

The Meteoritical Society Newsletter (November 2011)

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PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

I am honored to take over as president from Hiroko Nagahara and can report that the new council has operated successfully for nine months. The new council has met twice, in Houston in March and in Greenwich in August. One subtheme of our meetings has been to look for new ways to maintain the interest and participation of all society members. Another has been to call the attention of the broader scientific community to our activities.

The council has been well served during the past year by Greg Herzog, the society's secretary, and by Rhian Jones, treasurer, who has set high standards for consistency and clarity in reporting the society's finances. We thank the 11 committees for their advice and the 60 members of the 11 committees who generously donated their time. Our flagship journal, *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*, is now back on schedule after teething troubles last year with the new publisher. We appreciate the skill and efforts of the editor Tim Jull, the editorial staff in Tucson, and the Wiley-Blackwell production team in solving some initial production problems, and for making such a successful transition.

Important reminders

Renew your membership by Jan. 1! Don't risk missing issues of MAPS. And, mailing you reminders is expensive. Renew online at <http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net>.

Nominate your colleagues and students for awards! Deadlines are in January. See Awards section for details.

Nominations for new fellows are due in January. Nominations are welcome.

Proposals to host the 2016 MetSoc meeting are due in March. Contact the secretary for procedures.

Vote in the Elements Poll if you haven't voted already.

I am pleased to report on the some of the major accomplishments of the past year and some plans for the future. The reports by the treasurer and chairs of major committees that follow provide many more details.

Annual Meetings

The 74th annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society was held at the University of Greenwich in the Old Royal Naval College on the banks of the River Thames. So many abstracts were submitted—over 520—that the organizers had to schedule three simultaneous oral sessions for the whole of the meeting. Highlights of the meeting for me included results from the Hayabusa asteroid sample return mission, images of the asteroid Vesta from the Dawn spacecraft, an inspired talk by the Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees who gave the Barringer Invitational Lecture in the main hall of the Museum of Natural History, a spectacular banquet in the Painted Hall at Greenwich, and a wonderful field trip to see the geology and scenery of the Scottish Highlands before the meeting.

Many thanks to Gretchen Benedix of the Natural History Museum, who led the organizing committee,

and her co-chairs Phil Bland, Sara Russell, and Caroline Smith for all their hard work, which made the meeting so successful. Many other members contributed to the meeting, including Kieren Howard and the numerous student volunteers who ably ran the audiovisual equipment.

Next year the society's annual meeting, its 75th, will be held in Australia—the society has met in Australia only once before (Perth, 1990). Trevor Ireland and his colleagues at Australian National University, who are hosting the meeting at the Cairns Convention Center, promise an exciting program with a coral reef trip during the week of the meeting and a week-long field trip to visit impact craters afterwards.

The council has accepted the offer by Kuni Nishiizumi and colleagues working in the San Francisco Bay area to hold the 2015 annual meeting at the University of California in Berkeley, California. The annual meeting in 2016 will be held outside North America. The council will be deciding on the venue in March 2012. We invite bids from members.

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta

In June, I signed on behalf of the Meteoritical Society a five-year agreement with Elsevier to continue cosponsoring *GCA* with the Geochemical Society. After a year of difficult negotiations with Elsevier, the joint publications committee led by David Mittlefehldt persuaded Elsevier to offer a single contract to the two societies, rather than two separate ones, but the terms were not acceptable. At the request of the presidents of the two societies, the *GCA* executive editor, Frank Podosek, then made one last effort and succeeded in obtaining a contract that was acceptable although with terms much less advantageous than those of the previous contract.

The new contract offers no royalties to the Meteoritical Society. It also specifies that members will no longer be able to purchase subscriptions for printed copies of *GCA*, although they can continue to obtain electronic subscriptions. Rates are \$96 for regular members and \$48 for students and senior members. Elsevier will send out pro-forma invoices for 2012 to those members who already have 2011 subscriptions, before the end of 2011. Members wishing to begin a new subscription should contact Elsevier directly at Emeasocieties@elsevier.com.

At the end of next year Frank Podosek will step down after a thirteen-year term as executive editor of

GCA. Frank took over the journal at a troubled time, maintained the highest levels of editorial excellence, treated everyone with fairness and courtesy, and brought *GCA* into the electronic age. The Joint Publications Committee will lead the effort to find his replacement. Please contact Brigitte Zanda (zanda@mnhn.fr) or Jeff Grossman (jgrossman@usgs.gov), the two Meteoritical Society representatives on the committee, if you are interested in applying for this position.

Elements

Last year, the Meteoritical Society joined a group of 15 other participating societies who publish *Elements*, the highly successful international journal of mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology. The February issue, which was edited by Dante Lauretta, contained six articles on cosmochemistry by society members; next January's (2012) issue will be on impact craters. Each issue contains one or two pages of Meteoritical Society news edited by Cari Corrigan. In addition, a new feature called *CosmoElements*, which debuted in June, will highlight new discoveries in our field. If you have suggestions for items for the news page or *CosmoElements*, please contact Cari. Instructions for proposing thematic issues of 4-6 articles can be found on the *Elements* website at www.elementsmagazine.org/proposal.htm.

Many thanks to Hap McSween, who completes his third and last year as principal editor, for encouraging the society to join *Elements*, and to Cari Corrigan for organizing our contributions.

