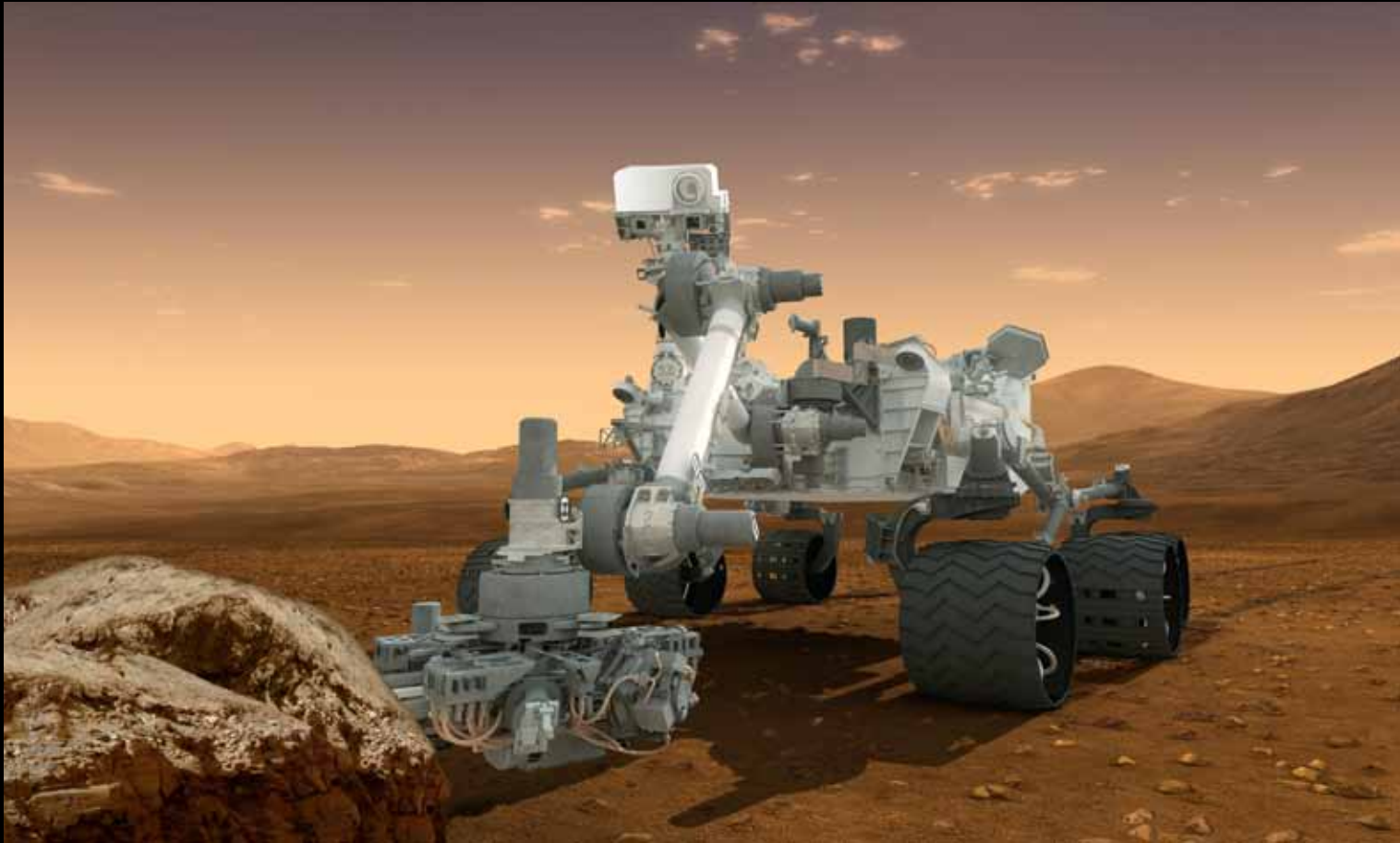


AT THE EDGE

Below: an artist's concept of the Curiosity rover at work. Courtesy of NASA/JPL – Caltech.

Bottom: A real view of the Red Planet from Curiosity. Courtesy of NASA/JPL – Caltech/MSSS.



BACK ON MARS

NJIT is back on Mars. Actually, equipment that two NJIT alumni helped to design and build for Curiosity, NASA's roving Mars science laboratory, is at work on the Red Planet. Curiosity is performing experiments that include searching for signs of past or present life.

Lee Carlson '04 and Michael Passaretti '05 work for Honeybee Robotics, a company that supplied key components for the one-ton interplanetary lab. Mechanical engineer Carlson and computer engineer Passaretti,

together with a team of Honeybee colleagues, built Curiosity's Sample Manipulation System. Passaretti also worked on the rover's Dust Removal Tool, which clears loose material from surface samples selected for examination and analysis.

Carlson and Passaretti share the adventure of exploring Mars with another NJIT graduate and former Honeybee engineer. Thomas Myrick '84 sent two RATS to Mars on the long-lived Spirit and Opportunity rovers. The RATS – Rotary Abrasion Tools – that he helped to create cleaned samples to reveal scientifically significant layers.

