



Meteoritical Society

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER



Rhian Jones

I am happy to report that the Society's finances are on a sound footing, and that both our operating fund and endowments are very healthy. A large portion of the operating budget relates to publication of *Meteoritics and Planetary Science (MAPS)*, our monthly international journal of planetary science, which covers topics including the origin and history of the Solar System, the planets and natural satellites, interplanetary dust and the interstellar medium, lunar samples, meteors, meteorites, asteroids, comets, craters, and

tektites. Last year saw a financial transition because

we transferred publication of *MAPS* to Wiley. The income from Wiley in 2010 closely matched the expenses of the editorial office at the University of Arizona, which is managed by Editor Tim Jull. Thus the Society achieved its major goal of gaining a greater level of financial security for *MAPS*. Society memberships include a subscription to *MAPS*, either electronic only or electronic plus printed version. The electronic-only option, which currently saves members \$30, was selected by about one-third of our members in 2011. Collection of membership dues for 2012 will begin in October. I would like to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner, as this helps greatly with financial planning.

Our investment fund, which includes three separate endowed funds, continues to grow steadily. The Nier Fund supports the annual Nier Prize, which recognizes outstanding research by young scientists in meteoritics and closely allied fields. This year's recipient is Dr. Fred Ciesla of the University of Chicago. The Gordon A. McKay Fund supports an award that is given to the student who gives the best oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Society. Last year's award was given to Rachel Smith of the University of California, Los Angeles. The General Endowment Fund supports a variety of outreach projects. For example, earlier this year money from the General Endowment Fund was used to cosponsor a special session entitled "African Meteorites and Impact Craters," held as part of the 23rd Colloquium of African Geology at the University of Johannesburg. The fund will also provide travel support to help scientists from low-income countries attend the Meteoritical Society meeting in London in August, which will help to strengthen and promote our international community. Many members contribute generously to support all of these funds, and your donations are always greatly appreciated.

We always welcome suggestions and ideas for ways in which the General Endowment Fund can be utilized to further the goals of promoting and enriching the Society's activities.

Dr. Rhian H. Jones
Meteoritical Society Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of May 2011, the Meteoritical Society is made up of 708 regular members, 128 student members, 138 retired members, and 13 life members, for a total of 987. Many thanks to our secretary, Greg Herzog, for coming up with the interesting statistics about members of our Society. We can be proud that we have members in 53 countries, but as Greg notes, the statistics also show that we have a lot of work to do to gain members in India, China, and many other countries. The Society does have a scheme to subsidize the annual dues for members in low-income countries. Prior approval is required from the Membership Committee for this rate; please see our website if you need more information.

Country	Member	Student	Retired	Life	Total
United States	340	51	81	7	479
Japan	85	13	7		105
Germany	79	10	12	2	103
United Kingdom	41	15	4		60
France	34	6	6	1	47
Canada	28	10	4		42
Switzerland	18	5	4		27
Australia	12	1	2		15
Italy	12		3		15
Argentina	1	5	5	1	12
Brazil	4	3	1		8
Denmark	3	2	1	1	7
Austria	6				6
Russian Federation	5		1		6
Sweden	4	2			6
Belgium	3	1	1		5
Netherlands	3	1	1		5
Czech Republic	3		1		4
Finland	2	2			4
Poland	4				4
India	2		1		3
Korea, Republic Of	2	1			3
China	2				2
Ireland	1		1		2
Spain	2				2
Grand Total	708	128	138	13	987

The following countries have one member at the time of this printing: Botswana, Chile, Estonia, Greece, Holy See (Vatican City State), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand, Taiwan, Uruguay.

For those who wish to avoid the hassle of paying dues every year, consider becoming a life member! For more information and details on how to become a member of the Meteoritical Society, please see our web page at www.meteoriticalsociety.org.

2011 PELLAS-RYDER AWARD WINNER

The Pellas-Ryder Award for the best student paper in planetary sciences is jointly sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. It is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who is the first author of the best planetary science paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal during the year prior to the award. The award has been given since 2001 and honors the memories of meteoriticist Paul Pellas and lunar scientist Graham Ryder.



Andrew Beck

This year's winner of the Pellas-Ryder Award is **Andrew Beck** of the University of Tennessee for his paper entitled "Diogenites as Polymict Breccias Composed of Orthopyroxenite and Harzburgite"¹. Andrew studied several diogenite meteorites for their mineralogical and elemental compositions, and based on this study proposed a revised taxonomy for the HED (howardites, eucrites, and diogenites) suite of meteorites. These and additional results have important implications for the bulk composition and petrogenesis of 4 Vesta, an asteroid that will be visited by NASA's Dawn mission in late 2011.

¹ Beck AW, McSween HY Jr (2010) *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* 45: 850-872