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The Meteoritical Society Newsletter

(October 2005)

A report of the business carried out by the Society over the past year, edited by Jeff Grossman, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

President's Editorial

Herbert Palme

On January 1, 2005, I began my term as President of the Society following Gary Huss. At the same time, Jeff Grossman became the new Secretary of the Society, replacing Ed Scott. It was a critical transition, as neither Jeff nor I were very experienced with the constitutional and procedural subtleties of our Society. But within months Jeff was and still is in control of most of the Society's business.

Annual Meetings

The meeting in Gatlinburg was excellent, with some 350 attendees, including 30 young scientists who were supported with student grants, the highest number in an American meeting. We are grateful to the organizers and in particular to the Barringer crater company, which has been the major sponsor of student grants for many years. The large number of student grants is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Meteoritical Society meetings and I hope this will remain so. After I had moved to Cologne, several of my students received travel grants. Giving your first talk in a foreign language is a major challenge and a great experience. Curiously, students from Cologne who tried to cash their student grant checks after this year's meeting in a Knoxville bank were told that this could not be done as it required an American passport, which sounded very strange. There was, however, no problem transferring the money to a German bank.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a special session on lunar samples and the crustal evolution of the Moon in honor of Ross Taylor, who will be soon 80. His standard textbook on the Moon is still the best that can be recommended to anybody who wants to get into lunar science. Ross is one of the pioneers of lunar research, perhaps one of the few that have attended most, if not all 35 Lunar or Lunar and Planetary Science Conferences. The session ran for the whole day and covered a wide range of Moon-related topics. Although the giant impact model is more or less generally accepted, the fraction of "Earth" in the Moon is still unclear. Calculations predict some 20 to 30%, the similarity in oxygen and Cr isotopes and somewhat ambiguous signals from Fe isotopes suggest to others almost 100%, despite an apparent excess of Fe in the Moon's mantle, which requires a

separate explanation. This will certainly be an important area for geochemical studies in the near future. I noticed two talks with overheads in the lunar sessions—a technique almost forgotten by now. The old, barely readable overheads that were shown either announced eternal truths that need neither revision nor updating or they reflected that little progress that has been achieved in this area during the last 20 years.

At the Davos meeting in 1973, after lengthy discussions, the Council decided to have alternating meetings between North America and Europe, despite a strong preponderance of American members. After this decision many Europeans joined the Society. The alternating meetings went on until 1990, when the Australian meeting followed the Austrian meeting. After that we had two more meetings on other continents and we will have more in the future, which reflects the increasing international character of our Society. Since 1970, we have had meetings in 14 countries: 16 in the US, 5 in Germany, and 2 in Switzerland, France and the UK; 9 other countries hosted a single meeting.

Now the locations of the next four meetings have been fixed: Zürich (2006), Tucson (2007), Matsue, Japan (2008), and Nancy, France (2009). This year, the Council decided that invitations for future meetings would be considered at the March Council meetings four years in advance of the meeting date. Thus, invitations for the 2010 meeting place will be considered in Houston in the spring of 2006. Because the majority of the members of our Society are from the US and Canada, and because the meetings in 2008 and 2009 will be held on other continents, the 2010 meeting should be in North America. Please contact Jeff or me if you are interested in submitting an invitation. At the 2007 March Council meeting, we will then decide about the meeting in 2011; several groups have already announced their interest in hosting this meeting.

You should soon make plans for your trip to Zürich next summer. The meeting will be held in the center of the historic city from August 6 to 11, 2006, and will include a boat trip on Lake Zürich and an excursion to the Alps.

Membership

During the last few years, it became clear that the membership of the Society had begun to decline. President Huss reacted immediately and created an ad hoc committee to find the reasons. Sara Russell and Addi Bischoff, who led this committee, concluded after some research that much of the decline, especially in the US and Western Europe, was the

result of non-scientists leaving the Society. This is a bad sign. Amateurs have always been important to the Society, as they are often strongly motivated and deeply concerned

At the March Council meeting in Houston, Sara, Addi, and Jeff proposed to establish a permanent Membership Committee to address this and other related problems. They and Gary Huss also proposed to establish an award for members who have done special services to the Society. Indeed, many other societies have such a service award. These suggestions led to an expansion of the bylaws of the Society, which was approved by Council at the Gatlinburg meeting. (See the report on bylaws changes below for details.)

The charter members of the Membership Committee are Addi Bischoff (chair), Gary Huss, Candace Kohl, Caroline Smith, and Akira Yamaguchi. By the time you read this, you should have already received an e-mail describing the ideas and first actions of the Membership Committee. If you have further ideas or suggestions for the Committee, contact Addi Bischoff.

In the event that you have too much money and you want to spend it in a sensible way, you might consider creating an endowment fund for the Service Award, which would then carry your name.

