



AERONAUTICS
research mission directorate



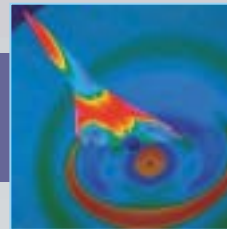
Dr. J. Victor Lebacqz
Associate Administrator



- **NASA Vision**
- **Space Exploration Vision**
- **Current Exploration**
- **Exploration in Aeronautics Research**

NASA'S Vision

- To improve life here
- To extend life to there
- To find life beyond



NASA's Mission

- To understand and protect our home planet
- To explore the universe and search for life
- To inspire the next generation of explorers
...as only NASA can

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New Space Exploration Vision

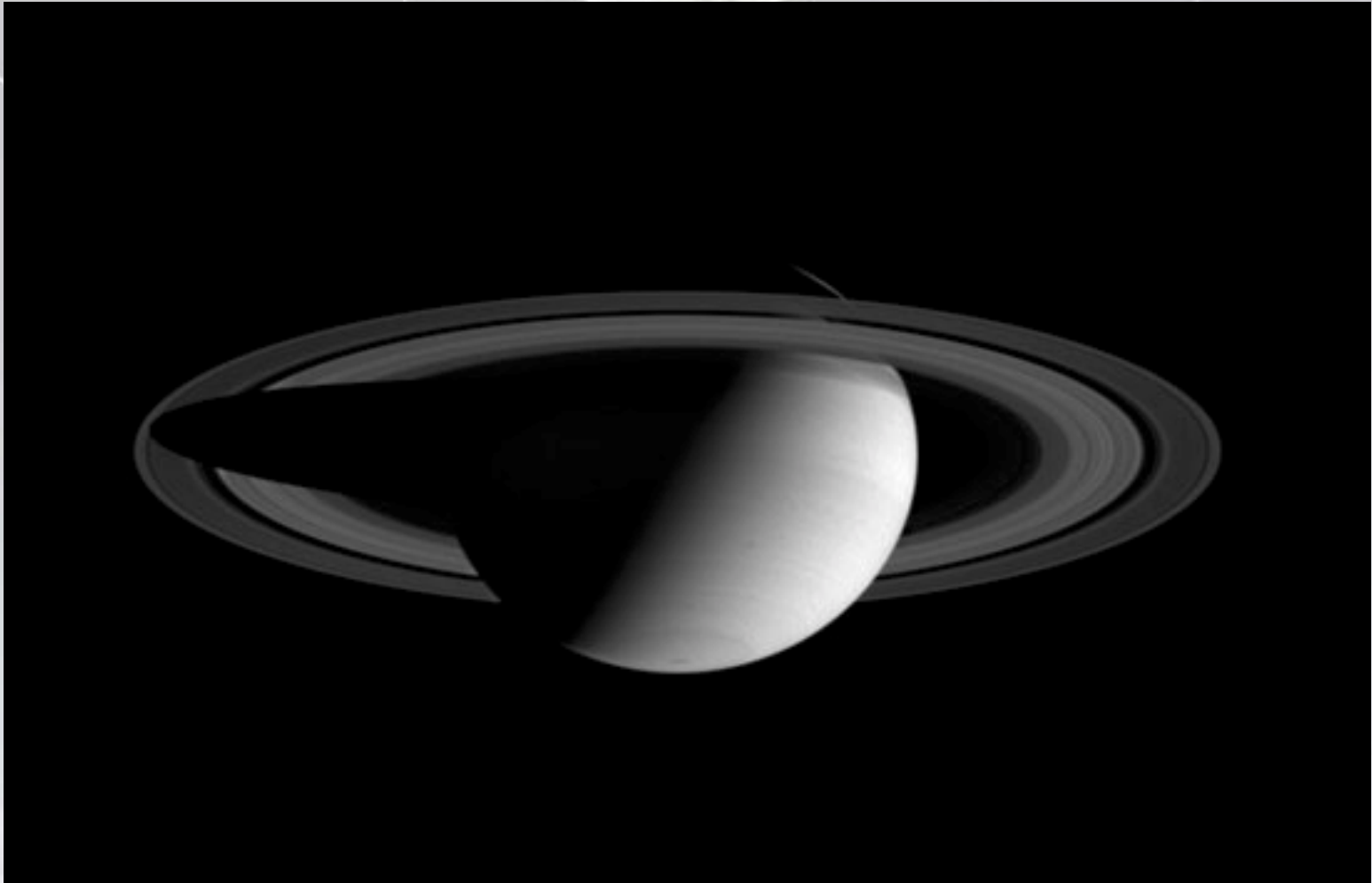
*"This cause of exploration and discovery is not an option we choose;
it is a desire written in the human heart." – President Bush*



