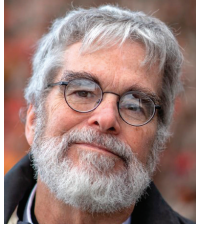


<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

2025 INCOMING PRESIDENT ADDRESS



More than half a century ago, I was a lackluster history undergraduate at a certain college outside Boston, spending my free weekends hanging out with my high school buddy at MIT. The attraction (besides my good friend) was MIT's world-class science fiction (SF) library. On a whim, I applied to transfer to MIT, choosing "Earth and Planetary Science" as my proposed major. After all, planets were the settings of my favorite SF stories.

That summer, I received two shocks. First, MIT accepted me. Second, I had just joined the geology department.

Geology? Rocks? I was going to spend four years looking at rocks? Really?

Well, it got me close to my favorite SF books. And actually, I was doing a pretty good job of drumming up some enthusiasm for the topic. Then I took John Lewis's course on meteorites.

Rocks that fall from the sky! Bits of outer space you could hold in your hand! It didn't hurt that John was an incredibly charismatic professor. I would wake up Tuesdays and Thursday excited that I got to go to meteorites that day.

I did a thesis on models of icy moons made of half water ice and half meteoritic materials. I then joined the brand-new Department of Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona, modeling the evolution of basaltic meteorites with Mike Drake. Mike brought me to my first MetSoc meeting, at Lehigh University, USA, in 1976. (I was Mike's first PhD student, although I eventually switched to a different project and professor, Randy Jokipii.)

My postdoctoral fellowship with Al Cameron at Harvard was playing mathematical tricks with the isotopic anomalies in the FUN inclusions of Allende. And I had a little paper in *Science* suggesting that the newly discovered volcanic plumes on Io were sulfurous, guessing that Io's starting composition might have been hydrated carbonaceous chondrite material. Modeling moons made up most of my second post-doc with Sean Solomon at MIT.

But other adventures in life took their toll. When I turned thirty, I quit science to join the U.S. Peace Corps... only to be assigned to teach astrophysics at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. I fell in love with teaching, and on my return to the U.S., I taught at a lovely little school in Pennsylvania, Lafayette College. It then occurred to me that if I joined the Jesuit religious order, I could combine my love of doing good (see, Peace Corps) with the Jesuits' small college teaching opportunities (see, that school in Boston where I once studied history).

But, like the Peace Corps, the Jesuits wouldn't let me escape from science so easily. In 1993, I was assigned to the Vatican Observatory in Rome, with the task—as per the instructions of its director, George Coyne—to “do good science.”

But what science to do? Well, the Vatican Observatory has a collection of over a thousand meteorites. I remembered from my thesis days that there was a serious dearth of basic data on meteorite density, porosity, and thermal properties—and I remembered how much fun meteorites really were.

My funding did not depend on following any particular program or even getting results right away. (Good thing... it's taken years to perfect our systems for measuring meteorite physical properties.) I could have gone back to other research programs... icy moons, zodiacal dust. But I kept being drawn back to meteorites not only because the science was fascinating, but also because I just really enjoyed the people I'd met through the MetSoc.

I started going to MetSoc meetings again. In Prague, Ralph Harvey recruited me for the 1996 Antarctic Search for Meteorites Program. In 2001, I even hosted the MetSoc Meeting in Rome (during the week of 9/11 no less) and I served on the MetSoc council during the following years. So when I was asked to serve as MetSoc president, I was delighted to oblige.

I take up this position for all the wonderful people in our field... especially the current members of Council; the folks who do all the invaluable work of classifying new samples; the members of the dozens of other committees and tasks of the Society. I give a special tip of the hat to Nancy Chabot, the outgoing president, who's set a high standard for me to follow. (I believe she was Mike Drake's last grad student, by the way.)

And I look forward to serving all the current members of the society... sharing our love of holding bits of outer space, and hearing the stories of their adventures.

Guy Consolmagno SJ
Director, Vatican Observatory

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Meteoritical Society will consist of a number of new officers this year. Guy Consolmagno (Vatican Observatory, Vatican City State, see citation above) will be transitioning from Vice President to President, and Maria Schönbachler, ETH Zürich, Switzerland) will be the incoming Vice President. Jutta Zipfel (Senckenberg Naturmuseum and Forschungsinstitut, Germany) will continue to serve as our Secretary, and Cari Corrigan (Smithsonian Institution, USA) will begin to serve as our Treasurer. Nancy Chabot (Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, USA) will continue to serve in her new capacity as Past-President. We thank this new slate of officers in advance for their efforts to lead the Meteoritical Society through the next two years.