Awards

At the business meeting in Gatlinburg, the awardees for 2006 were announced: the Pellas-Ryder Award (formerly known as the Best Student Paper Award) for the best student paper published in 2004 goes to Danielle Wyrick; the Nier Prize will be presented to Matthieu Gounelle; the Barringer Medal winner is Robert M. Schmidt; and, the Leonard Medal will be presented to Michael J. Gaffey. Congratulations to the winners!

The Pellas-Ryder award is a combined award from the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. In the past two years, the number of nominations for this award have been lower than is desirable. The Pellas-Ryder award is for undergraduate or graduate students. The student has to be the senior author of a paper that needs to be submitted before graduation. All thesis advisers should be aware of this award and should nominate worthy candidates. Receiving the Pellas-Ryder award may be the first important step in launching the career of a young scientist. See below for details on how to nominate someone for this and the other Society awards.

Meteorite Nomenclature

The Nomenclature Committee has evolved from a committee deciding if the next train station or the next post office should be used for naming a meteorite to what I believe is the most important committee of the Society. Gary Huss has elaborated on the importance of the Nomenclature Committee in last year's Newsletter. I want to add that Jeff has set up an

Internet web site that allows you to instantly verify whether meteorite names have been accepted by the Nomenclature Committee: browse to <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/meteor/metbull.php> or click on "Look up meteorites" on the left side of our home page. It is also an excellent research tool, providing direct links to the Catalogue of Meteorites, ANSMET and NIPR data, and NASA ADS. Recently, Jeff has also connected this site with Google Earth, which allows you to display the location of any fall or find, or groups of meteorites, on the globe of the Earth.

Finance

The problems with collecting dues that we experienced earlier this year will hopefully be resolved soon. Many members did not see the dues notice packaged with the 2004 November issue of *MAPS*, and some members received acknowledgement for payments they did not actually make. People affected by this should have by now received a letter, not an e-mail, asking for your late 2005 dues, and everybody should be getting their 2006 dues notice by regular mail. It is critical for the financial health of the Society that all members pay their dues when they receive these notices, as this money goes primarily to support *MAPS*.

In general, the Society is in good shape financially, the Journal is healthy, and the membership will hopefully increase in the future.

METEORITICS & PLANETARY SCIENCE

Editor's Report

A. J. Timothy Jull

Summary of Operations for 2004 and 2005

In 2004, we published 127 papers plus the Supplement for a total of 2352 pages in *MAPS*, an increase of 10.8% over 2003. Print costs had been relatively low in 2003 because the number of pages was below the actual contract number and the number of color pages was low. In 2004, print costs increased because: a) we exceeded the contracted number of pages, which resulted in a fee; b) there was an increased use of color pages and collection of color charges; c) mailing fees increased; and d) some print costs from 2003 were delayed into 2004.

However, the actual cost/page remains relatively static at \$140–150 per page. Printing costs have basically tracked inflation, rising 3–4% per year. The cost per page should be about \$150 per page for 2005. In 2005, we now estimate a total of 2500–2600 pages.

We expect 2005 costs to be a little higher than 2004, but we hope to constrain the excess charges incurred (e.g., in 2004) when we ran over the contracted print limit of 165 pages per issue. Clearly, if *MAPS* volume continues to increase, renegotiation of the printing contract will be necessary. We anticipate one large issue in late 2005.

Revenue

We currently have 234 institutional subscribers, 8 of which are no-cost. We no longer provide a print copy to ADS (Harvard) as they are provided with electronic files. The breakdown of subscribers is 112 domestic, 51 international paying the domestic rate, and 75 international. A considerable number of overseas institutions subscribe through US agents.

Staff

In October 2004, Lydia Tarbox left *MAPS* for personal reasons. Another copy editor was hired, but had to be replaced in February. We hired a new copy editor (Jaye Caldwell) in March and have more recently hired a second copy editor. These changes caused some delays in production.

Publication Delay

We are doing all we can to catch up after the delays caused by the various staff changes last winter. We hope to be on schedule by the end of 2005. We do not wish to compromise quality of the final product by rushing proof-checking and final print quality checks.

Electronic Publication

We had some delays in putting electronic versions of *MAPS* on-line earlier in 2005. This now has been rectified and electronic versions are appearing about 2 weeks before the print copy is mailed. We are now happy with the service from the current provider, Ingenta.com.

Budget

The budget increases every year, but appears to be under control for the next several years.

At the Council meeting in Houston, it was agreed that the institutional subscription price be increased by \$50 per year to \$950 (US/Canada/Mexico) and \$1,000 overseas. It should be noted that mailing costs are substantial, ~\$30,000 per year.

There is a small operating deficit, which should be corrected within the next year or so in order to prevent accumulation of a long-term debt.

