Newsletter 20-11

Issue 20-11, March 15, 2020

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LPSC 2020 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

These virtual meetings will be streamed live through the USRA Ustream channel [1].

Update on Planning for the National Academies’ Decadal Survey in Planetary Science and Astrobiology

March 16, 2020

12:00-1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -5)

Colleen Hartman, Director, National Academies Space Studies Board

Lori Glaze, Director, Planetary Science Division, NASA

David H. Smith, Study Director, National Academies Space Studies Board

During the virtual meeting, e-mail questions for the panel to: mbrown@nas.edu [2].

NASA Planetary Science Division (PSD) R&A Town Hall

March 17, 2020
12:00–1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -5)

Stephen Rinehart, Director, NASA Planetary Science Division, will give a status update followed by a Q&A session.

During the virtual meeting, e-mail questions for the presenter to: doris.daou-1@nasa.gov [3].

NASA Headquarters Briefing

March 19, 2020

1:00–3:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -5)

Representatives from NASA will address the community.

Lori Glaze, Director, Planetary Science Division
Jacob Bleacher, Chief Exploration Scientist, Advanced Exploration Systems Division, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate
Steven Clarke, Director, Joint Agency Satellite Division, Science Mission Directorate

During the virtual meeting, e-mail questions for the presenter to: doris.daou-1@nasa.gov [3].

LPSC 51 virtual town hall meetings will be recorded in their entirety and posted on the LPSC 51 website.


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THE PLANETARY CUBESATS/SMALLSATS SYMPOSIUM

June 25-26 2020

An activity of Goddard’s Planetary Cubesat Science Institute (PCSI)

The Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposia are held annually at NASA's Goddard
Space Flight Center, with the participation of CubeSat/SmallSats scientists and developers. Discussions include current missions, mission concepts, and opportunities for future mission selections. The sessions also include panel discussions about strategic and technical aspects of planetary CubeSats/SmallSats, and an afternoon poster session provides mission proposers the opportunity to meet with vendors and suppliers.

Abstract submission deadline is April 3rd, 2020.

The Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposium is open to presentations on all aspects of CubeSats/SmallSats missions. The science organizing committee would like to encourage the submission of abstracts that focus on the following aspects of CubeSats/SmallSats missions:

- Updates on currently planned and funded CubeSats/SmallSats missions
- Future CubeSats/SmallSats mission concepts
- Instrument development for CubeSats/SmallSats missions
- New technology to enable CubeSats/SmallSats missions
- Technological challenges and solutions for CubeSats/SmallSats missions
- Current and Future Flight/Development Opportunities for CubeSats/SmallSats missions

https://cubesats.gsfc.nasa.gov/symposium.html

NASA SMD VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING RE: FY2021 BUDGET REQUEST

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) will hold a virtual town hall meeting with Associate Administrator for Science Thomas Zurbuchen and his leadership team at 11 a.m. EDT Friday, March 20, to discuss the president's FY 2021 budget request for the directorate and other updates.

Members of the science community, academia, the media, and the public are invited to participate. Participants are encouraged to use the agency's website to hear audio of the presentation and view the slides.

To view the presentation and slides, go to:

http://www.nasa.gov/live

To ask a question, participants can go to:
Users must provide their first and last name, organization, and can submit their own questions or vote up or down a list of questions submitted by others. The meeting leaders will try to answer as many of the submitted questions as possible.

Participants also can listen to the audio portion of the meeting by calling 888-989-9718 or 312-470-7045 and using the passcode TOWNHALL. No questions will be taken over the phone. A replay of the call will be available for one month at 888-277-5024 or 203-369-3021.

For NASA's Fiscal Year 2021 request, visit:

https://www.nasa.gov/budget

MEPAG MEETING 38 (APRIL 15-17) TO BE FULLY VIRTUAL

The April Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) Meeting is converted from an in-person meeting to a fully virtual meeting. This meeting will be held over the same dates (April 15-17, 2020), within ~8:30 am-1:00 pm PDT each day.

