

H · V · I · S

H Y P E R V E L O C I T Y I M P A C T S O C I E T Y

From the President



Welcome to our 2026 newsletter! As the new HVIS-President, I would like to greet both old and new members, inform you about some organizational news,

and extend my sincere thanks to several society members who have made significant contributions to our organization.

Here is what you will find in this newsletter:

- ★ Some interesting information about HVIS 2024A tribute to one of our distinguished scientists
- ★ Some information about the next Symposium, HVIS 2026
- ★ What are the Committees of the Society, and what are their responsibilities
- ★ Some calls for nominations for board, awards and scholars

The conclusion of another Symposium also saw the departure of **Shannon Ryan** from the board. Thank you Shannon for your years of dedication, leadership and guidance that you provided throughout your term and presidency.

Lastly, I am very grateful to all HVIS Members who were able to attend HVIS 2024, and I look forward to seeing you all this fall in Monterey, California.

Sincerely yours,
Joshua Miller
Email: jemiller2@utep.edu

Symposium 2024

The Symposium in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan was a tremendous success. The local organizing committee, led by **Kumi Nitta**, did an outstanding job with society's first ever Asian symposium through excellent planning and nearly flawless execution. The host city was warm and welcoming to all of the attendees and their guests, and we look forward to revisiting Japan or its neighbors in the future.



There were 145 attendees from 11 countries; 61 oral talks, 21 posters and 2 keynote presentations were presented. The *American Society of Mechanical Engineers* published the collection of 82 papers from the meeting in the ASME Digital Collection in June 2025. Thank you to the technical committee, and especially **Nobuaki Kawai**, for your extensive efforts to get these published.

In addition to the general proceedings 21 papers were invited to expand their proceedings work and publish in a separate *International Journal of Impact Engineering* Special Issue. The special issue was also published in 2025. Thank you to the authors for the extra work you did, and thank to **John Borg** and **Shannon Ryan** who performed the editorial duties for another highly successful special issue.

In addition to the host venue, attendees were treated to an exciting tour of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center where they saw some of the many exciting missions in robotic and human space flight being worked on by JAXA.

Alex Charters Student Scholars

The following is a list of students who were selected as Alex Charters Student Scholars for the 2024 Hypervelocity Impact Symposium.

Please remember that these students and others like them are the future of our profession and our Society. The Board of Directors and the Program Selection Committee work very hard to send as many deserving students as possible to our Symposia. A big part of the support we get to extend to our scholars come from our exhibitors, so please take a moment at each symposium and in the intervening years to visit and discuss your needs with them. If you or your organization wish to get involved by sponsoring qualified students or if you know about funding opportunities that can be leveraged to secure additional support for deserving students, please contact the Committee Chair!

List of Alex Charters Student Scholars 2024

Name of Student	University	Academic Advisor	Student's status
Baptiste REYNIER	ENSTA Bretagne	M. Arrigoni	PhD student
Stefano LOPRESTI	Padova	L. Olivieri	PhD student
Taishi SATOU	Kyutech	Y. Akahoshi	Master student
Yuma KITAGURO	Kyutech	Y. Akahoshi	Master student
Koudai TANAKA	Kyutech	Y. Akahoshi	Master student
Sayaka SUZUKI	Hosei Univ.	M. Higashide/K. Nitta	Master student
Rannveig Marie FAERGESTAD	Norwegian U. of Sc. and Tech.	T. Borvik	PhD student
Jacob ROGERS	Texas A&M	J. Wilkerson	PhD student
Lily ZHAO	Johns Hopkins	K.T. Ramesh	PhD student
Alexander WESTRA	Colorado school of mines	L. Lamberson	PhD student
Jake DIAMOND	Johns Hopkins	K.T. Ramesh	PhD student
Minh LEE	Johns Hopkins	K.T. Ramesh	PhD student
Joe MORTON	Colorado school of mines	L. Lamberson	PhD student
Konrad MULY	Johns Hopkins	K.T. Ramesh	PhD student

DSA Award

Dr. James D. Walker
Southwest Research Institute

Dr. Walker has been awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award by the Hypervelocity Impact Society for sustained leadership, innovation and technical excellence in hypervelocity research and with special recognition of his contributions to penetration mechanics with wide-ranging applications, the space shuttle Columbia accident investigation, planetary defense, and his vast service to the society.