In order to encourage shorter papers, I proposed to introduce a page charge of \$70 per page for excess pages in papers of over 15 pages in length. This was also approved by the Council and this policy has been in effect since June 2005. We estimate that this will generate ~\$19k per year in revenue and will ease the pressure on subscription rates.

The contribution from the Treasurer, obtained from individual subscriptions, remains at \$98,200 per year.

Gradually increasing costs, especially due to the increasing number of printed pages is a concern, but at the moment this is still controlled. If print costs due to the number of pages continues to increase, this could be dealt with by renegotiating the existing print contract or rebidding the printing contract.

We have discussed various creative ways of raising

revenue, other than subscription increases, such as more aggressive collection of copyright fees (at the moment this is minimal), page charges for longer papers (already in effect) and perhaps advertising.

For 2006 subscriptions, we have implemented a web-based payment system for institutional subscriptions.

GEOCHIMICA ET COSMOCHIMICA ACTA

Editor's Report

Frank Podosek

Geochimica has had for some time now the facility for attaching various types of computer files—word processor files, PDF files, spreadsheets, text files, animations, various image formats, and so on—to its papers as electronic annexes, downloadable from within the HTML versions on Elsevier's Science Direct web site. This facility is not exploited as much as it should be; this seems a result of the difficulty in getting authors to become familiar with and actually use something new.

The use of electronic annexes will shortly be expanded by attaching to most errata, as an electronic annex, a PDF file for the whole parent article, corrected for whatever errors occasioned the erratum in the first place. These files will be unobtrusively marked to indicate that they are corrected versions, but otherwise they will come about as close as is possible to fixing and republishing articles which contain some significant error. They can be downloaded by any interested party, including the authors, who may then distribute copies as electronic reprints or print them to make hardcopy reprints.

One other significant change is that production of *Geochimica* has been shifted from the Elsevier office in New York to another office in San Diego. This change should be essentially invisible to *Geochimica*'s readers and nearly so to its authors, but we are optimistic that it will improve the fidelity with which authors' manuscripts are converted into published articles and made accessible on the Science Direct web site.

SOCIETY AWARDS AND HONORS

The Meteoritical Society has four awards, which are presented annually and jointly sponsors the Pellas-Ryder Award for best student paper in planetary science. In addition, the Society elects Fellows in years divisible by two.

The Leonard Medal honors outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics and closely allied fields. It was established to honor the first President of the Society, Frederick C. Leonard. In 2006, the Leonard Medal will be presented to Michael J. Gaffey for his outstanding contribution to understanding meteorite-asteroid connections through reflectance spectroscopy, particularly regarding the relationship between spectroscopic mineralogy and geology of S-type asteroids.

The Barringer Medal and Award recognize outstanding work in the field of impact cratering and/or work that has led to a better understanding of impact phenomena. The Barringer Medal and Award honor the memory of D. Moreau Barringer and his son, D. Moreau Barringer, Jr., and are sponsored by the Barringer Crater Company. At the annual meeting in 2006, the Barringer Medal will be presented to Robert M. Schmidt in recognition of his extraordinary and original contributions to the understanding of impact cratering phenomena.

The Nier Prize recognizes outstanding research in meteoritics and closely allied fields by young scientists. Recipients must be under 35 years old at the end of the calendar year in which the Council selects them. The award honors the memory of Alfred O. C. Nier and is supported by an endowment given by Mrs. Ardis H. Nier. The 2006 Nier Prize will be presented to Matthieu Gounelle for his contributions to a broad range of fields, including analysis of meteorites and micrometeorites, chronology, theoretical work on short-lived isotopes, and the astrophysics of the X-wind model.

In 2006, the Society will introduce a new prize called the Service Award to honor members who have advanced the goals of the Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. Examples of activities that could be honored by the award include, but are not limited to, education and public outreach, service to the Society and the broader scientific community, and acquisition, classification and curation of new samples for research. This award may be given annually and should be given at least every other year. Winners will be granted lifetime membership in the Meteoritical Society.

The Pellas-Ryder Award for best student paper on planetary sciences is jointly sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. It is given to undergraduate or graduate students who are first authors of a planetary science paper published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The prize includes a plaque and a cash award of \$500. Topics considered for this award include asteroids, comets, craters, interplanetary dust, interstellar medium, lunar samples, meteors, meteorites, natural satellites, planets, tektites, origin and history of the solar system. The first author must have been a registered student at a degree-awarding institution when the paper was submitted. This year's award, for the best paper submitted in 2004, goes to Danielle Wyrick for "Distribution, morphology and origins of Martian pit crater chains" (D. Wyrick, D. A. Ferrill, A. P. Morris, S. L. Colton, and S. W. Sims, 2004, *Journal of Geophysical Research* 109, No. E6, E06005). This work was done at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Members who have distinguished themselves in meteoritics and allied sciences may be elected Fellows by the

Council. In 2006, the Council will elect no more than 9–10 new Fellows (<1% of the Society's membership) from a list prepared by the Leonard Medal Committee.