Maria
Schoenbachler



Jutta Zipfel



Cari Corrigan



Nancy Chabot

The Meteoritical Society Council for 2025–2026 will consist of Byeon-Gak Choi (Seoul National University, South Korea), Alvaro Crosta (State University of Campinas, Brazil), Elena Dobrică (University of Hawaii USA), Juliane Gross (NASA Johnson Space Center, USA), Marina Ivanova (Vernadsky Institute, Russia), Yangting Lin (Chinese Academy of Science, China), Yves Marrocchi (Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques, France), and Gordon Osinski (University of Western Ontario, Canada).

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Brigitte Zanda who is rotating off of council after six years as an officer (as Vice President, President, and Past President); Tasha Dunn, who is rotating off of the council after six years as the society's Treasurer; and Henner Busemann, Sarah Crowther, Denton Ebel, and Ann Nguyen, who are rotating off as councilors, for their years of dedicated service to keeping the Meteoritical Society operating smoothly!

Finally, Cari Corrigan will rotate off as *Elements* Meteoritical Society News Editor after 12 years to begin serving as Treasurer. Emma Bullock (Carnegie Institution, Washington DC, USA) will be the new Society News Editor.

NEW SOCIETY FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

We are delighted to announce the individuals who have been elected to the 2024 class of Meteoritical Society Fellows! Fellow nominations are submitted by members, and the Leonard Medal Committee then reviews those nominations and makes a recommendation to Council for the slate of individuals to be awarded as Fellows. Meteoritical Society Fellows are elected by Council in even-numbered years, and no more than 1% of the membership can be elected for each class. The 2024 Meteoritical Society Fellows are Martin Bizzarro (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Vinciane Debaille (FNRS–Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Luigi Folco (University of Pisa, Italy), Daniel Glavin (NASA GSFC, USA), Philipp Heck (Field Museum, USA), Peter Jenniskens (SETI Institute, USA), Katherine Joy (University of Manchester, UK), Chi Ma (Caltech, USA), Yves Marrocchi (CRPG-CNRS, France), Ryuji Okazaki (Kyushu University, Japan), and Hikaru Yabuta (Hiroshima University, Japan).



Martin Bizzarro



Vincianne Debaille



Luigi Folco



Daniel Glavin



Philipp Heck



Peter Jenniskens



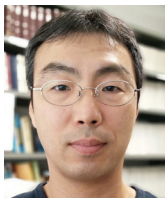
Katherine Joy



Chi Ma



Yves Marrocchi



Ryuji Okazaki



Hikaru Yabuta

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS FROM THE 2024 MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The GORDON MCKAY AWARD is given each year to the student who gives the best oral presentation at the annual meeting of the society. The award honors the memory of Gordon A. McKay and is supported by the McKay Fund, which was established in 2008 as a part of the Meteoritical Society’s endowment. The McKay Awards for the 86th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in Brussels go to Daniel Sheikh (Portland State University, Oregon, USA) and Leah Shteynman (Arizona State University, USA). The award comes with a prize of US \$1,000 and a certificate.



Daniel Sheikh



Leah Shteynman

The WILEY-BLACKWELL AWARD is presented for outstanding presentations by students at the annual meeting of the society. Wiley-Blackwell are the publishers of Meteoritics and Planetary Science and, for the 86th meeting in Brussels, they sponsored five awards of US\$500 each. The winners for 2024 are Sian Boulty (Royal Holloway, University of London, UK), Shiiori Inada (University of Tokyo, Japan), Moshammat Mijjum (Purdue University, USA), Anna Musolino (Aix Marseille University, France), and Anna Zappatini (University of Bern, Switzerland).



Sian Boulty



Shiiori Inada



Moshammat Mijjum



Anna Musolino



Anna Zappatini

THE BARRINGER FAMILY FUND FOR METEORITE IMPACT RESEARCH

The Barringer Crater Company has established a special fund to support field work by eligible students interested in the study of impact cratering processes. The Barringer Family Fund for Meteorite Impact Research provides a number of competitive grants in the range of \$2,500 to \$5,000 for support of field research at known or suspected impact sites worldwide. Grant funds may be used to assist with travel and subsistence costs, as well as laboratory and computer analysis of research samples and findings. Masters, doctoral, and post-doctoral students enrolled in formal university programs are eligible. Applications to the fund are due by 11 April 2025, with notification of grant awards by 13 June 2025. Additional details about the fund and its application process can be found at: http://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kring/Awards/Barringer_Fund.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew by 31 March 2025; after that date, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. You can easily renew online at <https://meteoritical.org/news/renew-your-2025-membership-now>. Remember, we now offer discounted membership rates for students and early career members (anyone who is within 10 years of completing their PhD). Student memberships are only \$10 and early career memberships are \$40.