When you see James at HVIS2026, please be sure to congratulate him!



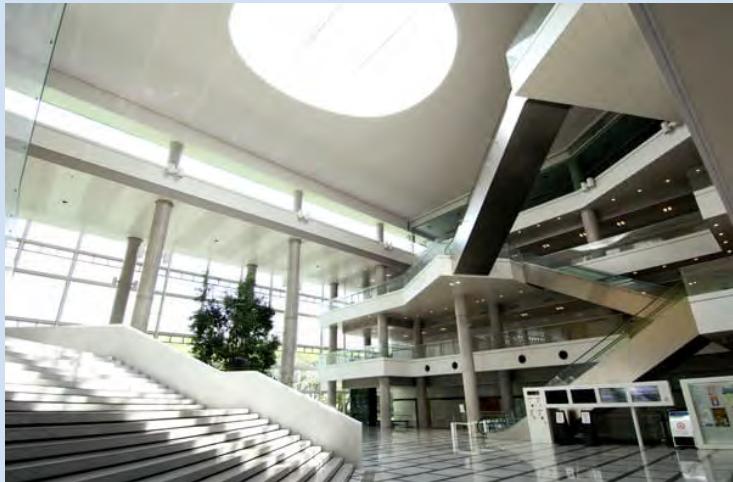
Symposium 2024 continued...

Best Paper Award

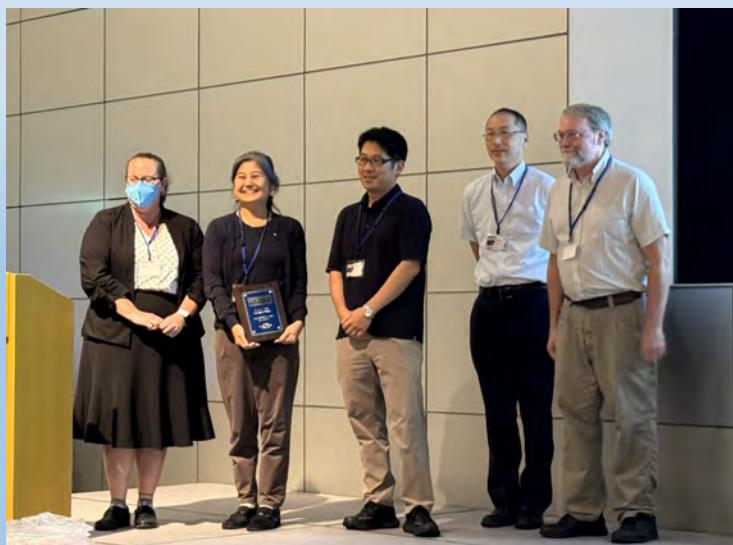
The Best Paper Award was awarded at the opening ceremony. The awardee was **George Flynn** of the State University of New York Plattsburgh for "Hypervelocity Impact Of Three L-Type Ordinary Chondrites: A Test Of The Variation Of β And Q^*D With Target Porosity And Strength".

Tsukuba HVIS2024

Tsukuba International Congress Center



Tsukuba, Japan Symposium Hosts



This symposium had an excellent venue in the Tsukuba International Congress Center with a social program that highlighted much of the intrigue of Japan. In addition to the high quality technical program, HVIS2024 attendees were treated to an up close visit of the JAXA Tsukuba Space Center and authentic performances and dishes at the symposium banquet.

JAXA Tsukuba Space Center



The Symposium Banquet



Symposium 2024 continued...