Award Committees

The Leonard Medal Committee, which nominates awardees for the Leonard Medal and the Nier Prize as well as Society Fellows, was chaired in 2005 by Hiroko Nagahara. The other members were Elmar Jessberger, Tim Swindle, Frank Podosek, and Christian Koeberl. Elmar Jessberger will be the new chair for 2006.

The members of the Barringer Medal Selection Committee this year were Uwe Reimold (chair), Jay Melosh, Dieter Stöffler, and Bernd Milkereit. Next year, Jay Melosh will chair the committee.

The Membership Committee is charged with administering the new Service Award. In 2006, the committee will be chaired by Addi Bischoff. The other members will be Gary Huss, Candace Kohl, Caroline Smith, and Akira Yamaguchi.

The Committee for the Pellas-Ryder Award was chaired this year by Mike Kelley, representing GSA. The other members were Charles Hohenberg, Harold Connolly, and Ian Sanders (MetSoc) and Bob Anderson and Paul Hardersen (GSA). Harold Connolly will chair the 2006 committee, which will select the best student paper submitted in 2005.

Nominations

Members are strongly urged to nominate candidates for the Society's awards and for Fellows. Below are the procedures to follow.

Leonard Medal, Nier Prize, and Fellows: Deadline January 15, 2006. Nominating letters for the Leonard Medal and Nier Prize should include: a) a biographical sketch of the candidate, b) a summary and evaluation of the accomplishments of the candidate and the importance of the candidate's work, and c) a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award. One or more seconding letters in support of the nomination are required for the Leonard Medal and strongly encouraged for the Nier Prize. Nominations for the Nier Prize should also include the candidate's birth date, and five reprints or copies of the relevant publications that have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. If the research was performed and published with a research advisor or with multiple authors, a statement must be included that describes the nominee's leading role in the research. Nominations for Fellows should include a summary of the candidate's accomplishments (suggested length: ~150–200 words) together with a list of 5–10 of the candidate's most significant publications, including titles. Nominations should be sent to Elmar Jessberger, Institut für Planetologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität,

Wilhelm Klemm Str. 10, D-48149 Münster, Germany (ekj@nwz.uni-muenster.de).

Barringer Medal: Deadline January 15, 2006. Nominating letters should include: a) a biographical sketch of the candidate, b) a summary and evaluation of the accomplishments of the candidate and the importance of the candidate's work, c) a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award, and d) one or more seconding letters. Send nominations to Jay Melosh, Universität Bayreuth, Universitäts Str. 30, 95447 Bayreuth, Germany [2005 address] (jmelosh@lpl.arizona.edu).

Service Award: Deadlines December 15, 2005 (for 2006 award) and November 1, 2006 (for 2007 award). Nominating letters should include a biographical sketch of the candidate and additional substantive information, such as statements as to the importance of the nominee's activities to the field of meteoritics and/or to the research of others. One or more seconding letters in support of the nomination are strongly encouraged. Send nominations to Addi Bischoff, Institut für Planetologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Wilhelm Klemm Str. 10, D-48149 Münster, Germany (bischoa@nwz.uni-muenster.de).

Pellas-Ryder Award: Deadline January 31, 2006. Nominations should include the name of the student, the full citation of the paper, the name and address of the university the student was attending at the time of paper submittal, and a brief description of why this paper is among the best. Send nominations to Harold Connolly, Kingsborough College of the City University of New York, Department of Physical Sciences, 2001 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11235, USA (hconnolly@kingsborough.edu).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

2005 Gatlinburg

Hap McSween

The 2005 Annual Meeting was held at the Glenstone Lodge in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, between September 11–16. The meeting was hosted by Hap McSween and Larry Taylor of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Tennessee, with major support from the Lunar and Planetary Institute. There were 355 registrants, including 30 guests. The meeting began with a welcome barbecue on Sunday evening. Gatlinburg is the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and many participants enjoyed the scenery afforded by this venue. A Thursday afternoon excursion to Asheville, North Carolina, included tours of the Biltmore estate and winery and a banquet at the Deer Park Restaurant on the estate grounds. A post-meeting field trip to the Middlesbury, Kentucky and Flynn Creek, Tennessee craters was fully subscribed.

Thirty travel grants—a new record for American MetSoc meetings—were awarded to students presenting talks and posters at the meeting. The NASA Cosmochemistry Program,

the Barringer Crater Company, the Planetary Studies Foundation, and Pallasite Press sponsored these grants.

