# Meteoritical Society

## http://meteoriticalsociety.org

### 2024 METEORITICAL SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT


Tasha Dunn

The Society's finances continue to be on a sound footing, and both the Operating Fund and Investment Fund are currently very healthy. I will present a full report of our finances at the annual meeting in Brussels. This report discusses two changes to the way the Society invests and spends its money: 1) a move towards sustainable investing and 2) an increase in our general endowment annual spending rate.

After management of the investment fund was transferred to DA Davidson in the fall of 2022, the Endowment committee began to explore options for ethical/sustainable investing with our DA Davidson fund manager, Andrew Cromwell. At the annual meeting in Los Angeles, the Council voiced their support for more sustainable investing and asked the Endowment Committee to submit a formal proposal. In the fall of 2023, the Endowment Committee recommended that the Society transfer $200,000 from our current investment fund into the Blackrock Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) multi-asset fund. The Council unanimously approved this proposal, and the new fund was opened in January of 2024.

As of May 23, the balance of the Blackrock Investment account was $215,650 (+7.4%). The Endowment Committee will assess the performance of the fund every quarter, and if the fund continues to perform well, additional monies will be transferred from the primary investment fund into the Blackrock ESG fund in $200,000 increments. The Society's goal is to invest as much as ethically as possible over time.

At the suggestion of the Audit Committee, the Council also addressed concerns regarding the size of our investment fund, which at $2.5 million, is quite large. The investment fund is distributed across six endowed funds. The Nier, McKay, and Jessberger funds, which support our named awards, have a combined balance of ~$265,500. The TIM and Norton funds support member travel to the annual meeting, and have a combined balance of ~$295,500. The largest fund is the General Endowment Fund, which supports a variety of outreach projects, research grants, and early career travel to annual meetings; this fund has a value in excess of $1,800,000.

The Endowment Committee is responsible for allocating funds in the General Endowment Fund. The Society's Bylaws state that 5% of the general endowment's value can be allocated for spending each year. However, in the years following the pandemic, the Endowment Committee (in accordance with investing guidelines) opted to allocate 4% for spending. This past fall, with a healthy investment fund and stable financial outlook, the Council opted to increase the annual spending rate to 5%. Starting in fiscal year (FY)25 (June 1, 2024–May 31, 2025), the Endowment Committee will allocate 4% of the General Endowment for grants and 1% for Early Career travel awards. In FY25, this amounts to $73,100 and $18,300, respectively.

Requests for funding from the general endowment are considered twice annually, on January 15 and June 15. **Community Fund Grants (formerly Endowment Fund Grants)** (open to all members) support activities that further the goals of the Meteoritical Society, and **Research Grants** (open to students and early-career researchers) support collaborative research in the fields of meteoritics and planetary science. More information about these grants can be found on the website: https://meteoritical.org/grants/general-endowment-fund. Please see the website for a list of recently funded grants: https://meteoritical.org/news/endowment-fund-grants-announced.

Proposals for community fund grants or research grants should be emailed to the secretary (metsocsecretary@gmail.com). If you have any questions, please contact the chair of the Endowment Committee, Rhian Jones (rhian.jones-2@manchester.ac.uk).

### 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the Meteoritical Society is open to any person interested in meteoritics and related sciences regardless of residence, citizenship, or age. As of June 2024, the Meteoritical Society comprises 482 regular members, 161 students, 121 early career members, 194 retired members, 59 life members, and 21 members from developing countries. This brings us to a grand total of 1038 members in 58 countries, an increase of 123 members since 2022. To encourage students and early career researchers to join the society, last year we implemented a new fee structure: **Early career memberships are only $40 USD** (which we define as anyone who is within 10 years of completing their PhD), retiree memberships are also only $40, and **student memberships have been reduced to only $10.** As a result, we have seen a 32% increase in student membership from 2022. Student members have the opportunity to apply for small research grants twice a year, as well as for travel grants to the annual meeting where they can compete for presentation awards. This year, the society is also hosting a student luncheon and an early career reception at the annual meeting, providing an excellent chance to interact with peers and network. In addition, the Society has a mechanism in place to subsidize annual dues for members in low-income countries. Prior approval is required from the Membership Committee for this rate—please refer to our website at http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org for more information.

For more information and details on how to become a member of the Meteoritical Society, please see our Society web page at https://meteoritical.org/membership/join.

### PAUL PELLAS / GRAHAM RYDER AWARD WINNER

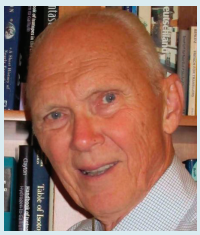
The Pellas-Ryder Award for the best student paper in planetary sciences is jointly sponsored by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America. It is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who is first author of the best planetary science paper 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.

**Ren Marquez**, a graduate student at Caltech, Pasadena, USA, is the winner of the 2024 Pellas-Ryder Award for the paper entitled "Snapshots of an Evolving Solar Nebula Recorded in Nucleosynthetic Sr and Ba Signatures of Early Condensates" published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*. Ren developed new wet chemistry techniques that allowed for analyses of the smallest and most refractory components of fine-grained calcium-aluminum-rich inclusions (as low as ~80 pg of barium). This technique permitted a more precise quantification of the geochemical features hidden within meteorites, allowing for a more detailed understanding of the sequence of contributions from a multiplicity of stellar end-members that contributed to the early Solar System's composition.