HVIS2024 Exhibitors



Photron





Christiansen

Dr. Eric L. Christiansen

Dr. Eric L. Christiansen, long-time NASA leader and internationally recognized expert in meteoroid and orbital debris (MMOD) protection, retired in June 2024 from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Christiansen retires as NASA's Hypervelocity Impact Technology Lead and the Agency's authority on spacecraft shielding against micrometeoroid and orbital debris hazards. Many of you know of his pioneering contributions during his more than 35 years at NASA, where he advanced the science and engineering of impact protection for human and robotic spaceflight.

Dr. Christiansen began his NASA career in the mid-1980s, developing innovative shielding concepts for the Space Shuttle and later for the International Space Station (ISS). His work established the foundation for Whipple shield and augmented Whipple shield designs that have become the global standard for protecting spacecraft from high-speed particle impacts. Over the decades, Eric's research expanded to include advanced materials, various energy storage systems, and novel configurations of multi-shock shields that are now routinely used in spacecraft design.

One hallmark of Eric's career has been his ability to bridge fundamental research and practical application. He supported the development of NASA, academic and other nonprofit research organizations' hypervelocity impact test facilities and worked to support an array of numerical techniques to assist in quantifying space flight safety risks for broader design advisement. These capabilities have enabled NASA and international partners to design safer spacecraft for missions to low Earth orbit, lunar exploration, and beyond. His leadership ensured that MMOD protection evolved from a niche discipline into a critical component of spaceflight planning.

A society LEADER *retires*

Dr. Christiansen's professional distinctions include numerous NASA awards for technical excellence and leadership, authorship of key NASA standards on MMOD protection, and numerous patents. Eric has been a frequent invited speaker at international conferences and has contributed extensively to collaborative efforts with ESA, JAXA, and other space agencies across the globe. Eric has also been honored with the Distinguished Scientist Award by his peers in this society, but most importantly, he has mentored countless engineers and scientists, fostering the next generation of experts in impact physics and spacecraft design.

Most recently, Dr. Christiansen guided NASA's efforts to address MMOD risks early in the design process for Artemis lunar missions and Gateway architecture, ensuring that future exploration vehicles are equipped to withstand the long-term operations outside of Earth's shadow. His vision and technical rigor have left an enduring legacy that will continue to safeguard astronauts and spacecraft for decades to come.



Please join us in Coastal CA in 2026!!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hypervelocity Impact Society, we invite you to submit an abstract and paper for presentation at the 18th Hypervelocity Impact Symposium to be held November 1-6, 2026 in Monterey, California.

This Symposium serves as the principal forum for the discussion, interchange, and presentation of the physics and chemistry of high- and hypervelocity impact and related technical areas. It is intended for scientists, engineers, and technical managers from academia, industry, government, and defense programs.

The HVIS Symposia have a long-standing international reputation as a catalyst for stimulating research in this area through a wealth of oral and poster presentations, and commercial exhibits. The Symposium's proceedings are the major archival source of papers published in this field.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts describing new research, innovative methods, underlying physics and ground-breaking technological developments in the topics shown below. Abstracts should be a comprehensive, self-contained, summary of the planned paper explaining in some detail why the paper would be of interest to the participants of the symposium.

Deadline for abstract submission is March 6, 2026.

Abstracts can be submitted through the HVIS 2026 webpage: www.hvis2026monterey.com

Symposium Topics:

- Analytical and Numerical Methodologies
- Armor/Anti-Armor and Ballistic Technology
- Asteroid Impact and Planetary Defense Technology
- Fracture and Fragmentation
- High-velocity Launchers and Diagnostics
- High-velocity Penetration Mechanics and Target Response
- Hypervelocity Phenomenology Studies





2026

Monterey, California

H Y P E R V E L O C I T Y I M P A C T S Y M P O S I U M

The excitement is building!

Planning for the 2026 Hypervelocity Impact Symposium (HVIS) is underway.