For more information, please go to:


JOBS, POSITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES

A) POSTDOC OPPORTUNITY IN PLANETARY GEOSCIENCE AT JET PROPULSION LABORATORY


The successful applicant will join Dr. Yang Liu in continuing the study of volatiles in impact melt pockets in Martian meteorites and in participating in new studies of planetary materials. The successful applicant is also encouraged to design and conduct his/her own research with opportunities to use laboratories at the JPL and the Division of Geological and Planetary Science at Caltech. The applicant will be expected to carry out the research project, give presentations at professional meetings, and prepare publications on their work.
Experience with mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and laboratory measurements are desirable.

If interested, please use the above link to submit your applications.

B) POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR POSITION AT NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

The Habitability, Atmospheres, and Biosignatures Laboratory (http://www.hablab.net [11]) in the Department of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Northern Arizona University seeks a postdoctoral scholar to join the research group. The HABLab works primarily on understanding techniques for characterizing exoplanetary atmospheres for signs of habitability and life. These investigations are carried out using spacecraft data as well as a variety of tools for modeling planetary climate and radiation. We seek candidates that will explore applications of retrieval analyses to simulated direct imaging observations of Earth-like exoplanets to constrain surface properties and habitability. The successful candidate will carry out research related to the qualifications listed. The successful candidate is expected to publish scientific papers and may choose to mentor undergraduate and/or graduate students (though this is not required).

Applications are due by March 30, 2020. For additional information, please visit:


C) RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN DATA SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMING

Deadline: March 24, 2020

The department of Geophysics of GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences invites applications for 1 position of Research Associate in Data Science and Scientific Programming in the group "Magnetospheric Physics".

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in space physics, plasma physics, or related field. Experience in programming (in particular in code development), as well as a strong knowledge of programming languages and operating systems is also required. Experience in machine learning, data mining, and data assimilation is a plus.

For more details please see:


The work will be performed in the context of the EU Horizon 2020-funded consortium PAGER led by GFZ Potsdam. The primary aim of PAGER is to provide space weather predictions initiated from observations on the Sun and to predict radiation in space and its effects on satellite infrastructure. The PAGER team will combine
state-of-the-art models covering all the way from the Solar surface to the Earth's inner magnetosphere. We will also run ensembles of physics-based and machine-learning models to make probabilistic predictions of the space weather conditions 1-2 days in advance.

For questions please contact Prof. Shprits: yshprits@gfz-potsdam.de [14]

D) POSTDOCTORAL OR GUEST RESEARCHER POSITION IN SPACE WEATHER

Swedish Institute of Space Physics is looking for a Postdoctoral Fellow or Guest Researcher in Space Weather.

The position is related to space weather research in the field of space plasma physics.

The research is based on the investigation of the space weather link between the dynamics of the terrestrial magnetosheath during coronal mass ejection passages using multi-spacecraft observations (solar wind monitors, Solar Orbiter, Parker Solar Probe, MMS, THEMIS, Cluster, Geotail), and the resulting geomagnetic responses measured by ground observations (IMAGE, MIRACLE, SuperMAG and SuperDARN) at high latitudes.

The position is available at the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, Uppsala, Sweden, for two (2) years.

Last Application Date: April 17, 2020

Contact: Emiliya Yordanova, Andrew Dimmock (emiliya.yordanova at irfu.se [15])

More information can be found here:

http://www.irf.se/jobb [16]

E) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN PLANETARY MAGNETOSPHERIC PHYSICS

Applications are now being accepted for several postdoctoral scientists to work with the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Planetary Magnetospheres Laboratory in Greenbelt, MD. The position is funded through the CRESST II.

Position 1: The postdoctoral researcher(s) will work for either the Juno or MAVEN projects with the primary responsibility of conducting analysis and publishing the magnetometer results. In addition, each candidate will assist with the magnetometer data validation and calibration.

Position 2: The data scientist's primary responsibility will be to develop a data production pipeline. This involves taking raw magnetometer data, applying the appropriate transformations and
calibrations, and producing the final public data products. The data scientist is encouraged to pursue their own research interest.

Candidates for this position should have earned a Ph.D. in physics, astronomy, planetary science, space physics, geosciences, or related fields. Successful candidates should also have expertise with one or more programming languages commonly used in space science and a demonstrated track record in analyzing spaceflight data, especially magnetometer data and experience with the NAIF SPICE software package is highly desired.

