Abstract 2479 - The poem “Integration” was inspired by a real incident. In the first stanza, I describe a moment in the lab when a well-known lunar scientist and colleague claimed to have tasted Moon dust that was drifting in the air from working with the Apollo collection of lunar samples. Pondering this, it occurred to me that in a sense, all of us have not only tasted Moon dust, but it has been integrated within our bodies. From this idea I developed the second stanza of the poem. After lunar meteorites fall to Earth, they eventually add themselves to the soil that grows our food, to the atmosphere that we breathe. Tiny bits of Moon are literally within every person. I moved from this literal image to something more figurative in the final stanza. Here I connected this image of integrating Moon dust into a person’s body with integrating a desire to understand into their spirit or soul. Here I once again harken back to a moment in the lab, where I took a sample of a lunar meteorite and vaporized it to determine its isotopic composition. It was my need to know and to understand that drove me that day to take a tiny piece of the Moon and destroy it forever. And yet, it is not destroyed, as it lives on within me, continuing to inspire my research and my dreams. My colleague said he “ate the Moon.” In fact all of us who dream of space have eaten the Moon. The poem is an opportunity itself to “integrate” science and art. We come to a better understanding of science through the literal story of the fate of lunar meteorites. As we do this, the poem leads us through an emotional story, one in which the reader is an integral part. The reader is invited into the lab to figuratively taste and breathe the samples, and in doing so, they share in the scientist’s deep desire and curiosity, their need to be a part of the larger story of the solar system, the universe. The reader sees themselves, now, as the one who ate the Moon. The one who dreams, who learns, and who eventually, understands.