This Symposium is the principal forum for discussion, interchange and presentation of physics of high and hypervelocity impact and related technical areas. It has a long-standing international reputation as a catalyst for stimulating research through paper presentations, poster sessions and commercial exhibits. Symposium proceedings are the major archival source of papers published in this field.

The Hypervelocity Impact Symposium is a biennial event that is dedicated to enabling and promoting an understanding of the basic physics of high velocity impact and related technical areas. This international event provides a forum for researchers to share and exchange a wealth of knowledge through oral and poster presentations, and commercial exhibits. All papers presented at the symposium will be published in the conference proceedings, with a subset of the articles — as recommended by the Technical Committee following peer review — will be published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Impact Engineering*.

The Symposium venue is the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa on Del Monte Golf Course. Not only does it feature world class accommodations and facilities, but it is also just a short distance away from the famous Cannery Row and the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium.

If you can arrive by noon on Sunday November 1st, we will have a planned hike for any members that would like to go for a hike. We are planning evening reception social on the backside of the Hyatt hotel near the golf course.

SYMPOSIUM CO-CHAIRS

Raymond Gamache (NPS)
Email: rmgamach@nps.edu

Brendan O'Toole (UNLV)
Email: brendan.otoole@unlv.edu

TECHNICAL PROGRAM CHAIR

John Borg (Marquette University)
Email: john.borg@marquette.edu

ORGANIZER/EXHIBITOR CHAIR:

Wayne Mindle (CertaSIM, LLC)
Email: wayne@certasim.com

Call for nominations



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominations Committee is beginning the process of selecting a list of six candidates to stand for election to the HVIS Board of Directors. The committee normally begins with a long list of potential candidates and pares the list down to a final list to develop nomination packages. You, the membership, will then elect two new members to the Board from the final list of six candidates. The election will be held via e-mail ballots in the August-September 2026 timeframe.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors must be current members of the Hypervelocity Impact Society. It is desired that the Board of Directors reflects and represents the membership and interests of the Society to as great a degree as possible with a limited number of members. Board members are elected for three terms. A term is defined as the period between successive Symposia.

At this time you are invited and encouraged to take an active part in your Society by submitting the names (simply by sending an email to debjoy.d.mallick.civ@army.mil) of outstanding candidates (including yourself!) that you would like to have included in the initial long screening list that will be considered by the Nominations Committee.

To be considered, we must receive your nominations for the initial list by **April 30, 2026**.

- **Joshua Miller**, President
- **Angela Stickle**, Past-President
(Term ends at HVIS2026)
- **Brooke Corbett**, Secretary-Treasurer
- **Kumi Nitta**
(Term ends at HVIS2026)
- **Nobuaki Kawai**
(Term ends at HVIS 2026)
- **Eugene Hertel***
(Term ends at HVIS 2026)
- **David Crawford***
(Term ends at HVIS 2026)
- **Michael Hopson**
- **Sidney Chocron**
- **Justin Wilkerson**

* To be replaced by new Board members by this election

HVIS 2026 continued...

On Monday, after recognizing one of our own's career as the awardee of the Distinguished Scientist Honor, we'll have a productive first technical session. We will reconvene at a nearby winery for both wine tasting and dinner. While the technical sessions are ongoing companions will go whale watching and visit Cannery Row.

On Tuesday we'll have a full day of conference including the poster session while companions go on a tour of 17 mile drive followed by a visit to Carmel by the Sea.

On Wednesday we will end talks a little early to meet with companions, fresh off a visit to Point Lobos and guided tour of Seaside Park and Big Sur, to head together to the ballroom at the Naval Postgraduate School for our banquet.

Thursday will be another busy technical session while companions will go to San Jose and tour the Winchester mystery house followed by a lunch in Morgan Hill.

So visit us at: www.hvis2026monterey.com, and get your abstract in by February 20th. See you in California!

Committee Charges



H V S

and Reports

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee administers awards on behalf of the Society in recognition of distinguished service and activity in the field of hypervelocity impact. A Best Paper Award and the Distinguished Scientist Award are presented at every Hypervelocity Impact Symposium.

