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Subject: **OPAG Update Jan 18th**
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OPAG Update - Jan. 18, 2008

********** OPAG UPDATE CONTENTS **********
1 - OPAG Steering Committee rotation - including Chair
2 - Discussion of Enceladus interior models
3 - Reception and Proposal-writing workshop at LPSC
4 - PEN highlights for OPAG
5 - Next OPAG Meeting

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1 - OPAG Steering Committee rotation - including Chair

The current OPAG Steering Committee is listed here:
http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/committee.html

Amy Simon-Miller, Kevin Baines, Randy Gladstone, Paul Geissler and Frank Crary are rotating off the committee and need to be replaced before the Spring meeting. Please send Curt Niebur suggestions for replacement. Fran Bagenal will be handing over the Chair of OPAG at the Fall OPAG meeting. The Steering Committee needs to find a new chair. "I'm not going to do a Putin and try to stick around"

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2 - Discussion of Enceladus interior models

The Enceladus Focus Group has been having a lively discussion about interior models of Enceladus (starting December 17th, 2007), sparked by an AGU paper reported by the BBC (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7145530.stm)

Carolyn Porco has posted the whole discussion on the Enceladus Focus Group website
https://encfg.ciclops.org/viewforum.php?f=5

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3 - Reception and Proposal-writing workshop at LPSC

NASA Headquarters will host two events at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference that may be of interest to planetary science researchers. On Sunday, March 9, discipline scientists from NASA Headquarters will host a proposal writing workshop at the South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center. The workshop is open to all interested planetary scientists from senior graduate students on up and is free of charge. The morning session will focus on understanding NASA's research programs and will include information on how to write a research proposal, where to apply for funding, and what kind of feedback

one can expect. Other opportunities for funding, such as participating scientist programs and education/public outreach add-on awards, will also be discussed. The afternoon session will be a Mock Peer Review for participants who are ready to apply for grants and want to understand what happens to their proposal after submission. To register, send an e-mail with your name, affiliation, and current position to curt.niebur@nasa.gov.

On Tuesday, March 11, discipline scientists from the Planetary Science Division in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters will host an informal R&A reception at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. It's your chance to meet the people who manage the programs that provide funding for your research efforts and talk with them one-on-one. The event will run from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Harbour Club, and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Curt Niebur at curt.niebur@nasa.gov.

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4 - PEN highlights for OPAG

The Planetary Exploration Newsletter is an effective way to hear the latest news in planetary science and is being used by NASA HQ to pass on information to the planetary science community. OPAG members are encouraged to subscribe

Some recent highlights that may be of interest to OPAG members are:
- [NASA] OFFERS MISSION PI TRAINING COURSE - Vol. 2, Nr. 4 (January 13, 2008)
- [NASA] ASTROBIOLOGY INSTITUTE PROPOSAL NOTICE - Vol. 2, Nr. 4 (January 13, 2008)
- [NASA] MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR ADVISOR FOR RESEARCH & ANALYSIS (SARA), YVONNE PENDLETON - Vol. 2, Nr. 3 (January 6, 2008)
- SPECIAL: THE REAL SCOOP ON THE PLANETARY R&A SCIENCE BUDGET - JAMES GREEN, NASA SMD PLANETARY SCIENCE DIVISION DIRECTOR - Vol. 2, Nr. 2 (January 5, 2007)
- SPECIAL: A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM ALAN STERN, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR NASA'S SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE (SMD) - Vol. 2, Nr. 1 (January 4, 2008)
- Special Report: NASA Planetary Science Budget Passed - Vol. 1, Nr. 37 (December 30, 2007)
also see digest of budget by Mark Sykes http://planetarypolicy.org/fy08_analysis.html

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5 - Next OPAG Meeting

The dates for the next OPAG meeting have been tentatively set for March 31st-April 1st.
Please let me know of any specific items for the agenda.