January 14, 2004

- **On January 14, the President announced a new space exploration vision for NASA**
 - Implement a sustained and affordable human and robotic program to explore the solar system and beyond;
 - Extend human presence across the solar system, starting with a human return to the Moon by the year 2020, in preparation for human exploration of Mars and other destinations;
 - Develop the innovative technologies, knowledge, and infrastructures both to explore and to support decisions about the destinations for human exploration; and
 - Promote international and commercial participation in exploration to further U.S. scientific, security, and economic interests.

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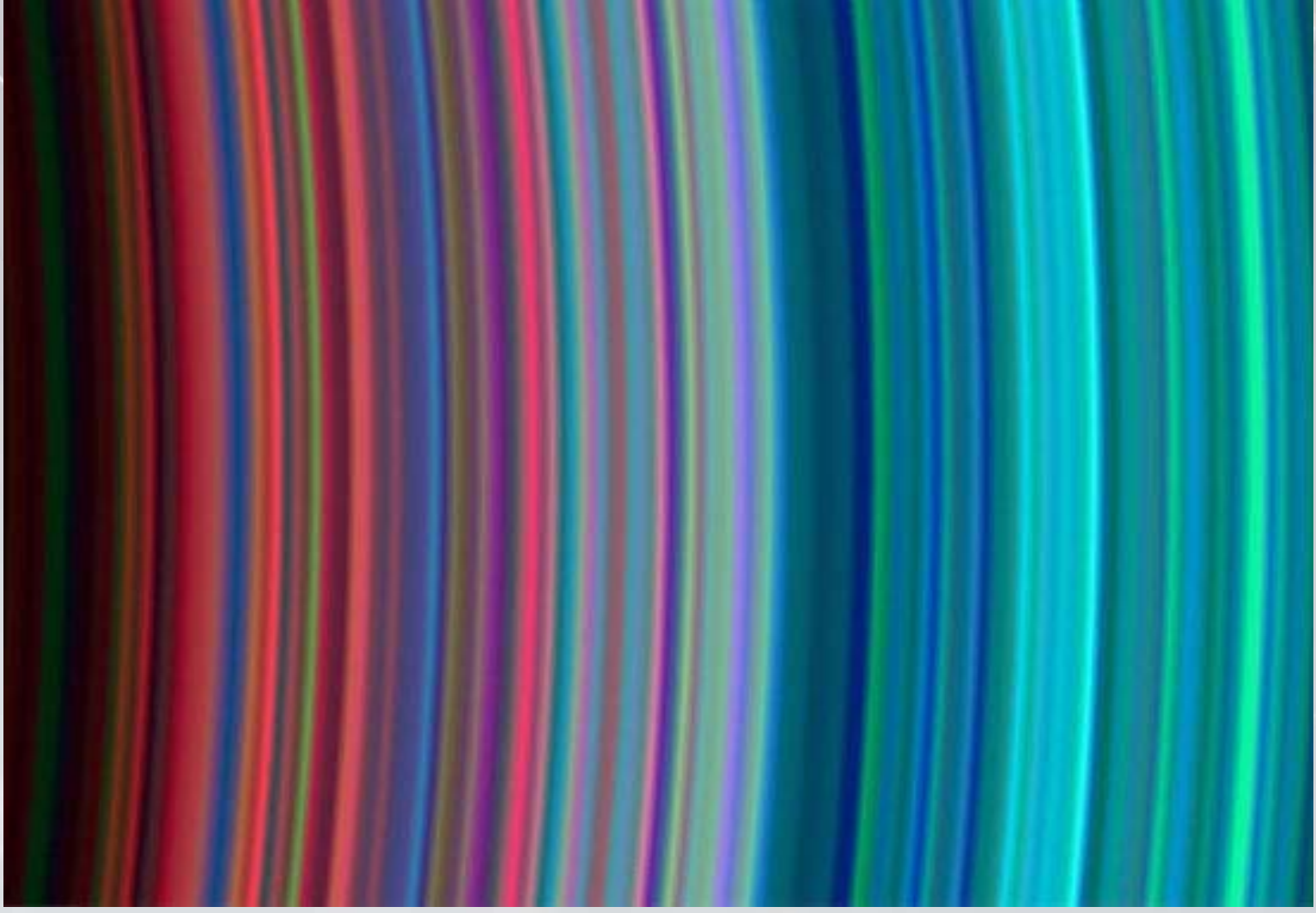