The Distinguished Scientist Award is given to a single individual or to a research team of two or more individuals for significant and lasting contributions to the field of hypervelocity science. The award consists of a plaque citing the accomplishments of the award winner and a monetary remuneration set by the Board of Directors.

Formal letters of nomination are now invited from the HVIS Membership and anyone who has been involved in hypervelocity impact science and engineering. These letters of nomination will join the existing six letters of nomination from HVIS 2019, HVIS 2022 and HVIS 2024.

Previous recipients of this award are:

1989: Alexander C. Charters
1992: Alois J. Stilp and Volker Hohler
1994: James R. Asay
1996: Burton G. Cour-Palais
1998: Hallock F. Swift
2000: Charles E. Anderson, Jr.
2003: Dennis L. Orphal
2005: Lalit C. Chhabildas
2007: Gordon R. Johnson
2010: Peter H. Schultz
2012: Andrew J. Piekutowski
2015: William Schonberg
2017: David Crawford
2019: Dennis Grady
2022: Eric Christiansen
2024: James Walker

Written nominations can be emailed to the Chair of the Awards Committee. The committee would like to see the widest participation from the Membership in nominating the Distinguished Scientist that recognizes the talents of researchers across the world.

The Best Paper Award is given to an individual(s) whose paper, presented at a Hypervelocity Impact Symposium and published in the proceedings, is ranked best.

Candidates for the award are nominated by Chairpersons preceding over upcoming Symposium technical sessions. Nominations are typically made at the manuscript review meeting held approximately four months prior to the Symposium. The nominations are presented to the Awards Committee who rank for final selection.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Educational Outreach Committee administers the HVIS Alex Charters Student Scholar Program, whose purpose is to provide travel reimbursement support for students to attend the Hypervelocity Impact Symposia. Reimbursement is provided for transportation and lodging during attendance at Symposia up to a limit specified by the Board of Directors. Alex Charters Student Scholars are provided complimentary registration and a copy of the proceedings, and are scheduled for a short introductory meeting with the HVIS Board of Directors and the Educational Outreach Committee members at the Symposium. This program is aimed primarily at graduate students who are enrolled in an academic institution at the time of the conference, although currently enrolled undergraduate students may also apply. The nomination consists of a letter of recommendation, on University letterhead, from the student's academic advisor.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The primary responsibility of the Membership Committee is promoting membership in the Society. The Committee also has responsibility for ensuring that membership dues are collected each year and for keeping the Secretary-Treasurer informed of the current membership of the Society.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee is responsible for nominating candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Society. Diversity on the Board of Directors is encouraged with respect to such criteria as country of origin, organization or employment, gender, race or ethnicity, and area of specialization in the general area of hypervelocity impact (i.e., space shielding, high pressure equation of state measurements, launcher technology, etc.).

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Publications Committee assists in the preparation and dissemination of materials for the benefit of the Society. The Publications Committee Chair serves is responsible for overseeing the compilation of the proceedings of the Symposia and coordinating any special editions of the proceedings.

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee is charged with developing prospective hosts for future Symposia.

If you would like to be considered for any of these chairperson assignments for the next symposium, please reach out to the current chairperson listed for discussion of the dutie and responsibilities.

Acknowledgement

The HVIS 2024 conference would not have been possible without the help and support of our previous committee chairs and members. On behalf of the HVIS 2022-2024 Board of Directors, **THANK YOU!**

Awards

Chair:
Erkai Watson

Members:

Eric Christiansen
David Crawford
Dennis Grady
Joshua Miller
Andrew Piekowski
Peter Schultz

Don De Wilde
Jerome Limido
Angela Stickle
Matthew Garcia
Mike Hopson

Educational Outreach

Chair:
Gabriel Seisson

Members:

Jennifer Jordan
Jason Loiseau
Tracy Vogler

Membership

Chair:
Brooke Corbett

Nominations

Chair:
Debjoy Mallick

Publications

Chair:
John Borg

Site Selection

Chair:
Wayne Mindle

HVIS Board of Directors Members and Officers

President

Joshua Miller

Past President

Angela Stickle

Secretary-Treasurer

Brooke Corbett

Members

David Crawford
Eugene Hertel
Kumi Nitta
Nobuaki Kawai
Mike Hopson
Sidney Chocron
Justin Wilkerson

HVIS Committee Chairs

If you would like to participate on any of these committees, please contact the appropriate chair as listed.

