



JPL's Cassini spacecraft delivered this stunning view of small, battered Epimetheus and smog-shrouded Titan, with Saturn's A and F rings stretching across the scene.

## From the Editor:

Welcome to this special issue of *Engineering & Science* magazine, commemorating 50 years of a Caltech-JPL-NASA partnership exploring our home planet, the solar system, and the universe beyond. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, an offshoot of Caltech's aeronautics department, is unique among NASA centers in being managed by a university—and a private one at that. JPL is a part of Caltech, just like the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy or the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, albeit—with some 5,700 employees—rather larger.

Caltech faculty, staff, and alumni have played and are playing critical roles in many JPL missions; a few of their stories are told in these pages. Many more of them have been chronicled in *Engineering & Science* over the years; a complete list is clearly impractical, but you'd be hard pressed to find an issue from the last couple of decades that doesn't have at least one JPL story in it. From short updates on the Mars rovers or the latest find from Cassini, to in-depth features on spacecraft navigation or global monitoring of climate change and profiles of specific missions, we have been proud to participate in this grand adventure in space by bringing you, our readers, along for the ride.

—Douglas L. Smith