The program featured 218 talks and 110 poster presentations. Plenary sessions included a Barringer Lecture by Jeff Hester (“Understanding our origins: Formation of Sun-like stars in HII region environments”), a Leonard Medal Lecture by Joe Goldstein (“The cooling history of meteoritic metal”), and a Barringer Award Lecture by Billy Glass (“Forty years of microtektite research”). A program highlight was a full-day Symposium on Lunar Samples and Crustal Evolution, honoring Ross Taylor on the occasion of his 80th birthday, followed by a dinner and roast. Another popular symposium explored the production of nuclides by supernovae and by local irradiation. Other sessions focused on chondrites, differentiated meteorites, Martian and lunar meteorites and remote sensing, refractory inclusions, chondrules, presolar grains, interplanetary dust particles, organic compounds, short-lived isotopes, cosmogenic nuclides, asteroid remote sensing, and impact structures and materials.

2006 Zürich, Switzerland

Rainer Wieler

You are cordially invited to attend the 69th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society, to be held August 6–11, 2006, in Zürich, Switzerland. Please note the new date, chosen to avoid a conflict with the General Assembly of the International Mineralogical Association scheduled two weeks earlier in Kobe, Japan. The meeting will be held at ETH, in an impressive 19th century building close to the city center, equipped with modern lecture halls and ample space for posters. Registration will start on Sunday afternoon, followed by a welcome party on the roof of the meeting venue, overlooking Zürich and its lake. Sessions will be held from Monday to Friday. Wednesday afternoon is reserved for an excursion to the beautiful city of Rapperswil on an early-20th-century steamboat. The banquet on Thursday evening at the lake shore will be within walking distance from the city center. A four day post conference field trip will lead us to the Alps. One highlight of this excursion will be a ride to Europe's highest train station at the famous Jungfrauoch (3454 m) and a visit to the high-altitude scientific observatory. We will also visit key sites recording Quaternary glaciation history in the Swiss Alps and the Swiss midlands.

Zürich is a very lively city during the summer months, with countless outdoor activities. The lake and a river invite swimming, the old town with its restaurants and bars is a pleasant place to spend a nice evening, and also museum addicts will not starve. A recently opened top attraction is Europe's largest piece of tropical rainforest, imported from Madagascar. A truly remarkable event will take place on Saturday, August 12, when hundreds of thousands of fans of Techno music of all ages will invade the city to celebrate the annual Street Parade.

Zürich is easily accessible by air (intercontinental airport 15 minutes from the city center) and by train. Most places of interest are within walking distance or can be reached by an excellent public transport system. A help desk will assist meeting participants in planning activities in the city and on half- or full-day trips to many attractive destinations. Zürich offers plenty of hotel rooms, many of them very reasonably priced. Some low-budget hotels may require the use of trams or buses, but many mid-class hotels are within walking distance of the meeting venue. The meeting web site will provide information on booking, emphasizing low- and mid-priced hotels. Early booking of hotels is recommended because the Street Parade is taking place immediately after the meeting. Travel grants for students and a number of scientists from less wealthy countries will be made available.

The first announcement of the meeting will be distributed by the Lunar and Planetary Institute in November. For further information, please visit the meeting web site at <http://metsoc2006.ethz.ch>.

Important Dates

November 1, 2005: First announcement mailed and posted on the web site.

March 3, 2006: Indication of interest deadline; second announcement on-line.

May 2, 2006: Deadline for hard-copy submission of abstracts to LPI.

May 9, 2006: Deadline for electronic submission of abstracts to LPI.

June 15, 2006: Final announcement, program, and abstracts on-line.

August 6–11, 2006: 69th Annual Meeting, Zürich.

NEW COUNCIL

A new Council will take office in January 2007 when Joe Goldstein becomes President. A Nominating Committee was appointed this year to propose a slate of Officers and Councilors: Phil Bland, Andrew Davis, Ian Hutcheon, Yangting Lin, Andreas Pack, and Brigitte Zanda (Chair). Their nominees are:

- Vice President: Hiroko Nagahara, Japan
- Secretary: Jeff Grossman, U.S., 2nd term
- Treasurer: Alan Rubin U.S.
- Councilors: Marc Chaussidon, France, 2nd term
- Henning Haack, Denmark, 2nd term
- Noriko Kita, U.S./Japan, 2nd term
- Jutta Zipfel, Germany, 2nd term
- Rhian Jones U.S.
- Gopalan Srinivasan, Canada
- Mark Thiemens, U.S.
- Rainer Wieler, Switzerland

According to the Constitution of the Society,

nominations for other candidates require a petition signed by at least 3% of the Society's members and should be submitted to the Secretary by February 15, 2006. If no candidates are nominated other than those listed above, the Secretary will declare these candidates elected by affirmation.