Finance

I am pleased to report that our finances are in good shape and that Rhian Jones who took over as treasurer from Alan Rubin has succeeded in making the accounts more comprehensible. The audit committee is now scrutinizing her report for the financial year that ended on May 31, 2011. The endowment funds have been carefully nurtured by the endowment committee, which has been ably chaired by Tim Swindle for the last five years.

The budget for the present financial year shows that about 45% of the income from membership dues will go to Wiley for *MAPS* subscriptions. We also will pay about \$6,000 toward the *MAPS* editorial office expenses, 95% of which are covered by royalty payments from Wiley-Blackwell. Before the Wiley-

Blackwell contract was signed, a much larger fraction of the membership dues went toward *MAPS* expenses and, in some years, endowment funds had to be used to subsidize *MAPS*. The improvement in our finances is due to savings in the *MAPS* editorial office, to having typesetting done in India, and to the new publishing agreement with Wiley-Blackwell.

The dues for 2012 are unchanged—they have not been raised since 2002. Your prompt payment of your annual dues will save the society money. Members can save \$30 per year by taking an electronic subscription to *MAPS* instead of printed plus electronic versions.

Last year about 160 members generously donated close to \$11,000 to the various endowment funds with their annual dues, and we are most grateful for their loyal support.

This year the endowment funds were used to make a special grant to help support members from low-income countries to attend the society's annual meeting in Greenwich. We also received very generous donations for this purpose from Lucy McFadden and an anonymous donor. The New York and Greenwich meetings highlighted the need for funds to support members from low-income countries to attend our annual meetings. This year there will be a line on the dues renewal form where members can contribute to this worthy cause.

The endowment committee and the council are working to establish a Legacy Program to be run by an *ad hoc* committee of members of the endowment committee and other members. The goal is to invite society members to consider making a legacy gift to the society. These funds will be invested through our endowment fund and a small amount, ~4%, will be used each year for support of Meteoritical Society activities. The Legacy Program will be open to all our members and supporters who want to make sure that the activities of our society continue well into the future. Joe Goldstein, Drew Barringer, and Hap McSween, who was largely responsible for establishing the endowment fund when he was president, have agreed to serve on this *ad hoc* committee to run the program.

Communications

Hiroshi Kaiden at the National Institute of Polar Research in Tokyo is taking over as webmaster for the society. He has been working with Greg Herzog to make the society's website easier to navigate and more informative. We are most grateful to Hiroshi and NIPR

for developing and hosting the new site, which will be inaugurated shortly. Thanks also to Matt Genge who redesigned the website in 2003 after transferring it from the University of Arkansas and ran it for many years. The web address of the society will not change.

Greg Herzog has been working to set up a listserv for members to be called *MetSocCom*. All members of the society will be invited via e-mail to join this group and will be able to discuss topics that are related to research and education in meteoritics and planetary science. We will use this email group to alert members to news items that are posted on our website and any other relevant news and events of interest to members. We hope that members will find it useful, for example, for posting links to job advertisements and discussions of issues of interest. Jon Friedrich of Fordham University has kindly agreed to manage *MetSocCom*.

Members should know that the society has a policy of not sharing email or postal addresses of our members with any other organization. Our membership directory is only available to members who log in through our website with the username and password that they use for accessing *MAPS* and *Elements* electronically.

The society also has a page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Meteoritical-Society/132324490172621>. Cari Corrigan who moderates the Facebook page says that the former "group" is defunct and invites members to add photos and news items to the new site.

Workshops and Meetings

Since our field of research is very interdisciplinary, we can help our members and publicize our society by sponsoring meetings arranged by other groups. In the last four years we have supported five meetings or special sessions arranged by our members with financial help from the endowment funds. (See our website under Endowment: Outreach projects.)

The society is sponsoring three upcoming meetings: a workshop for meteoritists and astronomers on Kauai, Hawaii, November 7-9, 2011, on the "Formation of the First Solids in the Solar System," the Second Arab Impact Cratering and Astrogeology Conference in Casablanca, November 13-20 this year, and the "Asteroids, Comets, and Meteors" meeting, which has been rescheduled for May 16-20, 2012, in Niigata, Japan. Sasha Krot, who is organizing the Kauai workshop, and Sho Sasaki, the

chair of the ACM 2011 scientific organizing committee, have arranged with the editor of *MAPS*, Tim Jull, for participants at both meetings to submit papers based on their presentations to two special issues of *MAPS*. These two meetings will provide opportunities for our members to interact with scientists from related fields and allow the society to publicize our journal and research activities to a broader audience.

If you are organizing a meeting that is related to our field and need help, or know of a meeting that we should support, please let us know. Requests for financial help should go to Marc Caffee, who is taking over from Tim Swindle as the chair of the endowment committee, requests for help publicizing meetings should go to Greg Herzog, and proposals for special issues of *MAPS* should go to Tim Jull.

Society Awards

In Greenwich, I had the great pleasure of presenting the society's awards for 2011: the Leonard Medal to François Robert, the Barringer Medal and a check for \$1000 to Bruce Bohor, the Nier Prize and a check for \$1500 to Fred Ciesla, and the Service Award and a life membership in the society to Richard Pugh. In addition, two student prize winners received their awards. Andrew Beck won the Paul Pellas-Graham Ryder Award and a check for \$500 for the best paper published in 2010 by a student in planetary sciences. The Gordon A. McKay Award for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting last year in New York went to Rachel Smith together with a check for \$1000. Congratulations to all our awardees.