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Saturn's C and B Rings

From the Inside Out

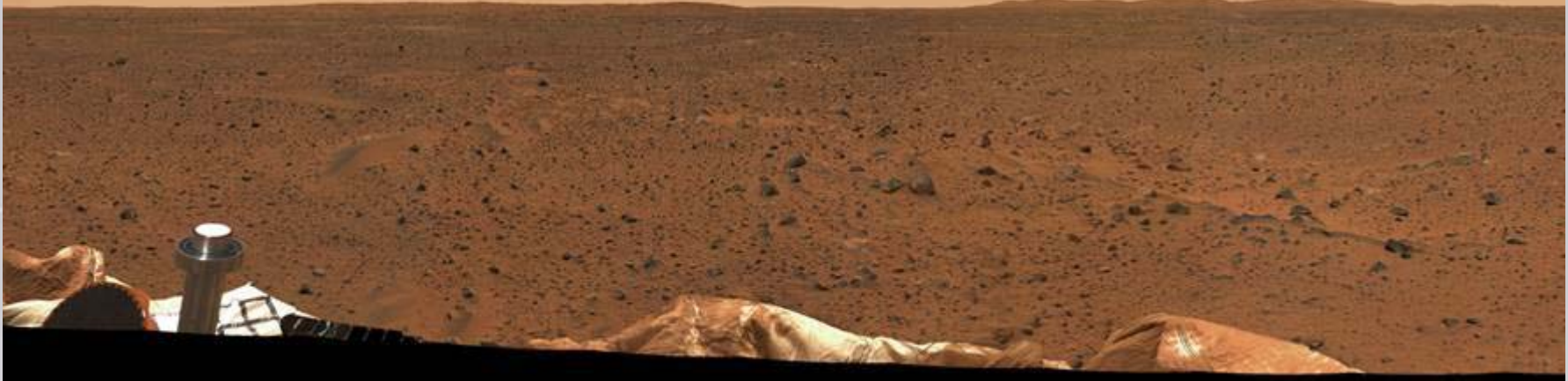


On December 24 Cassini will Release the Huygens Probe to Plunge into the Titan Atmosphere on January 14, 2005



- Titan may have pools and lakes of liquid hydrocarbons, perhaps preserving evidence of a primordial soup that could yield insights about the pre-biotic chemistry of Earth.

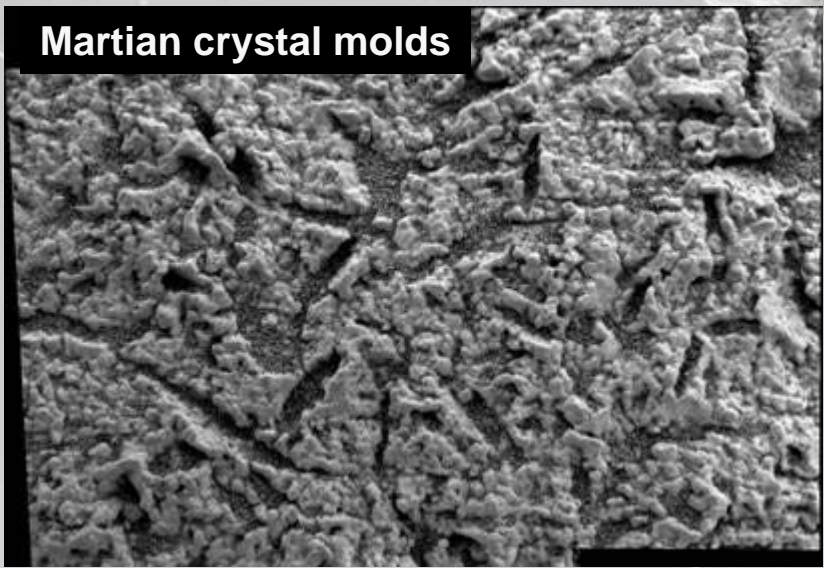
Spirit's View of the Columbia Hills at Gusev Crater