Brief Biographies of the Nominated Officers and Councilors

Marc Chaussidon is Directeur de Recherches at CNRS, Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques, in Nancy, France. His research involves secondary ion mass spectrometry and is shared between early solar system processes and terrestrial isotopic geochemistry.

Jeff Grossman is a Research Chemist at the US Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. He is doing research on the nature of the most primitive chondrites, focusing on distinguishing primary nebular features from those that formed during parent-body processing. He is the current Secretary of the Society, a member of the Meteorite Nomenclature Committee, and is the former editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin.

Henning Haack is an Associate Professor and Curator of the meteorite collection at the Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen. His research involves the early evolution of the solar system, thermal evolution of meteorite parent bodies, and the formation of differentiated meteorites.

Rhian Jones is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Her research is directed towards understanding the early history of the solar system through petrological and isotopic studies of chondritic meteorites.

Noriko Kita is an Associate Scientist in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her research focuses on chronology and isotopic studies of meteorites and the origin of the solar system through the application of ion microprobe techniques.

Hiroko Nagahara is a Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science in the Graduate School of Science at the University of Tokyo. She does petrological, experimental, and theoretical studies on the mineralogy of chondrites to understand the origin and evolution of condensed phases in the solar system.

Alan Rubin is a Research Geochemist at UCLA. His recent research concerns the nature and origin of chondrules, shock effects in meteorites, and aqueous alteration processes in carbonaceous chondrites.

Gopalan Srinivasan is a member of the faculty of the Department of Geology at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on understanding the formation and evolution of the solar system through chemical and isotopic studies of meteorites.

Mark Thiemens is the Dean of the Division of Physical Sciences at the University of California, San Diego. His research centers on the use of ultra-high precision

measurements of S, O, C, and N isotopes to study atmospheric chemistry, photochemical reactions, early solar system history, and the origin of life.

Rainer Wieler is a Professor of Planetary Sciences in the Department of Earth Sciences at ETH Zürich. His research in cosmochemistry is mainly focused on noble gases in meteorites and lunar samples.

Jutta Zipfel is a researcher at the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg in Frankfurt, Germany. Her research focuses on petrologic and geochemical studies of meteorites and, since the beginning of the MER mission in 2004, on the chemical composition of rocks and soils on Mars's surface. She has been a member of the Meteoritical Society Nomenclature Committee since 2000 and is its current chair.

Statement from Hiroko Nagahara: Recent progress in meteorite study combined with observational astronomy shows us details of star formation and early evolution of the solar system. On the other hand, the finding of various types of meteorites gives information about physicochemistry of the solar nebula and planet evolution. Thus, the importance of meteorite study is increasing significantly. I would be happy to serve as President of the Society in this wonderful age, and will do my best for the development of the Society. If elected, I will be the first President from eastern Asia. I am very glad that our Society has become more international, and I look forward to our 2008 Annual Meeting in Japan. I hope that meteorite study and planetary science will become more active in all the countries over the world.

FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

Kevin McKeegan

As of July 31, 2005, Society assets totaled \$475,988, which represents an increase of ~\$42,000 compared to the same time last year. The general endowment increased by ~\$20,000 and the Nier fund improved by \$2000, with a cash balance at that date higher by ~\$20,000 than last year. Outstanding obligations for the remainder of the year total ~\$62,000. Operational costs for *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* are budgeted at \$320,000, with \$96,500 derived from membership dues and most of the remainder from institutional library subscriptions. Additional notable Society expenses include \$7000 for the *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* Editorial Office, \$10,000 for the Treasurer's Office, where Mr. Keith Kirts is employed part-time as a bookkeeping assistant, and ~\$11,000 for web services, finance fees, travel support authorized by Council, purchase of MetBase software, etc. The operational budget is technically in deficit by ~\$13,000, however advances (setup loans) to meeting organizers account for some of this and are partially offset by expected returns from previous meetings. Membership in the database totals 1012, up from 953 listed at the end of 2004. Sixty-six members are listed as "new",

although a few of these are returning former members (whose names were never dropped from the list). Considering the improvement in overall Society finances, Council voted to hold dues constant for 2006 at \$110 for regular members and \$55 for student and retired members.

There have been ongoing problems with dues collection because of some mistakes that I made in judgment and in execution. In an attempt to save money and time, dues reminders were not mailed separately but were included with *MAPS*; however, many members did not notice or did not receive the reminder. This was not pursued aggressively because *MAPS* was a little behind schedule and because I was trying to set up an on-line payment option (which has not been successful). Following LPSC, an attempt was made to follow up by e-mail, however a programming error with the mail merge program confounded that effort when receipt notices (for dues paid) were mistakenly sent to a large number of members who had, in fact, not paid. These people have been contacted regarding the error. I apologize for the confusion. A letter has been sent out to those remaining members who are late with dues payments.