In 2012 the Leonard Medal will be awarded to Don Burnett, the Barringer Medal to Jan Smit, the Nier Prize to Frédéric Moynier, and the Service Award to Ursula Marvin. After the Greenwich meeting, the council selected Dennis Harries as the winner of the McKay Award for 2011.

The success of our awards program depends critically on the participation of members in nominating highly qualified colleagues and serving on the five award committees. Full instructions for making nominations for these awards and society fellows are given elsewhere in this newsletter. The deadlines for nominations are January 31 for the Pellas-Ryder Award and Service Award, and January 15 for all other awards and fellows.

Finally, I'd like to thank the award committee members and especially the committee chairs: Tim McCoy (Leonard Medal Committee), Chris Koeberl (Barringer Award), Gary Huss (Service Award), and Byeon-Gak Choi (Gordon A. McKay Award) and the senior member of the Pellas-Ryder Committee, Christine Floss. Their hard work is greatly appreciated.

Ed Scott

ANNUAL MEETINGS

2011 Annual Meeting

The 74th annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society was held August 8-12 in London, England, at the University of Greenwich. A total of 548 people, including 71 guests, attended the Greenwich meeting. 529 abstracts were submitted. To accommodate the large number of requests for presentations, the program committee scheduled three parallel sessions throughout the week, allowing for 284 oral presentations, along with two poster sessions. The topics of impact studies and differentiated meteorites were the most heavily subscribed.

A total of about \$52K in travel awards was distributed. As part of the travel award for members from low-income countries registration fees were waived.

Civil unrest in London during the meeting led Greenwich University authorities to close the campus on Tuesday evening, the time scheduled for one of the two poster sessions. Extra space was found for Thursday night, and 90% of Tuesday's posters were able to be presented. The local organizing committee thanks everyone for the patience and assistance in dealing with the unique situation.

A preconference field trip took place in the highlands of Scotland. Thirteen intrepid souls were led on a 4-day tour to see geology (and whisky) of Scotland by Martin Lee and John Cosgrove.

The annual banquet was held in the historic Painted Hall and Queen Mary Undercroft at the University of Greenwich.

Further details along with pictures can be found in the December 2011 issue of *Elements*.

The Local Organizing Committee consisted of Gretchen Benedix, Caroline Smith, Phil Bland, Sara Russell, Kieren Howard, Matt Genge, Monica Grady, Ian Franchi, Ian Lyon, and Dominik Hezel.

Gretchen Benedix

Upcoming Meetings

2012 Annual Meeting, Cairns, Australia

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society will be held in Cairns, Australia, August 12-17, 2012. The organizers would like to invite you to come down under and enjoy the tropics. Cairns is the northernmost city on the east coast of Australia and provides prime access to the Great Barrier Reef and tropical rainforests. Winter is known as the dry season and temperatures will be in the mid twenties (°C) during the day time, and mid teens in the evening.

We expect to have a wide variety of interesting sessions covering a full range of topics in meteoritical and planetary science.

We will have the normal Wednesday afternoon break for an organized outing followed by the conference dinner. Before the meeting, we will look at a day excursion on to the reef for those interested. After the meeting, there will be a field trip to Central Australia to see craters, geology and some of the Australian outback. We are also looking at a more extensive trip to some of the more remote crater localities. An indication of interest for either of these trips would be useful for planning purposes.

As it is the 75th meeting anniversary, we are pleased to announce that Ross Taylor will be presenting the Barringer Lecture.

The meeting will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre, located in downtown Cairns. Accommodation will be available at a wide variety of local hotels from backpackers to 5 star, all within walking distance of the center.

Additional details are available in the first announcement, which is posted on the LPI website at <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/metsoc2012/>.

We also have information available on our local website, <http://shrimp.anu.edu.au/metsoc2012/>.

For more information, comments, or inquiries please contact Trevor Ireland <trevor.ireland@anu.edu.au>

Trevor Ireland

FROM THE TREASURER

This is my first report as Treasurer. I took over from Alan Rubin in January 2011, and we worked together over several months to ensure a smooth transfer of money and responsibilities. This report summarizes the society's finances in Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11), 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011.

Assets

At the end of FY11, the balance of the operating fund was \$212,652 and the portfolio value of the investment fund was \$675,455. The investment fund contains three endowed funds, which were distributed as follows at the end of FY11: general endowment fund, 84.24%; Nier fund, 7.66%; Gordon A. McKay fund, 8.10%.

Operating Fund

A significant change to the society's operating budget took place last year, because of our move to publishing *MAPS* with Wiley. FY11 was the first fiscal year in which we were operating entirely within our new agreement with Wiley. Our operating budget includes two kinds of income from Wiley: an agreed sum that supports the *MAPS* editorial office, as well as royalty income which is based on Wiley's total *MAPS* revenue. Some of Wiley's revenue consists of *MAPS* subscriptions which members pay as part of their membership dues. Overall, in FY11, the society budget for publication of *MAPS* was close to breaking even. Financially, the transition to Wiley has begun on a stable financial footing.

