex weave of secrets in that deep dark universe from a few moonbeams and a little stardust. We can't visit these places in person or hold their rocks in our hands, except rarely. It's a very different feeling than one gets in the "data-rich" environment of our own planet's surface.

Those of you reading this newsletter know this feeling, and I'd bet that its intensity has grown, rather than diminished, with time. We live in the most data-intensive period of human exploration and yet, in some endeavors, this only heightens the mysteries we encounter. I often suggest to students that a quick way to astound yourself is to look closely at any natural system or object and ask "How did it get that way?" Answering this question in a planetary setting requires flexibility and depth of thought. That's why I am a planetary geologist, and I bet that's why you are too. That, and to get filthy rich.

I'm happy to report that in our twentieth year our Di-
vision is healthy, solvent, and active. Founded in 1981, our purpose is to bring together scientists inter-
ested in planetary geology, to facilitate the presenta-
tion and discussion of their problems and ideas, to
stimulate communication with other branches of the Earth sciences, to promote research and the publication of results on planetary geology studies, and to advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to planetary geology. This mission has evolved recently to fit the growing needs of our community. Our Division plays a prominent role in rewarding excellence in our field at both the professional and student level. New awards, and healthier awards, have served not only to boost the profile of outstanding planetary geology research, but our Division as well. Our Division has become an important bridge between exciting (but sometimes inaccessible) new discoveries in planetary geology and those who disseminate these findings to the public: K-12 teachers, members of the media, and others.

Having turned an increasing proportion of our Division’s efforts toward these parts of our mission, our goals for the immediate future are simple. Financial solvency and renewed dedication to recognition of excellence have given us visibility within GSA and our community, but they bring with them increased burdens in terms of managing our time and effort. Currently, we are working to stabilize these gains, to fully incorporate them into the annual work plans of our Division, and to ensure that our efforts remain self-sustaining. We hope you will help us evaluate how we are serving GSA, the members of our Division, and the planetary-loving public. Just as we are a different Division than we were a decade ago, so is the population we serve, and we would love to hear from you.

See you all in Boston! - rph

Division Activity at Recent Meetings

The Planetary Geology Division continued to sustain a high level of activity and visibility at both the “Summit 2000” Geological Society of America meeting in Reno and the 32nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. At the GSA meeting in Reno, the Division sponsored a Pardee Keynote Symposium entitled “The Coming New Age of Planetary Exploration: Sample Returns, in situ Geological Analysis, and Human Missions to other Worlds” (organized and run by Ralph Harvey) as well as four topical sessions and an educational workshop for teachers of students in grades 4-8. The Planetary Geology Division booth also continued to serve as a focal point for Division fundraising and outreach activities; we express our sincere thanks to Dr. Marilyn Lindstrom (NASA/Johnson Space Center) and Ms. Jaclyn Allen (Lockheed-Martin) for their continued dedicated efforts in support of our Division’s booth! Finally, at the annual Business Meeting, the 2000 G.K. Gilbert Award was given to Dr. Larry Soderblom of the USGS at Flagstaff, and the following officers were announced and welcomed:

Chair Ralph Harvey, Case Western Res. U.
1st Vice-Chair Susan Sakimoto, UMBC/Goddard
2nd Vice-Chair Tracy Gregg, SUNY-Buffalo
Sec/Treas Eric Grosfils, Pomona College

At the 32nd LPSC, the primary focus was to coordinate judging activities for the 2001 Dwornik Prize competition—many thanks to the all the students who competed and to the volunteers who assisted with the judging!

“Geo-Odyssey” Division Activity: Boston, November 5-8, 2001

As was the case in Reno last year, we are expecting a strong planetary program at this year’s national Geological Society of America meeting in Boston. Remember to register for “Geo-Odyssey” online at http://www.geosociety.org, and be sure to swing by the Division booth (currently scheduled for Booth #1226, just inside and to the right of one of the Exhibit Hall entrances).