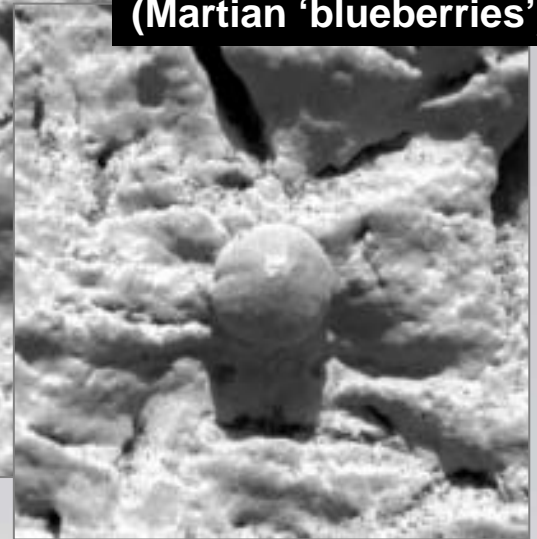
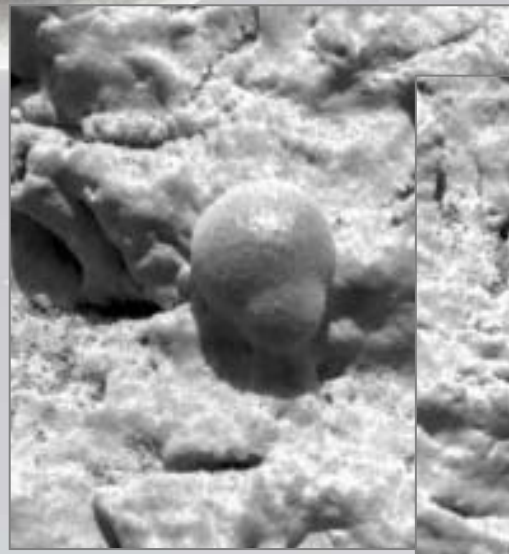
“Hole in One” — *Opportunity* Lands in Eagle Crater at Meridiani Planum