In FY11, the New York MetSoc meeting returned a previous loan of \$25,000, and we made new loans of \$20,000 to the London MetSoc meeting and \$5,000 to the Cairns MetSoc meeting.

Another item in the FY11 budget was that we began to participate as a member society of *Elements* magazine. The cost of this to the society is about \$15,000 per year, which in FY11 was covered by the operating fund budget.

Year	Location	Dates	Contact
2012	Cairns, Queensland, Australia	August 12-17	trevor.ireland@anu.edu.au
2013	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	July 29-August 2	herd@ualberta.ca
2014	Casablanca, Morocco	September 7-14	chennaoui_h@yahoo.fr
2015	Berkeley, California, USA	July 27-31	kuni@ssl.berkeley.edu

Also in FY11, we received our final *GCA* royalty payment from Elsevier, which was ~\$56,000. Without this royalty payment, the operating fund account showed a small surplus of about \$5,000. Because the Elsevier royalty money is a clear surplus to the FY11 budget, and because the operating fund has a significant cash surplus, we transferred \$60,000 from the operating fund to the investment fund (for the general endowment fund) in August 2011.

Gifts

We thank the 157 society members who generously contributed gifts to the endowment, Nier, and McKay funds in the past fiscal year. The total of gifts received was close to \$11,000. These contributions helped support workshops, awards, student and professional travel and other activities. The following members contributed \$100 or more during this period: E. Anders, F. Begemann, J. Berkley, J-L. Birek, A. Brearley, S. Brey, G. Crozaz, P. DeCarli, J. Delaney, H. Deyerle Jr., T. Fagan, B. French, M. Gaffey, S. Genest, J. Goldstein, E. Grew, J. Grossman, O. Jentsch, J. Kashuba, N. Kita, C. Koeberl, L. Labenne, T. McElvain, H. Melosh, S. Messenger, D. Milton, H. Nagahara, N. Nakamura, B. Narendra, M. Nolan, E. Olsen, H. Palme, R. Pepin, M. Strait, T. Swindle, R. Tabor, S. Taylor, A. Treiman, C. Velsko, R. Walker, and J. Wasson.

Rhian Jones

PUBLICATIONS REPORTS

MAPS

I would like to summarize briefly the status of our journal, *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*. Scientifically, the journal continues to do well and, economically, the budget is balanced.

Paper submission. The journal submission rates continue to be good. I have summarized some statistics from Manuscript Central in the table below.

Online journal. All issues since 1997 have been uploaded to the Wiley system. We are in the process of having all issues of *MAPS* scanned, and we expect to have the entire collection online by the end of 2011.

Production and Typesetting of Papers. There are no longer delays in the production of papers. Changes in the flow system at Wiley have been made, and the current issue is September 2011. Minor problems are generally worked out during weekly telephone conferences with Wiley personnel.

Submission statistics	2011 to date	Prior 12 months
Article	121	149
Award citation	3	3
Report	4	4

Journal statistics	Prior 12 months
Avg. days from submission to first decision	80.0
Avg. reviewer turnaround time (days)	30.0
Original submission	
Avg. reviewer turnaround time (days)	23.0
Resubmission	
Avg. reviewer turnaround time (days)	23.0
Revision	
Avg. days from submission to Final decision	123.0

Other statistics

Accept ratio (prior 12 months)^a 110:38 (79.7%)

Total pending manuscripts 51

^aThe “accept” ratio (the percentage of papers that is finally accepted) has declined to 80% from about 85%.

Print Statistics. In 2010, we published 118 papers, 5 citations, 3 editorials, and 4 memorials. Below is a summary of the numbers of papers printed since 2003.

Year	No. of papers	Paper pages	Pages/paper	Total pages incl. supplements
2011	75	1462	19.5	1726 (to Sept. 2011)
2010	118	2015	17.1	2249
2009	122	1818	14.9	2047
2008	139	2107	15.2	2316
2007	142	2182	15.4	2375
2006	132	1994	15.1	2233
2005	117	1922	16.4	2187
2004	136	2067	15.2	2352
2003	127	1880	14.8	2123

Timothy Jull

Editor, *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*

GCA

As noted in the president’s editorial, Frank Podosek will retire as *GCA*’s executive editor at the end of 2012. The Geochemical Society and the Meteoritical Society who jointly sponsor the journal are now looking for a replacement for Frank. If you are interested in being considered as the next executive editor of *GCA* please send a resumé and cover letter to

the chair of the Joint Publication Committee (JPC) of the two societies, Brigitte Zanda (zanda@mnhn.fr), before December 31, 2011. After the JPC has made their recommendation, the two Societies will nominate a candidate to Elsevier who will appoint the next executive editor for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second three-year term.

Elements

Elements is a bimonthly publication with an international circulation of ~15,000 focusing on subjects and news of broad interest in the geological sciences. Under an agreement between *Elements* magazine and the Meteoritical Society, members receive printed copies of *Elements* as part of their membership package and have electronic access to published articles.

The current agreement between *Elements* magazine and the Meteoritical Society will end July 31, 2012. At the 2010 Annual Meeting in New York City, the council proposed to poll the membership about whether to renew the agreement with *Elements*. The poll went out to the members in September and will close in November. Please log in and answer the four quick questions if you haven't already done so.