We are particularly excited to report that this year the Planetary Geology Division will once again sponsor a Pardee Keynote Symposium, one we hope everyone will be able to attend. Entitled “Water’s Many Forms in the Solar System: Implications for Geology, Exploration, and Life,” the symposium is being co-organized by Dr. Susan Sakimoto and Dr. Tracy Gregg. The theme of the GSA 2001 Annual Meeting

PRESENTING THE 2001 DWORNIK PRIZE WINNERS

Sarah Stewart, California Institute of Technology: The relationship between rampart crater morphologies and the amount of subsurface ice (oral presentation)

Jennifer Anderson, Brown University: Oblique impact ejecta flow fields: An application of Maxwell’s Z model (poster presentation)

Honorable Mentions

Kevin Williams, Arizona State University (oral)
Matthew Silver*, Whitman College (poster)

* undergraduate recipient
in Boston, “A Geo-Odyssey,” stresses geological journeys and exploration; a journey exploring our understanding of the role of water in our Solar System’s formation and evolution—and the importance of water in eventual colonization of our Solar System—is truly a “Geo-Odyssey” in the broadest sense. The symposium will examine a number of new discoveries that dramatically illustrate the importance of water in a variety of geologic contexts throughout the Solar System. Specifically, it will focus on three water-based and interrelated themes in planetary geology: 1) water as a geological force or controlling constituent; 2) water as a host for evolving life; and 3) water as a resource for exploration.

**The Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies**

The Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies was established by Dr. Carolyn Shoemaker in memory of her husband in 1998. She established the endowment so that students will have an opportunity to pursue studies of impact craters, which were the focus of her husband’s graduate student studies and a large part of his professional career. Friends, scientific colleagues, and companies have contributed to (and continue to contribute to) the fund to ensure its success. We are particularly pleased to note that, whereas last year’s award required $200 from the Division to supplement the $1800 available from the Shoemaker fund, this year the Shoemaker Memorial Fund reached the size required to provide the full $2000 award in perpetuity.

The Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies is for undergraduate or graduate students, of any nationality, working in any country, in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, astronomy, or biology. The award, which includes $2000, is to be applied for the study of impact craters, either on Earth or on other solid bodies in the solar system. Areas of study may include but shall not necessarily be limited to impact cratering processes, bodies (asteroidal or cometary) that make the impacts, or the geological, chemical or biological results of impact cratering. Applications for the 2002 award will be due on September 1, 2002.

This year, it was our pleasure to announce the winner of the second Shoemaker Award, funded by the Shoemaker Memorial Fund and sponsored by our Division. Our second recipient was Gordon Osinski from the Geology Department at the University of New Brunswick.
New Brunswick. His research is focused upon investigating the Haughton impact structure on Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada, and at the 32nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference he presented a paper entitled “Highly shocked low density sedimentary rocks from the Haughton impact structure, Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada.” We are also happy to report that the first Shoemaker Award recipient, Susana Widicus (now in the Department of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology), co-authored a paper at the 32nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference entitled “A preliminary search for evidence of impact-related burning near the Mjolnir impact structure, Barents Sea.”

For further details about the award and applications see: http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/Shoemaker_Award

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**Best Student Paper in Planetary Sciences for the Year 2000**

This year the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America, working jointly with the Meteoritical Society, instituted an award for “The Best Student Paper in Planetary Sciences” for 2000. This award may be granted annually at the discretion of the Meteoritical Council and the officers of the Planetary Geology Division on the recommendation of a selection committee of authorities in the field of planetary science. The Meteoritical Society will supply the monetary award (currently $500), while the Planetary Geology Division will supply a plaque and administrative support. Among the topics included under this award are asteroids, comets, craters, interplanetary dust, interstellar medium, lunar samples, meteors, meteorites, natural satellites, planets, tektites, origin and history of the solar system. The award is limited to undergraduate and graduate students who are the first author of a paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal during a specific calendar year; only articles written in English are considered. The first author must have been a registered student at a degree awarding institution when the paper was submitted to the publishing journal.

We are happy to announce that the first winner of the “Best Paper” award is Natasha Johnson of Washington University in Saint Louis, for her paper entitled “Water on Venus: New insights from tremolite decomposition” (Icarus 146, 301-306, 2000). In addition, Barbara Cohen of the University of Tennessee receives an honorable mention for her paper “Modeling of liquid water on CM meteorite parent bodies and implications for amino acid racemization” (Icarus 145, 369-381, 2000). Congratulations!

