ASU *(from p. 7)*

hired as the full time director of the program. Klug has been involved as a Mars educator in the Northwest for the past three years and has participated in educational outreach workshops and events for Mars Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor.

What's News *(from p. 4)*

face, will provide mirror-like facets that will reflect more energy back to the transmitter even when viewed at a slant. If the materials making up the martian surface are less dense, they will absorb more of the incident radio waves and thereby weaken the echo. These electromagnetic scattering phenomena allow us to probe the geomorphology and geochemistry of the martian surface and to map the observed characteristics along the radar tracks. The density of the surface and its roughness are related to rockiness, which we would also like to know before sending a retro-rocket lander with only 35-cm clearance to a target location. Thus, radar contributes to the selection of future Mars landing sites.

Because the orbits of Earth and Mars lie near a plane, subradar points on Mars are always in the martian equatorial region between 25 degrees north and 25 degrees south latitude. Thus, much of Mars is not directly probed by the radar techniques discussed here. One method that lends itself to a global picture of Mars in radar light involves illuminating the whole planet with a radar beam and then imaging the full disk with a radio telescope. This does not provide topography, but does let us study roughness and rockiness across the martian globe. The Mars Pathfinder landing site is among the rockiest on the planet. The robust airbag landing system allowed us to explore this highly interesting locale.

Dr. Albert Haldemann
Planetary Radar Group

Martians of the Month

Every month the Mars Exploration Program Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory honors employees who have made a significant contribution to the work of sending spacecraft to Mars. Here are the two most recent "Martians of the Month."

September: Eric Grant

Eric Grant, Mars Surveyor Operations Project Navigator, was the Martian of the Month for September. His timely and accurate analysis of the Doppler tracking data has resulted in the precise location and prediction of MGS's orbital motion. He has demonstrated extraordinary dedication over the entire 6.5-month aerobraking interval by working a daily schedule dictated by MGS orbital events and not the traditional rising and setting of the Sun.

October: Kathleen Spellman

Kathleen Spellman took over as Experiment Operations Team Leader on Mars Pathfinder in October 1997. She was responsible for all of the science team activities on Pathfinder, with the major emphasis being on assembling and formatting the data archives and developing the uplink system. When the uplink system was largely in place and settled, she was suddenly called upon to fill the role of Science Coordinator, a position that had been unexpectedly vacated. Throughout the project she always maintained her cheerful attitude and was always available to help anyone in need. Her hard work, dedication, unflagging project spirit, and many special talents and the enthusiasm she brings to the Mars Program make her truly worthy to be named Martian of the Month.

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