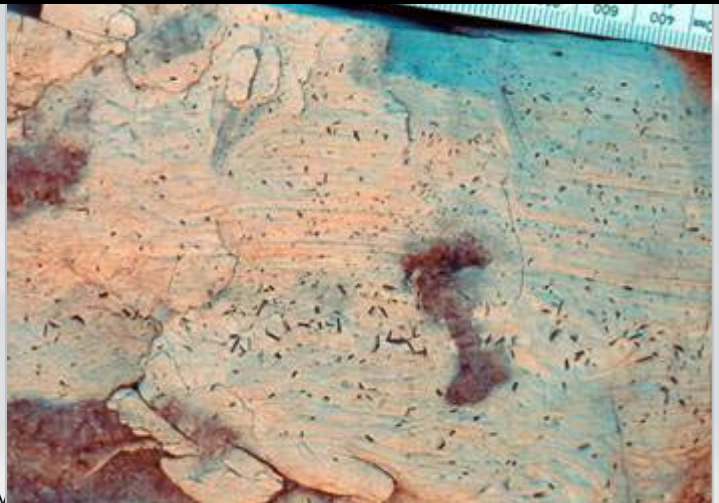
Martian crystal molds



**Spherules
(Martian 'blueberries')**

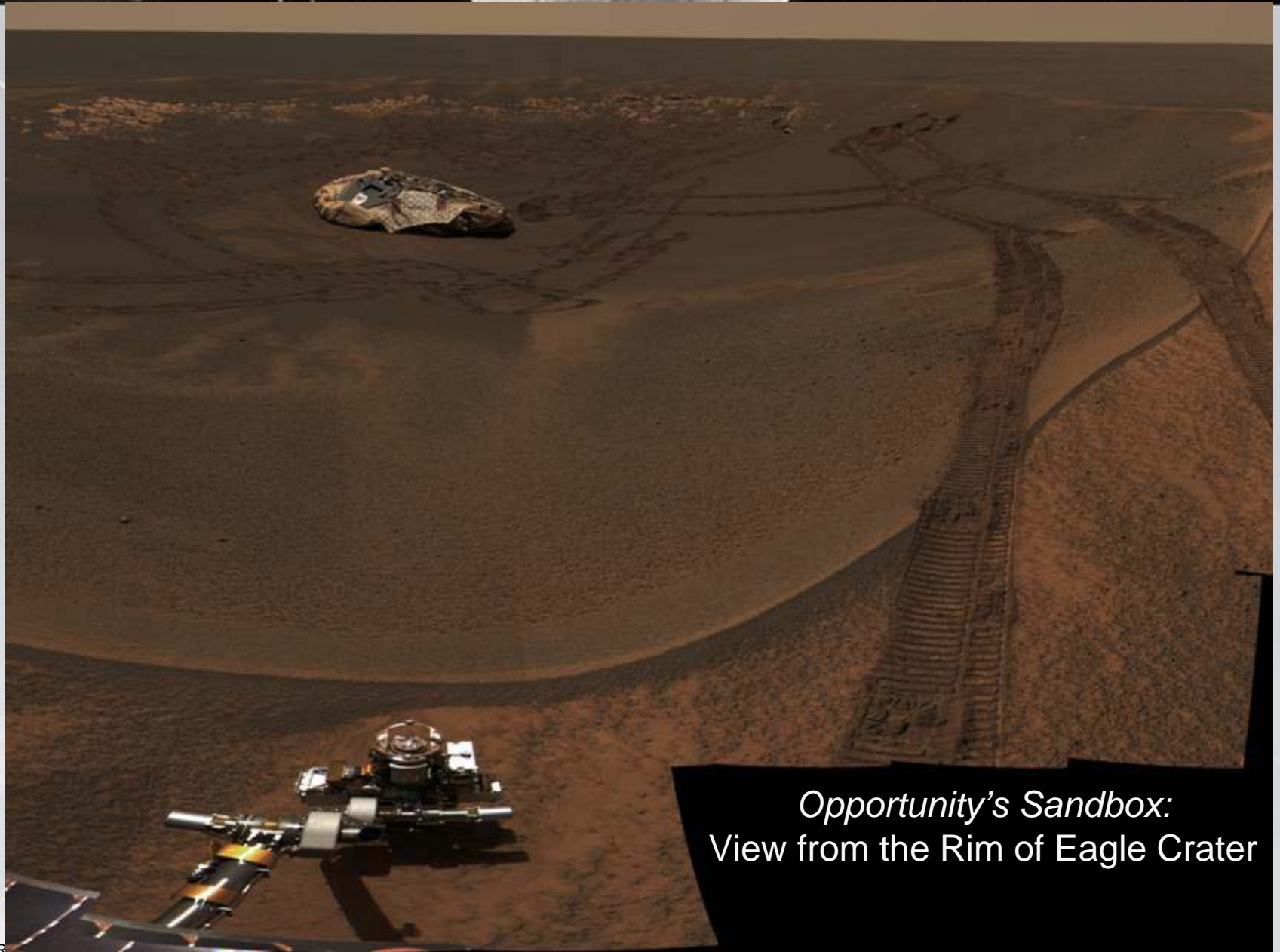


Siberian gypsum crystal molds on Earth



Jurassic iron concretions on Earth





Opportunity's Sandbox:
View from the Rim of Eagle Crater