

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Gero Kurat

As expected, there was no break in the activities – positive and negative ones – in the transition to this year. The weather stayed breezy and most officers were kept busy at a rate that was clearly above the usual one. However, storms cannot go on forever and also this one settled down and thus gave us a peaceful better half of the year. Storms usually are destructive. Destruction can be lethal but can also prepare the site for construction. I believe that we were able to make use of this opportunity. Thus, 2002 was a good year for the Society, which brought several exciting events and some changes.

The Meeting

We had another very successful Annual Meeting, the 65th which was held at the University of California at Los Angeles from July 21 to 26, 2002 (see report below by Paul Warren). Paul and the local organizing committee did an outstanding job. As a result, we had a very fine meeting and the week passed in virtually no time.

One of the many highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the awards of the Society:

The Leonard Medal to Don Bogard “..in recognition of his distinguished contributions to noble gas geochemistry and the chronology of the solar system”;

The Barringer Medal to Bevan French “..for fundamental and pioneering contributions to cratering research and for promoting this field in a variety of editorial and administrative positions”;

The Nier Prize to Dante Lauretta “..for his experimental studies of iron-bearing sulfide formation in the solar system”.

Ten distinguished members were elected Fellows of the Meteoritical Society: Alan Boss, Jeremy Delaney, Cyrena Goodrich, Peter Hoppe, Francois Robert, Emil Jagoutz, Kevin McKeegan, Rolf Michel, Alan Treiman and Michael Weisberg.

Congratulations to the award winners and the new fellows. What an assembly of knowledge and brainpower!

Meteoriticists and Asteroids

Following a proposal by Bobby Bus, Institute for Astronomy, Hawaii, some members of our society were honored by having asteroids named after them. The International Astronomical Union approved these new asteroid names which were published in the Minor Planets Circulars:

(5308) Hutchison = 1981 DC2

Discovered 1981 Feb. 28 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

Robert Hutchison (b. 1938) recently retired as curator of meteorites at the Natural History Museum in London. His chemical, mineralogical and petrological studies of chondritic meteorites have advanced our understanding of the early solar system processes leading to the formation of chondrites.

(5309) MacPherson = 1981 ED25

Discovered 1981 Mar. 2 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

Glenn MacPherson (b. 1950), curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, has studied chondrules and Ca-Al-rich inclusions to investigate the nebular processes that formed chondritic meteorites. His work on short-lived isotopes has helped constrain the timing of these processes.

(5310) Papike = 1981 EP26

Discovered 1981 Mar. 2 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

James Papike (b. 1937), director emeritus of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, is one of the world's foremost experts on the mineralogy and petrology of planetary materials. His studies of lunar rocks have helped reveal the complexity of the earth's nearest neighbor.

(5345) Boynton = 1981 EY8

Discovered 1981 Mar. 1 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

William Boynton (b. 1944), professor of cosmochemistry and geochemistry at the University of Arizona, has measured elemental abundances in meteorites as a means of probing the early history of the solar system. He is the team leader for the gamma-ray spectrometer on the Mars Odyssey spacecraft.

(5366) Rhianjones = 1981 EY30

Discovered 1981 Mar. 2 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

Rhian Jones (b. 1960) is an experimental and sample petrologist at the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico. Her work has enhanced our understanding of processes by which chondrules were formed in the solar nebula and later modified by heat and fluids on minor planets.

(5395) Shosasaki = 1988 RK11

Discovered 1988 Sept. 14 by S. J. Bus at Cerro Tololo.

Sho Sasaki (b. 1960), a professor at the University of Tokyo, has carried out laser irradiation experiments to simulate the processes of lunar-like space weathering. He is also a lead researcher in interplanetary dust particle experiments that are part of many Japanese planetary missions.

(5479) Grahamryder = 1989 UT5

Discovered 1989 Oct. 30 by S. J. Bus at Cerro Tololo.

Graham Ryder (1949-2002) was a U.S. lunar scientist who pioneered several important concepts about the moon and its evolution. He was among the first to recognize evidence in the lunar sample collection that mare volcanism began very early in lunar history, before the period of late heavy bombardment had ended.

(5497) Sararussell = 1975 SS

Discovered 1975 Sept. 30 by S. J. Bus at Palomar.

As a researcher at the Natural History Museum in London, Sara Russell (b. 1966) studies the chemistry and mineralogy of meteorites to investigate the early solar system and origin of interstellar grains. She has collected meteorites in both hot and cold deserts and is principal editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin.

(5662) Wendycalvin = 1981 EL4

Discovered 1981 Mar. 2 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring in the course of the U.K. Schmidt-Caltech Asteroid Survey.

Wendy Calvin (b. 1961) has made many important contributions to the field of planetary spectroscopy. Her work has included spectral studies of the martian surface and polar caps, Charon, Callisto and Ganymede. She has also helped pioneer the concept of using aircraft in the exploration of Mars.