Awards Committee

Erkai Watson

Email: erkai.watson@emi.fraunhofer.de

Educational Outreach Committee

Mia Allende

Email: allende1@llnl.gov

Membership Committee

Justin Moreno

Email: jmoreno8@jhu.edu

Nominations Committee

Debjoy Mallick

Email: debjoy.d.mallick.civ@army.mil

Publications Committee

Gabriel Seisson

Email: gabriel.seisson@cea.fr

Call for nominations DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD

The Hypervelocity Impact Society (HVIS) Awards Committee administers awards on behalf of the Society to recognize distinguished service and activity in the field of hypervelocity impact. The Distinguished Scientist Award is presented at the Hypervelocity Impact Symposium to an individual or research team for significant and lasting contributions to the field of hypervelocity science. The award consists of a plaque citing the accomplishments of the award winner and a monetary award of an amount set by the Board of Directors. The recipient(s) also becomes an Honorary Member of the Society, i.e., a lifetime member with all the privileges and responsibilities of a regular member except that dues are waived.

Formal letters of nomination are now invited for the Distinguished Scientist Award. Award candidates may be nominated by anyone who has been involved in hypervelocity impact science and engineering, not just Society members. In preparing the letter of nomination, nominators should include supporting information about the candidate, should address the candidate's technical recognition within the community, highlight the importance of their work and its contribution to hypervelocity science, and describe the

nominated individual's personal contribution and service to the technical field of hypervelocity impact. The Awards Committee would like to see the widest participation from the scientific community in nominating a Distinguished Scientist whose contributions reflect the talents of researchers around the world.

A list of previous award recipients and a description of their contributions is provided below. Unsuccessful nominees from the 2022 and 2024 Symposia will automatically be considered for the award at the 2026 Symposium. Nominations can be submitted via email to:

Dr. Erkai Watson
Ernst Mach Institute
Germany
Email: erkai.watson@emi.fraunhofer.de

Nominations must be received no later than **April 10, 2026**. Questions about the award should also be directed to Dr. Watson.

Call for nominations Alex Charters Student Scholars

The Hypervelocity Impact Society is pleased to announce a call for nominations to the Alex Charters Student Scholars (ACSS) Program. The ACSS program provides conference registration and travel reimbursement support to selected students for attendance at the 2026 Hypervelocity Impact Symposium. HVIS2026 will be held in Monterey, California, during the week of November 1, 2026.

● **ELIGIBILITY:** Students currently enrolled full-time in an academic institution at the time of the conference and interested in hypervelocity impact phenomena are eligible for nomination to the Alex Charters Student Scholars Program. This program is aimed primarily at graduate students, although undergraduate students may also apply.

● **AWARD PACKAGE:** Each student selected as Alex Charters Student Scholars will receive travel reimbursement support for attendance at HVIS 2026 (reimbursement for transportation and lodging expenses only). Alex Charters Student Scholars will also receive complimentary conference registration (a \$1200.00+ value).

● **HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS:** The nomination must be submitted by the student's academic advisor, on the letterhead of the academic institution. The nomination is limited to a maximum of three pages, and must include the following items:

- Names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of both the student and the advisor.
- A brief overview of the student's academic background and record.
- A discussion of why the symposium would be helpful to the student.

Nominations can be submitted via email to:

Dr. Mia Allende
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
United States
Email: allende1@llnl.gov

Nominations must be received no later than **April 10, 2026**. Questions about the award should also be directed to Dr. Allende.