

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hiroko Nagahara

President's Editorial

As my term as President ends, I would like to thank all the council and committee members and other members of the society for their help and advice. It has been a time of great change worldwide, not only in politics and economics, but also in science. The Society has entered a new era by turning over the publication of *Meteoritics & Planetary Science (MAPS)* to Wiley-Blackwell. For the first time in the 77-year history of the Society, we are not publishing the journal ourselves. In a broad sense, this change was driven by the preference of university libraries for purchasing journal subscriptions in bundles, rather than individually. In deciding to make the change, we also anticipated that a large publisher would be an effective marketer for *MAPS*. After lengthy negotiations carried out under the dedicated leadership of Rainer Wieler, we decided to go with Wiley-Blackwell. Our agreement with them began officially on January 1, 2010, and it is generally going well.

At this writing, the future of the Society's relationship with Elsevier in regard to *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta (GCA)* is uncertain. The operation of *GCA* has been overseen by us and the Geochemical Society through our Joint Publications Committee and by Elsevier since 1988 when Elsevier took over Pergamon. The contract that defines the relationship among the parties expired December 31, 2010. Dave Mittlefehldt, the chair of the Joint Publication Committee, has been negotiating terms of renewal with Elsevier and we have been discussing with the Geochemical Society ways to preserve our long collaboration and friendship.

Annual Meetings

The 73rd annual meeting of the society in New York was a great success with almost 500 participants, which may be because our scientific interests have broadened from studies more or less narrowly focused on meteorites to include pre-solar grains, impact physics, galactic evolution, planet evolution, and so on. I thank Denton Ebel, Harold C. Connolly, Mike Weisberg, Joe Boesenberg, Jon Friedrich, and other LOC members for their organization of the many scientific and social events held in connection with the meeting. The pre-conference workshop "Disks, meteorites, planetesimals" and the post-conference symposium "Chondrules: their role in early solar system history" were also highly successful with many participants. I am very happy with the two great annual meetings (Nancy and New York) that took place during my presidency. The next one will be held in Greenwich from August 8 to 12 hosted by Gretchen Benedix and staff members of the Natural History Museum, London, and of Imperial College. Subsequent annual meetings will be held in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, in August 12 to 17 of 2012; in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, from July 29 to August 2, 2013; and in Casablanca, Morocco, in September 2014.

Awards

At the society meeting in New York, we gave the Leonard Medal for 2010 to Hiroshi Takeda, for his work on achondrites and lunar rocks. The Barringer Medal and Award for 2010 was given to William K. Hartmann for his impact studies, including an impact origin for the Moon, and also for public outreach through his books and art. The Nier Prize 2010 was awarded to Daniel Glavin for his organic cosmochemistry work on martian meteorites, micrometeorites, and cometary samples. The Service Award 2010 was given to Joel Schiff for founding and editing *Meteorite* magazine.

The medals and awards for 2011 are as follows: Francois Robert will receive the Leonard Medal for his pioneering work on organic cosmochemistry, in particular isotopic studies on light elements; Bruce Bohor, the Barringer Medal and Award, for his contributions to impact crater science; Fred Ciesla, the Nier Prize, for his work on dynamics of the proto-solar disc; and Dick Pugh, the Service Award, for his many efforts to educate people about meteorites. They will receive their medals and awards in Greenwich.

We need to receive more nominations for the medals and awards. The next deadlines for nominations are January 15, 2011, for the Leonard Medal, Nier Prize, Barringer Medal and Award, and Service Award, and January 31, 2011, for the Pellas-Ryder Best Student Paper Award.

I thank the Leonard Medal Committee chaired by Monica Grady; the Barringer Medal Committee led by Nadine Barlow; and the Paul Pellas - Graham Ryder Award Committee chaired by Christine Floss. The society made its first McKay Award for the best student talk. The decision was based on recommendations that came from a committee chaired by Scott Messenger, whose members heard many oral presentations during the society meeting.

Finance and Membership

The current financial condition of the society is healthy: membership is up and the endowment has recovered. Our finances have been capably managed by the treasurer, Alan Rubin, with support from the Membership Committee led by Gary Huss, the Endowment Committee led by Tim Swindle, and the Audit Committee chaired by Nancy Chabot. In particular, the increase of donations by the members of the society is remarkable, and was achieved in part through a change of the membership renewal system. This is a wonderful system which allows individual members to make donations to various funds.

One serious problem with the finances is the royalty for *GCA*. As mentioned above, our relationship with Elsevier has become uncertain and with it the future of the royalty.

Publications

Meteoritics & Planetary Science

MAPS has been published by Wiley-Blackwell for the society since the beginning of 2010. We have signed a new four-year contract with Tim Jull, the Editor of *MAPS*. Tim's efforts and those of the associate editors have led the journal to a 2009 impact factor of 3.25, a score that ranks highly among geochemistry and geophysics journals. The quality of the journal has also benefitted from oversight by the Society Publications Committee led by Rainer Wieler.

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta

GCA has been co-sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the Geochemical Society for more than 40 years. The future relationship of the Society with *GCA* has become unclear as mentioned before. The Joint Publications Committee, which consists of members of both the Meteoritical Society and the Geochemical Society, has been chaired by Duck Mittlefehldt, who has pursued discussions and also negotiations with Elsevier.

Meteoritical Bulletin

Reporting new meteorites is one of our important jobs. The *Meteoritical Bulletin* is written and compiled by our Nomenclature Committee, which has been chaired by Chris Herd since the beginning of 2010. Their work is crucial and time-consuming and they have my thanks.

Because of the increasing numbers of meteorites found each year, the job of the committee has become harder and harder, and sometimes includes wrestling with difficult international political issues. We have rationalized the system under which new meteorites are submitted and evaluated and the system is fairly well organized.

Finally, I thank all the committee chairs and committee members of the society for their dedicated efforts to help the society, and I specifically thank Jeff Grossman for his amazing efforts to oversee the society for six years as the Secretary. The society has never been as well maintained as we are now. I hope the society becomes still more active and grows under the leadership of Ed Scott, new council members, and committees. The new council members are Monica Grady (Vice President), Greg Herzog (Secretary, 1st term), Rhian Jones (Treasurer, 1st term); Councilors: Gretchen Benedix, Nancy Chabot (1st term), Hasnaa Chennaoui (1st term), Harold Connolly, Alex Deutsch, Luigi Folco (1st term), Keiji Misawa, Kevin Righter (1st term). The new members were elected after their names were put forward by the Nominating Committee chaired by Adrian Brearley.