FROM THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Since the last report, the nomenclature committee (NomCom) approved names and information for 1074 meteorites that will be published in *Meteoritical Bulletin* number 99 (in press), including 467 from outside Antarctica. New falls reported in this bulletin include Fuhe (1945) (China), Kemer (2008) (Turkey), Lorton (Virginia, USA), Mason Gully (Western Australia), Mifflin (Wisconsin, USA), Red Canyon Lake (2007) (California, USA), Varre-Sai (Brazil), and Whetstone Mountains (Arizona, USA). The bulletin is now in the capable hands of Laurence Garvie.

A change to the NomCom procedures (known as Bylaws Article 12) removes the requirement that the bulletin be published in *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*. We have been in the process of determining the best format and have settled on publication of a single page in *MAPS*, with a link to an online document that will be in a familiar format. The reason for this change is that many people in the meteoritics community, including amateurs, tend to access

information online. Furthermore, this change allows the editor flexibility in how and what information is presented, and removes the need for journal typesetting for, e.g., meteorite tables.

Last year we introduced a new meteorite submission form (an Excel spreadsheet) that replaces the previous forms. Shortly we will introduce an annotated version, complete with detailed instructions on what is expected in each column of the spreadsheet. It is our hope that this will clarify what is expected of submitters and assist them in completing the form effectively and efficiently. In addition, we have started the process of allowing some submitters to upload their submissions directly into the online system. As always, these changes are for the purpose of streamlining the submission, voting, and approval process.

We are pleased to welcome two new members within the past year—Takashi Mikouchi and Monica Grady (*ex officio* as VP of the society), in addition to Laurence Garvie as editor of the *Meteoritical Bulletin*. Special thanks to the outgoing members, Akira Yamaguchi, Ed Scott, and Hasnaa Chennaoui for their many contributions. Another change to Article 12 removes the *ex officio* position of editor of the Catalogue of Meteorites, which has the added effect of reducing the committee from 16 members to 15. We are happy to have Caroline Smith continue on as a regular member starting January 1, 2012, and to welcome back Henning Haack, Smail Mostefaoui, and Kees Welten for additional 3-year terms. Thanks also to Weibiao Hsu, whose term comes to an end at the close of this year, for dedicated service over the past 6 years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about NomCom and especially with suggestions for improvement. Essential information on meteorite nomenclature, instructions and the template for reporting new meteorites may be found on our homepage, http://meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=pub_bulletin.

Chris Herd

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New to Our Listings

Our society is growing, and we are working hard to make your membership more valuable to you.

We welcome and extend our best wishes to all the new members listed below.

W. F. Barrett, James Baxter, Michael Benton, Steven Binnie, Clive Burrett, David Call, Ian Chait, Thomas Cox, Steven Curry, James Day, Elena Dobrica, Gerardo Dominguez, Massimo D’Orazio, Martin Downes, Agnes Elmaleh, Raul Fonseca, John Gainer, Zack Gainsforth, Philippe Gillet, Carlos Guerard, Mark Hammergren, John Higgins, Dennis Holmes, Zhengwei Hu, Alison Hunt, James Kaler, Thomas Katsaros, Frank Kenton, Harvey Lange, Assia Laroussi, Lucille Le Corre, Jesse Lewis, Paula Lindgren, Yang Liu, Edward Majden, Johanna Marin-Carbonne, Matthew Marone, Seiji Maruyama, Etienne Medard, Eduardo Mijangos, Bill Mikuska, Nicholas Moskovitz, Melodye Murphy, William Petty, Vishnu Reddy, John Revel, R. Lawrence St. Clair, Warren Sansoucie, Cecilia Satterwhite, Martha Schaefer, Doug Schoon, John Scott, Virgil Sharpton, David Shuster, Matthew Smith, Jimmy Solorzano, Marcin Stolarz, Travis Tenner, Thomas Teubner, Jo-Anne Wartho, Jonathan Watson, Linda Welzenbach, Andrew Westphal, Craig Whitford, Stephan Winzer, Allen Yu, Viacheslav Zgonnik

And a special welcome to the students who have joined the society this year.

Feargas Abernathy, Robert Beauford, Eike Beitz, Joke Belza, John Bigolski, Alexandra Blinova, Joeline Buntain, Wilton Carvalho, Melanie Channon, Noel Chaumard, Amanda Couch, Cecile Cournede, Edivaldo dos Santos Filho, Pia Friend, Pierre Haenecour, Leon Hicks, Sanna Holm, Aureore Hutzler, El-mahadia Ibrahim, Hatsumi Ishida, Christine Jilly, Risto Kiuru, Stefan Kothe, Maximilian Matthes, Sihane Merouane, Kelly Miller, Margaret Murphy, Alaura Singleton, Lissa Ong, Rodney Phillips, Katharine Robinson, Aurelien Rombaut, Adam Sarafian, Xiaoyu Shi, Sheryl Singerling, Samantha Smith, Christopher Snead, Poorna Srinivasan, Veerle Sterken, Michele Thompson, Daniel Wielandt, Felicity Williams, Niel Williams

Deaths

We note with sadness the deaths in recent months of the following members of the Meteoritical Society:

Thomas Ahrens, Ralph Baldwin, Milton Blander, Joseph Burdy, Michael J. Drake, Ronald Hartman, Jared Morrow, Elisabetta Pierazzo, and Frank Stadermann.

