

Newsletter 18-32

Issue 18-32, August 11, 2018

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IN MEMORIAM: JOHN EDWARD WESTFALL (1938-2018)

Professor of Geography and Environmental Sciences at San Francisco State

University, 1968 - 2005.

Ph.D, The George Washington University;

BA and MA, University of California, Berkeley.

Director of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, 1985 - 1995.

Full obituary at <https://www.higginsmortuary.com/tributes/John-Westfall> [1]

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROPOSALS FOR A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATED
TO SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NASA MARS 2020 PROJECT

The Mars 2020 rover mission is part of NASA's Mars Exploration

Program, a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the Red Planet.

The Mars 2020 mission addresses high-priority science goals for Mars exploration, including key questions about the potential for life on Mars.

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/> [2]

This AFP solicits proposals from commercial, educational, or non-profit organizations to partner with NASA on a non-reimbursable, i.e., no-exchange-of-funds, basis to define, organize, and execute a contest for K-12 students in U.S. schools to select a name for the Mars 2020 rover launching in 2020. NASA seeks proposals from organizations that are innovative, inspirational, and utilize avenues of high impact for reaching a diversity of populations and broadening participation. NASA views such contests as opportunities that further the Agency objectives to inform the public and distribute knowledge gained from the space program to a broad audience.

Responses due: October 9, 2018

Details:

<https://go.nasa.gov/2M7yLnk> [3]

Interested parties are encouraged to read the AFP carefully, as it differs significantly from a ROSES-type solicitation.

Questions: George Tahu (hqmars2020namingproposals@mail.nasa.gov [4])

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MAPSIT SPECIAL ACTION TEAM SOLICITS FEEDBACK ON ISIS

NASA has chartered the Mapping and Planetary Spatial Infrastructure Team (MAPSIT) to create a special action team to execute a review of the present state of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS's) Integrated Software for Imagers and Spectrometers (ISIS) capabilities and development to provide findings relevant to future development of those capabilities and others funded by NASA at the USGS's Astrogeology Science Center.

This form is a way for you to provide input into that process:

<https://goo.gl/forms/iLJSRKu4sivLSqmu1> [5]

You may enter questions for which you think the special action team should get answers, comments about your previous experience with ISIS, and suggestions for future NASA-funded software development in this area.

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NASA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2018

This announcement reflects recent increases to the NPP annual base stipend and the annual travel allowance provided to fellows.

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers US and international scientists the opportunity to advance their research while contributing to NASA's scientific goals. The NPP supports fundamental science; explores the undiscovered; promotes intellectual growth; and encourages scientific connections.

Selected by a competitive peer-review process, NPP Fellows complete one- to three-year Fellowship appointments that advance NASA's missions in earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics, space bioscience, aeronautics and engineering, human exploration and space operations, and astrobiology.

Current NPP research opportunities in planetary science can be viewed here:

[NPP Planetary Sciences Research Opportunities](#) [6]

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in hand before beginning the fellowship, but may apply while completing the degree requirements. U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, and foreign nationals eligible for J-1 status as a Research Scholar may apply.

UPDATED! Stipends now start at \$60,000 per year, with supplements for high cost-of-living areas and for certain academic specialties. Financial assistance is available for relocation and health insurance, and \$10,000 per year is provided for professional travel.

Applications are accepted three times each year: March 1, July 1, and November 1.

For further information and to apply, visit: <https://npp.usra.edu/> [7]

Questions: npphelp@usra.edu [8]

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EXPLORING THE INFRARED UNIVERSE: THE PROMISE OF SPICA

Crete, Greece

20-23 May 2019

The infrared wavelength range is key to understand the origin and evolution of galaxies, stars and planetary systems, which are obscured by dust during a large part of their life cycles. With a large cold mirror and a sensitive suite of instruments, SPICA, recently selected as a candidate for ESA's Cosmic Visions program, stands poised to revolutionize these fields by providing ultra-deep spectroscopy in the 12-230 μm range, as well as imaging (17-37 μm and 100-350 μm) and polarimetry (100-350 μm). With launch planned for 2030, SPICA will complement current and upcoming facilities, filling the spectral gap between JWST and ALMA, while providing a huge leap over previous infrared space missions. We would like to invite the international astronomical community to participate in the conference, Exploring the Infrared Universe: The Promise of SPICA, which will take place on the island of Crete on 20-23 May 2019. At this conference, participants will learn about the capabilities and current design of SPICA, which includes a significant Guest Observer program, while discussing the exciting scientific promise of the mission. Up to date information about the SPICA mission and its instruments can be found at <http://www.spica-mission.org> [9], in addition to links to a set of whitepapers recently published in the journal PASA, that focus on some of extragalactic science enabled by SPICA.