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**Finances and Membership**

The Division’s finances remain healthy, and we hope they will continue improving as we stay focused on reducing costs and raising funds. This electronic newsletter represents a key cost-cutting measure, as electronic distribution reduces our costs considerably. Our largest single yearly cost continues to be 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 year can be summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2000 Budget Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999 Division Dues Income</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Division Dues Income</td>
<td>$ 2553.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer (to)/from Foundation</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 382.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$ 2935.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Division Meeting Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter &amp; labels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Assets, Start of the Year | $ 6881.78
Net Income/(Loss)   | ($ 2595.59)

Unrestricted Net Assets, Year to Date | $ 4286.19

Membership: As of the end of the 2000 calendar year, the Division has 465 members, including 35 Senior Fellows, 40 Fellows, 3 Honorary Fellows, 15 Senior members, 223 Members, 137 Student Mem-
(87 graduate students, 50 undergraduates) and 12 Teacher Members. Please encourage your colleagues to keep their Division memberships active, and remember that GSA accepts new membership applications online at (http://www.geosociety.org).

**Call for Applications & Nominations**

For the past several years the Division has enjoyed a great deal of growth and vibrancy, something we hope will continue well into the future! This is something which reflects positively upon us as a community, and we would like to remind everyone of the opportunities to participate and contribute.

**G.K. Gilbert Award**: All members are strongly encouraged to submit nominations for the G. K. Gilbert Award. This is the Division’s highest award, presented annually for outstanding contributions to the solution of fundamental problems in planetary geology in the broadest sense. Nominations (which include a letter detailing the accomplishments of the nominee) should be submitted directly to the current Chair of the Division prior to March 1st each year.

**Pardee Keynote Symposium**: The Pardee Keynote Symposiums, as special events selected on a competitive basis because of their broad interest to the geoscience community, are an important avenue for conveying important new planetary science results to a broader audience. This forum for communicating with and connecting to the rest of the geoscience community represents an opportunity for us all, and we encourage anyone with ideas for Pardee Keynote proposals to coordinate with the Division’s 1st Vice-Chair. As you consider possible topics, remember that the Pardee Keynote Symposiums represent interdisciplinary, leading-edge topics in a scientific discipline or area of public policy or address broad fundamental issues.

**Dwornik Award**: The Dwornik fund is currently self-sustaining, but we hope the fund will continue to grow and provide new opportunities, and thus encourage your donations. In addition, anyone interested in serving as a judge for the Dwornik competition at next year’s LPSC should please contact the Division’s 2nd Vice-Chair to volunteer!

**Eugene M. Shoemaker Award**: The Shoemaker fund is currently self-sustaining, but we welcome your donations. As a reminder, the deadline for 2001 student nominations is September 1st, and the deadline for 2002 will be September 1, 2002! For more details and online application forms, please see: http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/Shoemaker_Award/

**Best Student Paper in Planetary Sciences**: This new award, offered jointly with the Meteoritical Society, is an opportunity for student first authors publishing their work in English to receive recognition for outstanding scientific achievement. For details, or to nominate papers published in 2001 (January 15, 2002 deadline), contact Dan Britt (dbritt@utk.edu).

**Membership Challenge**: This year we would like to challenge the Division membership to help us break the “500 active members” barrier. Please encourage friends, students and colleagues to join the GSA Division which is literally out of this world!

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**Contacts for Enhancing International Communication**

An important mission of the Planetary Geology Division of GSA is to foster communication between our members. Planetary Geology is an international endeavor, and our Division recently asked for volunteers outside the US who would be willing to receive occasional contacts from active or potential GSA members regarding planetary research in their country. If you would like to join the list of volunteers provided below—and as you can see, we’re off to a good start but would like to see much broader geographic representation—please get in touch with the Division’s Secretary/Treasurer. Our thanks to those who have agreed to participate thus far!