A New Membership Committee Chair for 2012

At the end of 2011, Gary Huss, who was the society's president in 2003 and 2004, will leave the membership committee, which he has chaired since 2007. Gary has been a consistent and thoughtful voice for all society members, and especially those who are not full-time scientists—for collectors, dealers, and meteorite enthusiasts in the general public. In 2012, Alex Ruzicka will take over as chair of the membership committee. We are glad to have him aboard.

Gary Huss with assistance from J. Alex Speer

AWARDS AND HONORS

Newly and Recently Announced Awards

Leonard Medal for 2012 to Don Burnett

The Meteoritical Society recognizes Don Burnett with its 2012 Leonard Medal for laboratory and mission-related contributions, particularly his leadership of the Genesis mission, to measuring and understanding the abundances and isotopic compositions of elements in the solar system.

Nier Prize for 2012 to Frédéric Moynier

The Meteoritical Society recognizes Frederic Moynier with its 2012 Nier Prize for significant contributions to understanding the processes that produced isotopic fractionations in the transition metals in solar system materials.

The nominees for the Leonard Medal and the Nier Prize were selected by the members of the Leonard Medal committee: Conel M. Alexander, Jr., Tim McCoy (chairperson), Mike Gaffey, Herbert Palme, and François Robert.

Barringer Medal for 2012 to Jan Smit

The Barringer Medal for 2012 will go to Jan Smit for his fundamental contributions to the recognition that the K-T mass extinction was caused by an asteroid impact, and his tireless public advocacy of this topic.

The nominee for the Barringer Medal was selected by the members of the Barringer Medal Committee: Chris Koeberl (chair), Joanna Morgan, Elisabetta Pierazzo, and Jeff Plescia.

Service Award for 2012 to Ursula Marvin

The 2012 Service Award will be given to Ursula Marvin of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics for documenting the history of the

Meteoritical Society and the personal histories of some of the most influential people in meteoritics and planetary science.

The nominee for the Service Award was selected by the members of the Membership Committee: Phil Bland, Gary Huss (chair), Takuya Kunihiro, Andreas Pack, Alex Ruzicka, and Jutta Zipfel.

McKay Award for 2011 to Dennis Harries

The McKay Award for 2011 goes to Dennis Harries for his presentation entitled "Nanocrystalline P-Bearing Pentlandite and Chromium Nitrides from CM2 Chondrites Y-791198 and Y-793321."

The recipient of the McKay Award for 2011 was selected by a committee with the following members: Byeon-Gak Choi (chair), Fred Ciesla, Gareth Collins, Dante Lauretta, Tomoki Nakamura, Sara Russell (vice-chair), and Penny Wozniakiewicz.

Pellas-Ryder Award for 2011 to Andrew M. Beck

Andrew M. Beck is the 2011 winner of the Pellas-Ryder Award for the paper "Diogenites as polymict breccias composed of orthopyroxenite and harzburgite" (*MAPS* 45:850-872, 2010). Mr. Beck studied several diogenite meteorites for their mineralogical and elemental compositions. Writing with H. McSween, Jr., he proposed a revised taxonomy for the HED (howardites, eucrites, and diogenites) suite.

The selection of the Pellas-Ryder award for 2011 was made by a joint committee of the Meteoritical Society (MS) and the Geological Society of America (GSA). Its members were Christine Floss (MS), Dante Lauretta (MS), Mario Trieloff (MS), Jayne Aubele (GSA), Dave Williams (chair, GSA), and S. Kattenhorn (GSA).

Call for Nominations: Awards and Fellows

The society depends on its members to nominate deserving candidates for its awards and Fellows. Your participation is needed and important. The procedures for making a nomination are summarized here and can also be found on our website, <http://meteoriticalsociety.org/>.

Nominations for Meteoritical Society awards should be sent, preferably by email with electronic attachments, to the appropriate committee chair (listed at the end of each

paragraph) or to the secretary, Greg Herzog (herzogsec@rutchem.rutgers.edu).

Leonard Medal and Nier Prize -- Deadline January 15, 2012

The Leonard Medal honors outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics and closely allied fields. It was established in 1962 to honor the first president of the society, Frederick C. Leonard. Nominations for the Leonard Medal and the Nier Prize should include

- a formal letter of nomination,
- a biographical sketch of the candidate,
- a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award,
- additional substantive information, such as statements as to the importance of the nominee's research to the field of meteoritics and/or to the research of others,
- one seconding letter in support of the nomination (additional letters are encouraged).

Nominations for the Nier Prize should also include the candidate's birth date; a nomination is void if the candidate will reach the age of 35 before the end of 2011. If the research for the Nier Prize 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. The committee chair for 2012 will be Conel Alexander (alexande@dtm.ciw.edu).

Barringer Medal -- Deadline January 15, 2012

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 were established in 1982 to honor the memory of D. Moreau Barringer Sr. and his son D. Moreau Barringer Jr. and are sponsored by the Barringer Crater Company. Nominating letters should include:

- a biographical sketch of the candidate,
- a summary and evaluation of the accomplishments of the candidate and the importance of the candidate's work,
- a list of publications covering the work to be considered for the award, and
- one or more seconding letters.

The committee chair for 2012 will be Joanna Morgan (j.morgan@imperial.ac.uk).

