Message from the Division Chair

R. Aileen Yingst, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Last year, the Planetary Geology Division celebrated its 25th year as a division of the Geological Society of America. If the 25 years prior to our inception represented the first great age of human exploration in space, then the years from 1981 to 2006 have represented an era in which scientific discovery — and most particularly geological discovery — has taken center stage. From discoveries on Earth about rocks from space, to unraveling the nature and origin of the Solar System through examining its earliest components, the last two and a half decades have seen exciting, amazing and sometimes surprising discoveries. Some revelations were predicted; others were completely unexpected. Many continue to be enthusiastically and sometimes — shall we say vigorously — debated. All represent the active workings of an intense, scientifically vibrant and growing community, of which we all can be proud.

And yet, after all this time, we as planetary geologists, we as geologists, and unfortunately, we as scientifically literate citizens — we are a minority in the United States. After 50 years in space and 25 years as a Division, we still find ourselves answering the most basic publicly posed questions about what we do and why it is important. Along with such disciplines as particle physics, we share the dubious distinction of having to constantly justify the value of our work to the public. It can be frustrating at times, to say the least. But it is our job to educate those around us about exactly these points.

In this newsletter, the officers and I are pleased to provide you with a summary of the activities of the Division at the annual meeting in Philadelphia, as well as a preview of the broad range of topical sessions that have been proposed for the 2007 GSA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. I encourage you to scan this list and consider submitting an abstract to one of these sessions, especially if you are a student! You’ll also meet our latest awardees, individuals that represent the best our Division and our discipline have to offer. In short, your Division newsletter encapsulates the incredible strides our community has made and strives to make in exploring the most profound questions about the universe and our place in it.

But I also want to take the single opportunity I have to stand on the Division Chair soapbox to encourage all of you to seek out opportunities to bring both your knowledge, and your enthusiasm for your work to the public. The gap between those with knowledge and those without continues to widen. As we push the envelope of human knowledge and frontiers, it is our job to bring our fellow citizens along with us. We have the most incredible job on this planet and we...
must share not only our discoveries, but the joy of discovery itself, with those who have yet to understand and experience that same joy. Roving Mars, mapping moons of fire and ice, probing the primordial matter of the Solar System — these fragments of the human journey into space make up our everyday lives. It is our privilege to share this most incredible journey with our fellow citizens.

R. Aileen Yingst
Chair

The Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Award for Crater Studies

The Eugene M. Shoemaker Memorial Fund 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.

The 2006 recipient of the Shoemaker Award was Vishnu Reddy, University of North Dakota. We encourage all of our Division members to actively recruit promising students to apply for this prestigious award.

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 will be due on September 7, 2007.

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

Division Activity at Recent Meetings

The Planetary Geology Division had a high level of activity and visibility at the 2006 Fall GSA meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Division sponsored a Pardee Keynote Symposium entitled "When One Planet Isn't Enough: Celebrating 25 years of Solar System Exploration," which was organized and run by Herb Frey and Aileen Yingst. The Planetary Geology Division booth also continued to serve as a focal point for Division fundraising and outreach activities. Finally, at the annual Business Meeting, the 2006 G.K. Gilbert Award was given to Dr. Michael Gaffey of the University of North Dakota; the citationist was Dr. Michael Kelley of Georgia Southern University.

The judging panel at the 37th LPSC saw another crop of outstanding entries for the 2006 Dwornik Prize — many thanks to all the students who competed and to the volunteers who assisted with the judging!

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. As is shown below, our largest single yearly cost continues to be the Division's annual business meeting at the GSA Annual Meeting, 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:

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<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2006 Budget Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division Dues Income</td>
<td>$ 1504.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 1547.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$ 3051.50</td>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catering &amp; Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage, Printing, Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Dues Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income/Loss</td>
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</tbody>
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| Unrestricted Net Assets, Year to Date | $ 14733.79 |

Membership: As of the end of December 2006, the Division has 538 members, up 11% from the previous year! This exceeded our goal of reaching 500 members. Please encourage your colleagues to
keep their Division memberships active, and remember that GSA accepts new membership applications online at the GSA website 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 that 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 Aileen Yingst yingsta@uwgb.edu by September 1, 2007.

**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 2007 will be September 7, 2007! For more details and online application forms, please see: http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/Shoemaker_Award/

**Pellas-Ryder Award**: This 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 2007, contact the Chair of the Pellas-Ryder Award Committee, Paul Hardersen, or Division Chair Aileen Yingst. The deadline for nominations is TBD (will be posted on our website).