**Argentina**
Marcela Sanchez Calle
amcalle@velocom.com.ar

**Australia**
Noel Jackson
nwj100g@bigpond.com

**Austria**
Christian Koeberl
christian.koeberl@univie.ac.at

**Belgium**
Philippe Claey
phclaey@vub.ac.be

**Canada**
Frank Brunton
brunton@sciencenorth.ca
Edward Cloutis
e.cloutis@uwinnipeg.ca
Richard Ernst
renst@nrcan.gc.ca
Alan R. Hildebrand
hildebra@geo.ucalgary.ca

**France**
Philippe L. Masson
masson@geol.u-psud.fr

**Italy/Vatican City State**
Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.
gjc@specola.va
Frances Westall
frances.westall@tin.it

**Sweden**
Ilka von Dalwigk
ilka@geo.su.se
Election of New Planetary Geology Division Officers

This year we need to elect a new Chair, 1st Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair, each for a one year position; election of the Secretary/Treasurer (Grosfils) last year was for a two-year period. Biographical information for current candidates and continuing officers, presented below, is followed by a ballot page and voting instructions.


VISIT THE PLANETARY GEOLOGY DIVISION WEB SITE

http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~tgregg/gsa.html
Dear Fellows and Members of the Division:

The slate of 2001-2002 officer candidates for the Division, presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the current officers, is presented below. Biographical data for these candidates are available on the previous page.

There are TWO (2) different ways you can cast your vote, as follows:

1) **Electronically.** To cast your vote online visit the web site: [http://rock.geosociety.org/balloting/planetary.asp](http://rock.geosociety.org/balloting/planetary.asp). You will be asked to provide your e-mail address or membership ID to confirm your Division member status.

2) **By Mail.** To cast your vote on paper, please print out this ballot, and vote by checking the appropriate box or by writing in the name of your nominee in the space provided. Your ballot must be received by GSA no later than October 15, 2001, and must be signed in the space provided in order to be valid. You may 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 Wednesday evening during the 2001 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Boston.

Chair:  
Susan Sakimoto  
( )
(or write in _____________________________)  ( )

First Vice-Chair:  
Tracy Gregg  
( )
(or write in _____________________________)  ( )

Second Vice-Chair:  
Michael Kelley  
( )
(or write in _____________________________)  ( )

PLEASE RETURN THIS BALLOT RIGHT AWAY (to be received by October 15, 2001 at the latest) to:

GSA Headquarters, Attn: Divisions Liaison, 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.

**YES I have enclosed a check as a donation to:**

The Dwornik Fund  
amount $__________

The Shoemaker Fund  
amount $__________

WHEN MAKING A DONATION, PLEASE PUT THE BALLOT AND CHECK IN AN ENVELOPE AND MAIL IT TO GSA HEADQUARTERS AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED ABOVE.
Call for Applications!

Apply for the GSA/USGS Congressional Science Fellowship for 2002–2003

Opportunities to serve as a Congressional Science Fellow are rare, and the experience of serving is unique. This position may be a good fit for you if you would like to work directly with national leaders and use your expertise and experience to help shape science and technology policy on Capitol Hill.

The Congressional Science Fellow will be selected from top competitors early in 2002. Successful candidates are GSA members who possess either a:

- Ph.D. in the Earth sciences (or a related field); or a
- Master’s degree in the Earth sciences (or a related field) with at least five years of professional experience.

If you meet these qualifications, have experience in applying scientific knowledge to societal challenges, and share a passion for helping shape the future of the geoscience profession, GSA invites your application. The Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. **The deadline to apply is February 1, 2002.**

For application information, check our Website at [http://www.geosociety.org/science/csf/index.htm](http://www.geosociety.org/science/csf/index.htm) or contact Ms. Karlon Blythe, Program Officer, GSA Headquarters, (303) 447-2020, ext. 1036 or kblythe@geosociety.org.

GSA 2001 Planetary Geology Division Officers

Chair: Ralph P. Harvey, Case Western Reserve Univ, Dept Geological Sciences, Cleveland, OH 44106; rph@po.cwru.edu
1st Vice-Chair: Susan E.H. Sakimoto, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Ctr, Geodynamics Branch, Code 921, Greenbelt, MD 20771; sakimoto@core2.gsfc.nasa.gov
2nd Vice-Chair: Tracy P. Gregg, SUNY at Buffalo, Dept Geology, Buffalo, NY 14260; tgregg@acsu.buffalo.edu
Secretary-Treasurer: Eric B. Grosfils, Pomona College, Dept Geology, Claremont, CA 91711; egrosfils@pomona.edu
Past Chair: David A. Kring, Univ of Arizona, LPL, PO Box 210092, Tucson, AZ 85721; kring@lpl.arizona.edu