Congratulations to Ren for this highly deserved honor and for leading this impressive study! We also thank everyone who submitted nomination packages and the Pellas-Ryder Award Committee for their work to make this award possible.

| Country | Developing Country | Lifetime | Retired | Standard | Early Career | Student | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 3 | | | | | | **3** |
| Argentina | | | | 1 | 1 | | **2** |
| Australia | | | 4 | 12 | 3 | 6 | **25** |
| Austria | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | **10** |
| Belgium | | | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | **16** |
| Brazil | | | 1 | 3 | | 5 | **9** |
| Canada | | 3 | 12 | 14 | 3 | 6 | **38** |
| Chile | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | **6** |
| China | 2 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 3 | **30** |
| Colombia | 2 | | | | 1 | | **3** |
| Costa Rica | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Cyprus | | | | | | 1 | **1** |
| Czechia | | | | 4 | | 2 | **6** |
| Denmark | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | **5** |
| Finland | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | **7** |
| France | | 5 | 11 | 18 | 4 | 11 | **49** |
| Germany | | 8 | 15 | 48 | 11 | | **82** |
| Greece | | | | 1 | | 2 | **3** |
| Holy See | | | | 2 | | | **2** |
| Hong Kong | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Hungary | | 1 | | 3 | | 1 | **5** |
| India | 4 | | | 3 | | 8 | **15** |
| Ireland | | | | | 1 | | **1** |
| Italy | | | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | **16** |
| Japan | | | 10 | 65 | 9 | 9 | **93** |
| Korea (the Republic of) | | | | 2 | | 1 | **3** |
| Latvia | | | | 1 | | 1 | **2** |
| Lithuania | | | | 1 | 1 | | **2** |
| Luxembourg | | | 2 | 1 | | | **3** |
| Malaysia | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Mauritania | 1 | | | | | | **1** |
| Mexico | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | **3** |
| Morocco | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | **8** |
| Netherlands | | | | 1 | | 2 | **3** |
| New Zealand | | | | 1 | | 1 | **2** |
| Norway | | | 1 | | 1 | | **2** |
| Oman | 1 | | 1 | | | | **2** |
| Poland | | | 1 | 3 | | | **4** |
| Portugal | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Romania | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | **3** |
| Russian Federation | | | | 7 | 1 | | **8** |
| Singapore | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Slovakia | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| South Africa | | | | 2 | | | **2** |
| Spain | | | 1 | 9 | | | **10** |
| Sweden | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | **9** |
| Switzerland | | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | **30** |
| Taiwan | | | | | | 1 | **1** |
| Tunisia | | | | | | 1 | **1** |
| Turkey | | | | | | 1 | **1** |
| Ukraine | | | | | 1 | | **1** |
| United Kingdom | | 3 | 6 | 25 | 17 | 24 | **75** |
| United States of America | 1 | 30 | 110 | 194 | 42 | 48 | **425** |
| Uruguay | | | | 1 | | | **1** |
| Viet Nam | 1 | | | | | | **1** |
| N/A | | | | | | 2 | **2** |
| **Total** | **21** | **59** | **194** | **482** | **121** | **161** | **1038** |

## IN MEMORIAM – DONALD CLAYTON (1935–2024)



Donald D. Clayton, recipient of the 1991 Leonard Medal of the Meteoritical Society, passed away on January 3, 2024. Prof. Clayton received his PhD at Caltech (USA) under the mentorship of Nobel Laureate William Alfred Fowler in 1961. He spent his career first at Rice University (USA) in 1963, where he was one of the founding faculty members of their Department of Space Science (later Space Physics and Astronomy) and then from 1989 on at Clemson University (USA), where he established a still-thriving group in nuclear astrophysics and gamma-ray astronomy.

Among Clayton's many scientific accomplishments, he developed the first quantitative analysis of the slow neutron capture process for forming heavy elements in stars, he predicted many of the effects of radioactivity in supernovae, including that gamma rays from them would be detectable, and he explained how radioactive abundances evolved in the interstellar medium. Clayton advanced important ideas of nuclear astrophysics manifested in meteorites, including the use of radioactive chronometers and, most importantly, predicting the existence of and making seminal contributions to the study of presolar stardust grains.

Clayton retired in 2007, but remained active in research until very recently. He wrote several books, including a classic nuclear astrophysics textbook, a science fiction novel, a scientific memoir, and a handbook of the isotopes. His Leonard Medal Address is available in MAPS (doi: 10.1111/j.1945-5100.1992.tb01053.x).

The Donald D. Clayton Memorial Fund for support of graduate student research in astrophysics and meteoritics has been established in his memory.

**Larry Nittler** (with credit to https://blogs.clemson.edu/physics-and-astronomy/2024/03/11/obituary/)

## MEETING INFO

| | |
|---|---|
| **2025** | 14–18 July, Perth, Western Australia (Australia) |
| **2026** | 9–14 August, Frankfurt, Germany (EU) |
| **2027** | July/August TBD, Flagstaff, Arizona (USA) |
| **2028** | July 30–August 4 (tentative), Antofogasta (Chile) |