Service Award -- Deadline January 31, 2012

This award honors 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. 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. The chair of the membership committee, which administers this award, will be Alex Ruzicka (ruzicka@pdx.edu) as of January 1, 2012. Until the end of 2011, correspondence should be addressed to the current chair, Gary Huss (ghuss@higp.hawaii.edu).

Pellas-Ryder Award -- Deadline January 31, 2012

This award, which is jointly sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Division of Geological Society of America, is for undergraduate and graduate students who are first author of a planetary science paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Any first author of a paper published on a topic listed on the cover of *MAPS* who was a student when the paper was submitted is eligible for consideration for this award. Nominations should include

- the full citation,
- a brief description of the paper's significance,
- a letter from the department head verifying that the first author was a registered student when the paper was submitted, and
- a letter from the student's advisor describing what portion of the work was done by the student.

Please send nominations to herzogsec@rutchem.rutgers.edu

Nomination of Fellows – Deadline, January 15, 2012

Members who have distinguished themselves in meteoritics or in closely allied fields may be elected fellows by the council. No more than 1% of the members can be elected in even-numbered years. An alphabetical list of fellows of the society may be found on our web site (click Awards and then Fellows in the left hand menu).

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 the chair of the Leonard Medal Committee, Conel Alexander, aalexande@dtm.ciw.edu.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Election for 2013

A new council will take office in January 2013, with Monica Grady as president and Ed Scott as past president. The nominating committee, chaired by Rainer Wieler, with members Joseph I. Goldstein, Candace Kohl, Gordon Osinski, Akira Yamaguchi, and Brigitte Zanda prepared the slate of candidates listed below. The council has affirmed that this slate was selected in accordance with the society's Constitution and Bylaws.

Officers

Vice-President: Michael Zolensky, U.S. (President-elect)

Secretary: Greg Herzog, U.S., 2nd term

Treasurer: Rhian Jones, U.S., 2nd term

Councilors

Nancy Chabot, U.S., 2nd term

Hasnaa Chennaoui, Morocco, 2nd term

Luigi Folco, Italy, 2nd term

Jay Melosh, U.S., 1st term

Larry Nittler, U.S., 1st term

Kevin Righter U.S. 2nd term

Maria Schönabächler, U.K., 1st term

Hisayoshi Yurimoto, Japan, 1st term

According to the constitution of the society, nominations for other candidates require a petition signed by at least 3% of the society's members (~32 at this writing) and should be submitted to the Secretary

by February 15, 2012. If no candidates are nominated other than those listed above, the secretary will declare these candidates elected by affirmation.

*Statement from the Vice Presidential Nominee,
Michael Zolensky*

One of the pleasures of service to the Meteoritical Society is having the opportunity to make friends with members I have not yet met, an experience I would welcome if I were to be elected vice president. Through the recent Stardust and Hayabusa publications (which have hundreds of co-authors), I may have already collaborated scientifically with most of the Society's members. However, for those who do not know me, here is some background. I was originally going to be a field geologist. In graduate school I had been working on the mineralogy of nuclear waste, but then changed direction. Wishing to avoid any future involvement with U.S. government scientists, I escaped to a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johnson Space Center in 1983, and then became a U.S. government scientist. This was obviously punishment for an extremely bad deed in a previous life. But the atmosphere at the Johnson Space Center is wonderful for doing science and I cannot imagine having made a better choice. Since so many members of the Meteoritical Society are primarily chemists, physicists, and astronomers, my mineralogical background has taken me a long way.

My career has proceeded along several parallel tracks. Primarily I am fascinated by the mineralogy of the early solar system, especially activity of water, and so have been analyzing and thinking about aqueously altered meteorites for almost 30 years. To learn ever more about these materials I have participated in the development of ever-better techniques for handling and usefully analyzing ever-smaller samples. Because of fantastic developments in microanalysis it has been possible to carry out sample return missions that are successful despite returning "only" sub-milligram quantities of rocks. I have served on the science teams of the Long Duration Exposure Facility (1985-1990), the Stardust mission to comet Wild 2 (1999-2006) and the Hayabusa mission to asteroid Itokawa (2004-2010). I still have field geologist dreams, and these are partially satisfied by expeditions to recover meteorites and impactites, in exotic places including the western USA, Atacama and Namib Deserts, SE Asia and Antarctica. This particular interest has led to my participation in the preliminary investigations of the special meteorites Monahans, Zag, Tagish Lake and

Almahata Sitta. I think that it would be useful if the Society could occasionally help to sponsor the recovery efforts for very special falls, if all political concerns could be satisfied. For the above meteorites we were especially fortunate that one or two individuals took exceptional actions to secure samples for science. We are not generally so fortunate. In this regard I agree with vice president Monica Grady that we have a significant problem with meteorites being collected in many areas, and not just North Africa and Arabia. Part of the solution to this problem is for the Meteoritical Society to foster meteorite expertise and interest within these countries, so that they can benefit from meteorite falls. As the number of downward-looking satellites capable of observing fireballs increases, we could soon find ourselves with new Almahata Sittas almost every year.