Dues notices for 2006 will be sent out by regular mail in early December. Please remember to pay by January 1.

Many members of the Society made generous gifts during the previous year, and we thank them all. These gifts have helped the Society to fund some of its awards and prizes and have enabled the organizers of meetings to offer student travel grants.

The Society is particularly indebted to the extraordinary gifts from the Barringer Crater Company and from William Welbon. The following members have contributed \$100 or more during the past year: Paul S. De Carli, William A. Cassidy, Henry Price Deyerle Jr., Bevan M. French, Edward Olsen, Robert O. Pepin, Calvin Shipbaugh, John T. Wasson, and Dorothea S. Welbon. The Society also appreciates generous gifts from the following: Edward Anders, David J. Barber, Milton Blander, Alfredo Brogioni, Hans W. Bultemann, Stephan A. Brodt, Ghislaine Crozaz, Wilbert Danner, Herbert Csadek, Vincenzo Demichele, Bertrand Devouard, Burkhard Dressler, Gunter Faure, David P. Gold, Arnold Gucsik, William K. Hartmann, Eugene J. Hoffman, Gregory Herzog, Robert M. Housley, E. Dorrit Hoffleit, Robert Hutchison, Daniel J. Milton, Barbara L. Narendra, John D. Obradovich, Juergen Otto, George W. Reed Jr., Rudolf Schaudy, Dieter Stöffler, Roger D. Tabor, George W. Wetherill, and Anna Zezulova.

Investment Committee Report

Joe Goldstein

The Meteoritical Society Investment Committee consists of Drew Barringer, Frank Kyte, Kevin McKeegan (ex officio), Tim Swindle, Candace Kohl and Joe Goldstein (Chair). The Committee has oversight of our endowment funds and has responsibilities to help raise more endowment

funds and to suggest potential uses for the income generated from the investment. The endowment totaled \$376,007 as of July 31, 2005 and grew 5.4% over the last year.

The investment committee has agreed to turn over the management of our endowment funds to A. G. Edwards in Tucson, Arizona. Although it has been very difficult getting the proper forms signed, we expect to complete the transfer in the next few months. The committee plans to print a new copy of the brochure describing the endowment. A new section will be added to describe how the income has been used to date and what we can do with the income to enhance our society in the future. The committee looks forward to the development of another brochure, which gives the history, goals and interests of the Meteoritical Society, which will be developed by the newly formed Membership Committee. Such a brochure is needed as solicitations for endowment funds are made.

Several projects have been suggested by the committee for funding by the endowment income. A few examples discussed by the investment committee are: 1) participate in the development of new scientists in third world countries (funds to come to the meeting, speakers, books, etc.); 2) build bridges to the non-professional community (funds to start giving members more benefits, for example, supporting a course on identifying and classifying meteorites, etc.); 3) reprint or enhance Buchwald's book on iron meteorites. The investment committee and the Meteoritical Society Council look forward to receiving specific suggestions for the use of endowment income from members. Final approval for all expenditures from the endowment income lies with the Council.

METEORITE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Report of the Editor of the Bulletin **Harold Connolly**

The Nomenclature Committee is enacting many changes to increase the efficiency of the recognition process and improve communication with submitters, members of the Society, and all those interested in meteorite recovery from around the world and other planets. Jutta Zipfel became Chair last January and has been working with committee members to develop new guidelines to meet the needs of the community. In the last year, the Committee has changed the guidelines for pairing and naming meteorites from dense collection areas, extended its guidelines to include meteorites from other solar system bodies (e.g., the Meridiani Planum iron from Mars), and is currently finalizing a guideline to cover large strewn fields in dense collection areas. The Council, recognizing and supporting the accomplishments of the Committee under Jutta's leadership, waived the guidelines and appointed her for a third 3-year term as Chair starting in 2006.

Jeff Grossman, Associate Editor of the Bulletin for the

Web, has developed a new database and on-line search engine that allows a user to search for recognized meteorites according to name, types, falls, country of recovery, etc. This is an exciting addition to the Society's web page and also permits newly approved meteorites to be published on the web immediately after voting. At the time of writing this article, users have executed over 18,000 searches on the new database since its inception last spring. Please go to <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/meteor/metbull.php> and familiarize yourself with the new search engine.

