

PDS Student Investigators

MC Update, 8/26/2014

PDS Student Investigators

- Supporting Student Investigators 10 h/w during academic year; 40 h/w during summer
 - Support for travel to one professional meeting of mentor's choice
- Flexible start/completion times.
 - Found this to be necessary, because good students are not always available for a “coherent” start date.
- Current group has 5 Student Investigators
 - PPI = 3, SBN = 1, MGT = 1

Starting Year 2

Robert Gammariello/PPI Mentor=Tripati

Submitted abstract for Fall AGU

- researching temperature of formation for extinction boundary stromatolites using the carbonate "clumped" isotope paleothermometer
- comparing these temperatures to the conditions at which the minerals on the Martian surface form using CHEMIN data to see if it was possible for stromatolites to form on Mars.

Attended local meeting to present results in early summer.



Starting Year 2

Akshat Mahajan/ PPI Mentor=Tripati

Shooting for Spring AGU

- Ax is studying how long-term changes in relative humidity affect surface temperatures on Earth or Earth-like planets.

Midway through Year 1

Steven Pestana/MGT Mentor=Hoban

Shooting for Spring LPSC

- Investigating the inner-coma dust and plasma environment of comets using Stardust data.
- Combining Student Investigator work with Senior Thesis

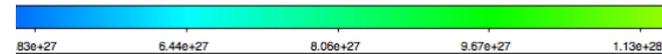
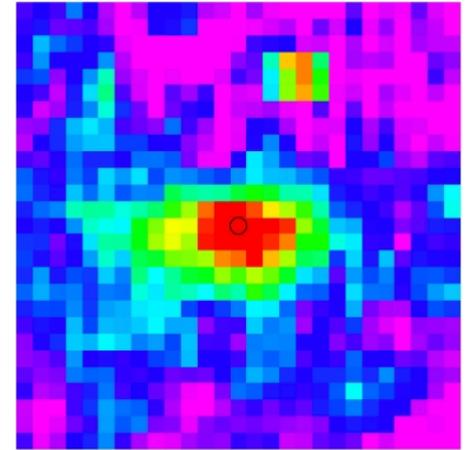
Approaching Year 2...

Submitted abstract for Fall DPS

Mark Moretto/SBN Mentor = Feaga

- Mark is studying how natural outbursts affect the volatile composition of a comet's coma, and, in particular, the spatial distribution of water following the July 2nd outburst at comet Tempel 1 using Deep Impact data.

H2O in C/Tempel 1



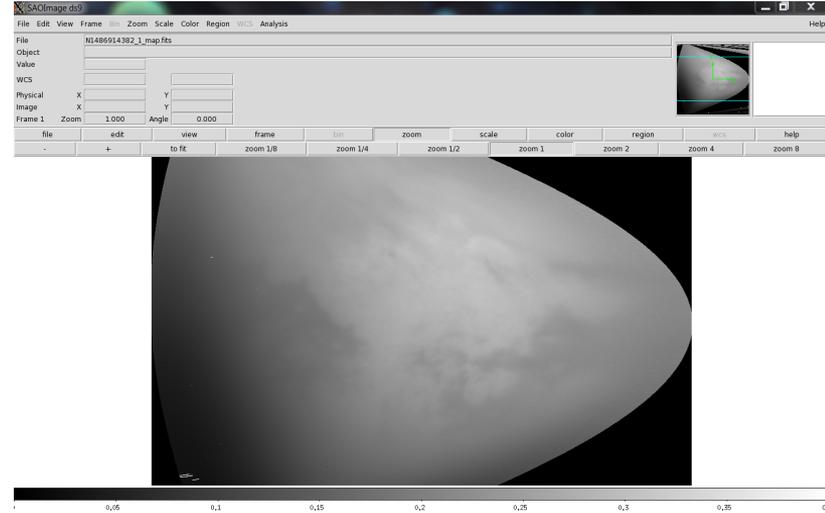
Attended two local meetings this summer...getting a feeling for the science community. Also presented poster on his research at UMBC Summer Undergraduate Research Fest.

Just started in July

Jenny Nguyen-Li/PPI Mentor = Mitchell

- Using Cassini images of Titan to find atmospheric wind patterns and waves promoting cloud development.
- Plans to summarize the ISS image archive of Titan images with a temporal plot to investigate long term trends in cloud formation

Titan, from Jenny's perspective. :)



***Just getting started...
stay tuned...more to come!***

Plans for FY15

- AGUs for Gammeriello & Mahajan
- DPS for Moretto
- Senior thesis completion for Pestana
- Ngygen-Li starting proposal
- Hoban to visit UCLA contingent in October