Topics to be addressed at the meeting include:

- The rise of metals and dust across cosmic time
- Feedback and feeding processes in galaxy evolution
- Star formation and the baryon cycle in galaxies
- Magnetic fields and turbulence in star formation
- Protoplanetary disks and the formation of habitable planets
- Debris disks, planetary systems, and the Solar system

Confirmed invited speakers include: Susanne Aalto, Yuri Aikawa, Françoise Combes, Bill Dent, Edith Falgarone, Davide Fedele, Andrea Ferrara, Javier Goicoechea, Masateru Ishiguro, Patrick Koch, Leon Koopmans, Ilse de Looze, Roberto Maiolino, Thomas Müller, Tohru Nagao, Klaus Pontoppidan, Alexandra Pope, and Peter Roelfsema.

For further information about the conference, please visit <http://www.spica2019.org/> [10]

Abstracts are due December 1, 2018.

Registration is closed February 1, 2019.

Looking forward to seeing you in Crete!

On Behalf of the SOC.

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JOBS, POSITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES

**A) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST - ASTROPHYSICS LABORATORY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

Columbia University's Astrophysics Laboratory invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Scientist to perform laboratory simulations of solar wind ion irradiation of Mercury's regolith surface. The successful candidate will join the group headed by Senior Research Scientist Dr. Daniel Wolf Savin; they will participate in designing, building, and performing experiments utilizing a novel ion beam apparatus to study the spectral changes and sputtering yields of regolith-like loose powders.

The appointment is initially for one year, with the possibility of renewal for up to two additional years; this is contingent upon the availability of funds and mutual satisfaction.

The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. or the equivalent degree in Planetary Science, Physics, Geology, Astrophysics, or a related field. Desired laboratory skills include experience with apparatus design and construction, fast ion beams, ion optics, ultra-high vacuum techniques, visible and near infrared spectral reflectance measurements, quadrupole mass spectrometers, catcher foils, X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy, and associated electronics. Desired computer skills include programming, multidimensional data analysis, LabView, Python, Autodesk Inventor, Solidworks, SIMION, Linux/Mac OS, and Windows OS.

The successful candidate will have a strong background in at least some of the areas listed above, a proven research ability, and evidence of future research potential. The candidate is expected to be able to work well independently and cooperatively with a team and to communicate the results of his/her research both orally and in writing. Demonstrated written and oral communication skills are highly desirable. Questions regarding this position can be addressed to Dr. Savin at savin@astro.columbia.edu [11].

Applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae (including a list of

publications) and statement of past research. In addition they should arrange

to have three letters of reference sent directly by the writers to Dr. Savin.

Applications will be considered only after all of the requested material has

been received. Applications and letters should be submitted by email to

savin@astro.columbia.edu [11]. Screening of applicants will begin immediately

and will continue until the position has been filled.

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Send submissions to:

Anne Verbiscer, DPS Secretary (dpssec@aas.org [12])

You are receiving this email because you are a DPS member.

To unsubscribe or update your information, please send your request

to privacy@aas.org [13]. The more general AAS privacy policy is available

online at <https://aas.org/about/policies/privacy-policy> [14].

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Links:

[1] <https://www.higginsmortuary.com/tributes/John-Westfall>

[2] <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

[3] <https://go.nasa.gov/2M7yLnk>

[4] <mailto:hqmars2020namingproposals@mail.nasa.gov>

[5] <https://goo.gl/forms/iLJSRku4sivLSqmu1>

[6] https://npp.usra.edu/opportunities/?filter_keywords=&filter_fields=145

[7] <https://npp.usra.edu/>

[8] <mailto:npphelp@usra.edu>

[9] <http://www.spica-mission.org/>

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- [10] <http://www.spica2019.org/>
- [11] <mailto:savin@astro.columbia.edu>
- [12] <mailto:dpssec@aas.org>
- [13] <mailto:privacy@aas.org>
- [14] <https://aas.org/about/policies/privacy-policy>