Applications received by April 30, 2020 will receive the best consideration. Link to full job posting:


F) POSTBACCALAUREATE POSITIONS IN INSTRUMENT MODELING, ATMOSPHERIC MODELING, AND LABORATORY STUDIES WITH THE NASA SELLERS EXOPLANET ENVIRONMENTS COLLABORATION (SEEC)

Applications are now being accepted for multiple short-term postbaccalaureate research positions to support the Sellers Exoplanet Environments Collaboration (SEEC) at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. The position is funded through the Southeastern Universities Research Association and the CRESST II.

Positions available with the Sellers Exoplanet Environments Collaboration span a variety of research areas. Successful candidates will be chosen to work on one of four research areas. Visit the job posting to receive additional information about the research areas:

https://cresst2.umd.edu/opportunities/SEEC%20Post-Baccalaureate%20Research%20Assistant%20Position.pdf [18]

Applications received by April 9, 2020, will receive best consideration. Start date by April-June, 2020, preferred with an initial employment term of 1 year that will be extended to an annual renewal contingent on performance. Recent graduates with experience coding in any of the areas are invited to apply. We encourage applicants who are considering applying to a graduate program in astrophysics, planetary science or related disciplines in the near future, and who wish to expand their research experience in the interim to also apply.

G) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW IN GEODYNAMICS AND GEOSELENIC RESEARCH
The Stephen Cheeseman Geoselenic Research Project was established in 2020 to address fundamental questions about the interactions within the Earth-Moon system. The project will focus on the integration of multi-disciplinary research as it pertains to improving our understanding of the relevance of the Moon for Earth processes including plate tectonics, core and mantle convection/geochemistry, magnetohydrodynamics, the geodynamo and the evolution and future of life on Earth. The project is collaborative in nature and will give the postdoctoral fellow (PDF) opportunities to continue existing and establish new collaborations with international research groups in geodynamics and planetary sciences. The PDF is expected to conduct original research within the scope of this project and serve as an integrator of geoselenic research. Preference will be given to applicants that demonstrate a willingness to conduct integrative research to solve fundamental science questions. The research background can be theoretical, numerical or applied, but must address global scale processes. The project will further fund one PhD student and host an international workshop in geoselenic research during the tenure of the PDF.

Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent in Earth or planetary sciences, geophysics, geodynamics, geochemistry or other relevant science disciplines. A strong record of peer-reviewed publications in the applicant’s research field and presentations at international research conferences is expected. Applicants should submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a 2-page research statement on how their proposed research contributes to the project, and (4) names and contact information of three references.

The application deadline is June 15, 2020. Submit applications to geoselenic@queensu.ca [19].
Inquiries about the Stephen Cheeseman Geoselenic Research Project or details about the position can be requested from Prof. Vicki Remenda (vicki/remenda@queensu.ca [20]) or Prof. Alexander Braun (braun@queensu.ca [21]).

H) ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN GECOHEMY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Geochemistry. The appointment is expected to start on July 1, 2020 or soon thereafter.

Applicants are expected to have a record of research excellence showing innovative applications of geochemistry to solve geological problems in metamorphic petrology, isotope geochemistry and/or geochronology. The successful candidate will be a major user of analytical facilities in the UBC Okanagan Fipke Laboratory for Trace Element Research (FiLTER) and will have demonstrated expertise with one or more instruments housed in FiLTER, which includes a Cameca SX5-FE electron probe microanalyser, a Tescan Mira 3 XMU scanning electron microscope with EBSD, a Photon Machines Analyte Excimer laser, an Agilent 8900 QQQ ICP MS, and a ThermoFisher Element XR sector field ICP MS. The individual must have a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences or a closely related discipline and should articulate in their application how their research direction will complement existing strengths in the department.

The full advertisement for this position and details for submission of applications are available at: http://www.hr.ubc.ca/careers-postings/faculty.php [22] (Job Opening ID# 37092).
The deadline for applications is April 4, 2020. All positions are subject to budgetary approval.

We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Send submissions to:

Anne Verbiscer, DPS Secretary (dpssec@aas.org [23])

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