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Time: Thursday, 10:00 AM, Jan. 16 Location: A135 NAOC

Dawn @ Vesta: Full of Surprises

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Dr. Jian-Yang Li (李荐扬) is a Research Scientist at Planetary Science Institute. He received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Department of Astronomy, University of Maryland College Park, and worked as Research Associate and Assistant Research Scientist in the same department until joined Planetary Science Institute in 2012. Specialized in

photometric analysis with disk-resolved images, Dr. Li's research interest is focused on the physical properties of solar system asteroids and comets. He participated in several NASA's planetary exploration missions with major roles, including Deep Impact, DIXI, Stardust-NExT, and the ongoing Dawn mission, and participated in the data analysis of a few other NASA and ESA missions. Asteroid 21496 is named after Dr. Li.

Abstract

NASA's Dawn spacecraft departed Vesta in September 2012, after completed the exploration of the largest basaltic asteroid in the solar system. The three science instruments onboard the spacecraft: the Framing Camera (FC), the Visible and



Near-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIR), and the Gamma-Ray and Neutron Detector (GRaND), observed Vesta for more than one year, mapping Vesta's geology, spectrum, elemental abundance, thermal properties, and gravity at extremely high spatial resolution. These data not only confirmed our previous knowledge about Vesta, but also brought us many surprises, and significantly advanced our understanding of the formation, evolution, and the current status of Vesta. I will discuss the important results from Dawn at Vesta, and their implications in studying planetary geology in the solar system.

All are welcome! Tea, coffee, biscuits will be served at 9:45 A.M.