**Pardee Keynote Symposium**: The Pardee Keynote Symposia, 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 future Pardee Keynote proposals to coordinate with Aileen Yingst yingsta@uwgb.edu or Herb Frey herbert.v.frey@nasa.gov. As you consider possible topics, remember that the Pardee Keynote Symposia represent interdisciplinary, leading-edge topics in a scientific discipline or area of public policy or address broad fundamental issues.

The Division also strongly encourages the submission of Topical Sessions for future GSA meetings. Division-sponsored Topical Sessions provide a format for the exchange of ideas at GSA meetings.

**Contacts for Enhancing International Communication**

Our Division asks for volunteers outside the US who are willing to receive queries from active or potential GSA members regarding planetary research in their country. If you would like to continue from the 2004 list of volunteers (provided below), or wish to volunteer anew, please get in touch with the Division’s Secretary/Treasurer.

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

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

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

**Belgium**
Philippe Claeys  
phclaeys@vub.ac.be

**Canada**
Frank Brunton  
brunton@sciencenorth.ca
Edward Cloutis  
e.cloutis@uwinnipeg.ca
Richard Ernst  
remst@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.  
gig@specola.va
Frances Westall  
frances.westall@tin.it

**Spain**
Iván López  
i.lopez@escet.urjc.es

**Sweden**
Ilka von Dalwigk  
ilka@geo.su.se

**News**

A new NASA Advisory Group was formed about a year ago to promote and prepare for future field geology by astronauts on the Moon and Mars. The Advisory Group, called FEAT (Field Exploration Analysis Team), will be holding informal meetings at several national meetings, including the 2007 GSA Meeting in Denver, to attempt to attract the interest of terrestrial geologists to support their interests. Stay tuned for future updates.
**Current Planetary Geology Division Officers’ Biographies**

This year we must elect a new Second Vice-Chair for a one-year position. Please suggest candidates to any of our officers over the next few months.


**Frey, Herbert V.** Planetary crustal evolution; comparative planetology. Education: BA Haverford College; PhD Univ. MD. Professional Experience: RA NASA/GSFC 77-79; Staff Scientist, NASA/ GSFC 79-92; Geodynamics Prog. Manager, NASA HQ 89; Head, Geodynamics Br., GSFC 92-04; Manager, Mars Data Analysis & Mars Fundamental Research Progs., NASA HQ, 01-04; Chief, Planetary Geodynamics Lab, GSFC 05-present. Concurrent Positions: Asst. Proj. Scientist, Crustal Dynamics Project, 81-91; Convener, Coolfont Workshop on NASA Solid Earth Science, 89; Manager, Solid Earth & Natural Hazards Prog. Support Off., 96-present; Chair, Mars Data Analysis Review Panel 01. Member: GSA. Research Interests: Early crustal evolution, crustal magnetic anomalies, Mars crustal dichotomy, effects of large impacts, resurfacing processes. Address: Code 698, Planetary Geodynamics Laboratory, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD USA 20771; e-mail: Herbert.V.Frey@nasa.gov.
Proposed Sessions, 2007 GSA Annual Meeting, Denver

Pardee Keynote Symposium:
New Eyes and Ears on Mars: Recent Advances in Understanding the Red Planet

Geophysics of the Terrestrial Planets: The G.K. Gilbert Award Session

1. Advanced Remote Sensing of the Earth, Moon, and Mars
2. Geology of the Northern Plains of Mars: New Tectonic, Petrologic, and Geomorphic Perspectives
3. Impact Craters and Events: From the Field to the Laboratory
4. Techniques for Studying the Development of Fields of Small Basaltic Vents on Earth and Mars
5. The Chesapeake Bay Impact Structure: Results from the 2005-2006 ICDP-USGS Deep Drilling Project
6. The Solar Stew: The search for ingredients of life and biomarkers in our Solar System: past or present
7. Up Close and Personal: Geology on Mars and Earth at the Hand lens Scale
8. Wet Mars: Understanding The Red Planet's Aqueous History Through Terrestrial Fieldwork

ANNOUNCING THE 2007 G. K. GILBERT AWARD WINNER

Dr. Maria Zuber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology


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, 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:
The Geological Society of America, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301-9140.

GSA 2007 Planetary Geology Division Officers

Chair: R. Aileen Yingst, Dept. Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311; vingsta@uwgb.edu.

1st Vice-Chair: Herbert V. Frey, Geodynamics Branch, NASA Goddard SF Center, Greenbelt, MD; herbert.v.frey@nasa.gov.

2nd Vice-Chair: Louise Prockter, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Laurel, MD; louise.prockter@jhuapl.edu.

Secretary-Treasurer: David A. Williams, School of Earth & Space Exploration, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287; david.williams@asu.edu.

Check out our website at: http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/pgdgsa/