I became Editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin in May 2005, and have been establishing new protocols for the submission of meteorite descriptions and voting. To better accommodate the needs of the community, the web-based submission page has been temporarily shut down while a new and more efficient process is being developed. A new schedule for voting, essentially every two months, can be found on the Society's web page. Results of the voting are released by the month's end and the approved meteorites are added to the database and published on-line. My long-term goal is to publish the Meteoritical Bulletin more than once a year. I will continue the tradition of relying on Associate Editors for the coordination of submissions to the Meteoritical Bulletin. Recently, Caroline Smith of the Natural History Museum in London joined the Committee and has become Associate Editor for Northwest Africa. Mike Zolensky, previous Associate Editor for Northwest Africa, has become Associate Editor for Oman. I may add an Associate Editor for Asia and the Pacific in the near future.

It is important to remember that the Nomenclature Committee is an outreach arm of the Society. It deals with a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations interested in meteorites, mostly with the major goal of the identification, classification and approval of new meteorites. The Committee wants meteorites to be officially recognized while maintaining the rigor of the system. It is the aspiration of the Committee that the new changes occurring, some of which have been discussed above, will help to improve the process.

BYLAWS CHANGES

Council approved two changes to the Society Bylaws in 2005. First, paragraph 1 of Bylaw 8 was modified at the request of the Society Publications Committee, changing the starting and ending dates of the term of the Editor of *MAPS*, as follows:

The term of the Editor of *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* normally shall begin January 1 and be for four calendar years. In the case of a mid-year appointment of a new Editor to fill a vacancy, the term shall be the remainder of the year of appointment plus four years. An Editor may succeed himself/herself.

Second, a new bylaw establishes the Membership Committee and the Service Award:

Article 18. Membership Committee And Service Award

1. The duties of the Membership Committee are: a) to recruit new members and retain current members; b) to suggest ways to improve the public image of the Society; c) to advise the Council on membership issues; d) to administer the Service Award.

2. The Membership Committee shall consist of at least 5 members appointed by the President and chosen to represent the current geographic distribution of the membership. Committee members will serve staggered three-year terms, and may be reappointed for up to two additional consecutive terms.

3. The President shall designate one of the members to serve as the Committee Chair. The term of the Chair shall be for the remainder of his or her current term on the Committee.

4. Service Award:

a) The purpose of the award shall be to honor members who have advanced the goals of the Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. Examples of activities that could be honored by the award include, but are not limited to, education and public outreach, service to the Society and the broader scientific community, and acquisition, classification and curation of new samples for research.

b) Nominations for the award shall be solicited from Society members through annual announcements in *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* or the Society newsletter; nominations should be sent to the Committee Chair. Candidates may also be selected directly by the Membership Committee.

c) The Membership Committee shall notify the Secretary of its selection of a candidate for the Service Award by December 31 of the year preceding the presentation; documentation must be sent to Council by February 15. Concurrence of the selection by the Council shall be by two-thirds of all voting members.

d) The award shall be lifetime membership in the Society.

e) The award may be given annually, and should be given at least every two years. The presentation shall be made at the next Annual Meeting following the Council vote.

f) Members of the Council and the Membership Committee making the selection are not eligible to receive the award. The award also should not be given to former officers of the Society for activities conducted in the performance of their duties.

The full text of the Constitution and Bylaws is on-line at <http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org>.

METSOC LOGO CONTEST

The Meteoritical Society does not have a logo. Although *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* and its predecessor, *Meteoritics*, have used several symbols to represent the Society over the years, none has ever been adopted for general use outside the Journal (e.g., on letterhead, the web site, award certificates, or this newsletter). In order to remedy this situation, Council has appointed an ad hoc Logo Committee with the following members: Gretchen Benedix (Chair), Barbara Cohen, Ralph Harvey, Gary Lofgren, Ursula Marvin, and Brigitte Zanda. Council has approved a plan by the Committee to run a contest to select a logo.

The contest rules are as follows:

- The contest is open to all Society members except for members of the Council and Logo Committee.
- The winner will receive \$500.
- There is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted by a single member.
- The entry should be a logo representative of the entire Society.
- Entries must be made by electronic submission to the secretary (jgrossman@usgs.gov). All entries must be received before January 1, 2006. The initial submission should be a compact file such as a JPEG image; a high resolution version will be requested for finalists.
- Entries may be in black & white or color; if color is used, the entry must still be legible and presentable when converted to black & white for use in media where color is unavailable.
- As an option, two versions may be submitted, one compact, for use in small spaces, and one extended, for use where space permits.
- Selection of the winner. The Secretary will assemble a file of all entries, which does not contain the identities of the submitters. The two logos that have been used over the years by the Journal will be entered automatically. The first round of voting will be by Committee members, who will prepare a ranked list of ten semi-finalists. The second round will be by the Council (minus the Secretary), who will select five finalists from this list. The ultimate selection will be made from among the finalists by the entire membership of the Society via e-mail voting. If one of the Journal entries should win, the prize will be split evenly among the other finalists.

For all those who are interested, the following link contains images of all of the MetSoc meeting logos since the 1960s:

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org/meetings/index.html>