I also serve as a curator at NASA's Johnson Space Center, with responsibility for the stratospheric samples (Cosmic Dust), Stardust-Wild 2 samples, Hayabusa-Itokawa samples, and hardware that is returned to Earth from space. Being a Curator means that you see astromaterials not merely as a critical current resource but also as a treasure to be preserved for future generations of scientists, and gives one several different windows into the backstage areas of the world of astromaterials.

I joined the Meteoritical Society in 1983, was elected to fellowship in 1998, and served as councilor from 2003 to 2006. I also served on the nomenclature committee from 2003-2009 (that only seemed like forever). I was one of the final associate editors of *The Proceedings of the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference* (remember them?), and I have just begun to serve as an associate editor of MAPS. I am the namesake of Asteroid (6030) Zolensky, but to put that honor into proper perspective you should also know that there are asteroids named "Moe", "Larry", "Curly" and "Racquetball."

I am firmly committed to public outreach and education opportunities, and believe that the activities of the Meteoritical Society can play an important role in inspiring young people to become the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and tax payers. Toward this end I give many talks to grade schools, high schools, scouts, astronomy clubs, and occasionally adults. I have a strong interest in furthering understanding of the minor bodies that are a significant part of our planetary system, especially asteroids and comets. Through my career I have served on numerous NASA and international advisory

committees concerned with the exploration of these small bodies, most recently on the Steering Committee of NASA's Small Body Assessment Group. I also have helped to organize many international conferences and workshops. The Meteoritical Society is so international that my 12-year-old daughter takes completely for granted the fact that she has good friends on all continents, and I think this is an experience that many of us share. Our readiness to work across borders is a very special quality of our Society which we cannot take for granted

It is a great honor to be considered for vice president of the Meteoritical Society.

Brief Biographies for Other Candidates

Gregory Herzog is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. His research focuses on solar system processes that influence isotope abundances, and especially cosmic-ray irradiation.

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

Nancy Chabot is a staff scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. Her research is directed towards understanding the evolution of planetary bodies in the solar system, with a focus on experimental studies, iron meteorites, and planetary cores.

Hasnaa Chennaoui Aoudjehane is professor at the Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco. Her research interest focuses on the history and intensity of shock on meteorites by using cathodoluminescence techniques. She is currently member of the nomenclature committee and the membership committee of the Meteoritical Society.

Luigi Folco is curator of the meteorite collection of the Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide, Siena University. His current research focuses on the petrology of meteorites, micrometeorites and microtektites, as well as the search for meteorites in hot and cold deserts. He is past member of the nomenclature committee of the

Meteoritical Society and associate editor of the *Meteoritical Bulletin*.

Jay Melosh is a professor in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Physics Departments at Purdue University. His research focuses on the role of impact cratering in the evolution of the planets, satellites and small bodies in the solar system. He has participated in recent NASA missions to comets Tempel 1 and Hartley 2 and the GRAIL mission to the Moon. He has worked on the launch mechanism of Lunar and Martian meteorites and the possibility that microorganisms might survive meteoritic exchange between the planets.

Larry Nittler is a staff scientist in the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington DC. He studies the origin and evolution of the solar system, both through laboratory microanalysis of extraterrestrial materials and through planetary remote sensing. A particular focus is on isotopically anomalous presolar materials in meteorites and cosmic dust.

Kevin Righter is a research scientist and curator of the Antarctic meteorite collection at NASA Johnson Space Center. His research efforts include applying experimental petrology and geochemical analysis to understanding core formation in terrestrial planets, the origin of the Earth and Moon, and the role of water, oxygen, sulfur, and carbon on magmatic properties and phase equilibria.

Maria Schönbacher is a Reader in the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University of Manchester, UK. Her research focuses on dating and tracing events in the early solar system such as accretion and differentiation of planetary bodies using stable isotopes and extinct radionuclides.

Hisayoshi Yurimoto is a professor in the Department of Natural History Sciences at Hokkaido University. His research focuses on the origin of the solar system using microanalysis of meteorites by secondary ion mass spectrometry.

MetSocCom--E-mail Discussion Group for the Society

My first e-mail as secretary led to some unexpected and interesting replies to our entire membership. Afterwards, several members wrote in

favor of creating a list-serve/discussion group for the society. I learned from J. Alex Speer that the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) has such a group and that MSA members like and value it.

In August, the council approved the creation of our own discussion group. Jon Friedrich of Fordham University has kindly agreed to manage it and has named it MetSocCom.

MetSocCom will be an electronic forum where members (only) can read and write about subjects related to the purposes of the society—meetings or job announcements or new meteorites, for example. You can expect an invitation to join within the next month or so. Participation will be strictly voluntary. I am looking forward to lively and interesting exchanges.

A New Host for the MetSoc Website

On or about January 1, 2012, the society's

website, meteoricalsociety.org, will move from its current host, the Online Corporation of America, to a new site hosted by the National Institute of Polar Research. The web address will remain the same. Online Corporation has been a reliable partner for many years and the society owes the personnel there a debt of gratitude. The reasons for the change are that the present website is difficult for a non-expert to program and that Hiroshi Kaiden, with the support of the National Institute for Polar Research, Japan, kindly offered to create a more accessible one and to maintain it technically.

The beta version of the new website is now available:

<http://polaris.nipr.ac.jp/~metsoc/NC2/html/htdocs/>.

Please bear with us as we finish it and bring it up to full operating capacity. And take a look and send us your suggestions.

Greg Herzog
