



Meteoritical Society

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ed Scott, President

This issue of *Elements* shows that meteoritics and cosmochemistry are flourishing and exciting fields of research. Meteorites bring us ground truth for Mars, the Moon, asteroids, comets, and stars and a foundation for cosmochemistry. If you are interested in these subjects but are not yet a member, we cordially invite you to join our society. If you are a member, we are glad to receive your comments and suggestions.

On behalf of the members, I'd like to thank the outgoing officers who served the society with extraordinary distinction. Joe Goldstein served

for six years on Council, including two as president. Alan Rubin was treasurer for four years, and Jeff Grossman completed six years as secretary. Past-President Hiroko Nagahara, who has successfully guided the Council through recent dramatic changes, remains on Council.

Joe Goldstein spearheaded the efforts to bring stability and order to our finances, principally by joining with Wiley-Blackwell to publish *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*. Our tax filings and nonprofit status are now up-to-date, and our accounts are approved annually by the Audit Committee. Membership renewals and applications are handled efficiently for us by the Mineralogical Society of America.

Jeff Grossman, who kept the Council and committees running efficiently for six years, organized the *Meteoritical Bulletin Database*, which provides an invaluable online source of information about meteorites. He also set up an electronic submission form and voting system to help the Meteorite Nomenclature Committee cope with the thousands of new meteorites that are recovered each year.



Greg Herzog, new secretary

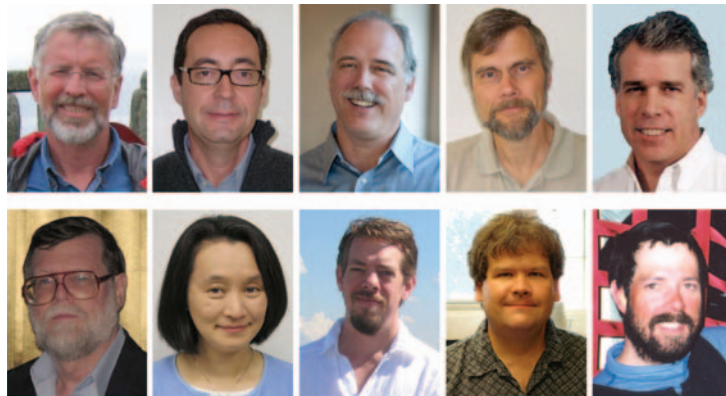


Rhian Jones, new treasurer

Greg Herzog is our new secretary and Rhian Jones is treasurer. The other Council members are vice president Monica Grady and councilors Gretchen Benedix, Nancy Chabot, Hasnaa Chennaoui, Harold Connolly, Alex Deutsch, Luigi Folco, Keiji Misawa, and Kevin Righter. The next two years should not require as many major decisions. We will be working with our supporting committees and editors to continue to improve our journals, meetings, websites, and other services.

Ed Scott, President 2011–2012
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2010 SOCIETY FELLOWS



LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM TOP ROW: **Dan Britt** (University of Central Florida), **Marc Chaussidon** (CRPG-CRNS, Nancy), **Denton Ebel** (American Museum of Natural History), **Henning Haack** (Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen), **Alan Hildebrand** (University of Calgary), **John Jones** (NASA Johnson Space Center), **Noriko Kita** (University of Wisconsin), **Scott Messenger** (NASA Johnson Space Center), **Larry Nittler** (DTM, Carnegie Institution of Washington), and **Kevin Righter** (NASA Johnson Space Center)

ALMAHATA SITTA – AN AMAZING NEW METEORITE



Cover of October/November issue of *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*. The photo shows Peter Jenniskens in the Nubian Desert and two meteorites in the foreground.

The October/November issue of *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* contains 20 papers by over 100 authors on an extraordinary meteorite, Almahata Sitta, and its parent asteroid, 2008 TC₃, which was studied by astronomers before it entered the atmosphere over the Nubian Desert in Sudan and broke up. This meteorite provided the first material to be recovered from an observed near-Earth asteroid. Over 600 samples with a total weight of 11 kg were recovered by a team led by Peter Jenniskens of the SETI Institute and Prof. Muawia Shaddad of the University of Khartoum.

Many of the samples are ureilites, a rare type of coarse-grained meteorite made of graphite-rich, olivine-pigeonite rock that resembles peridotite from the Earth's mantle. But some are made of enigmatic, fine-grained, pyroxene-rich material, which appears to be a very porous kind of ureilite. Still more puzzling are small samples of diverse types of ordinary and enstatite chondrites, which formed in totally different asteroids yet appear to be part of the same meteorite fall.

This meteorite and its parent asteroid have provided a wonderful puzzle for mineralogists, cosmochemists, physicists, and astronomers. How were carbon-rich rocks formed 4500 My ago in an asteroid perhaps 200 km across that partly melted. How and when were they mixed with samples from numerous other asteroids that never melted? Answering these questions and others will provide scientists with stimulating research possibilities.

Mike Zolensky
NASA Johnson Space Center