



February 2021

Dear Friends,

This month we are celebrating exciting achievements in space exploration for the ASU-led EMIRS and Mastcam-Z teams!

First, congratulations to the UAE's Hope mission team on successful orbit insertion at Mars on February 9. This mission includes the **Emirates Mars Infrared Spectrometer (EMIRS)** developed by Professor Phil Christensen and his team. EMIRS will provide a unique view of the lower and middle atmosphere of the red planet, measuring the distribution of dust particles and ice clouds while tracking the movement of water vapor and heat through the atmosphere.

We also congratulate the Mastcam-Z team led by Professor Jim Bell on the successful landing on Mars of NASA's Perseverance rover on February 18. Mastcam-Z is a multi-color stereo imaging system on Perseverance

capable of taking zoom, 3D images, and video. Learn more about Mastcam-Z on the [ASU Mastcam-Z website](#).

On the horizon, I encourage everyone to save the date for **Sun Devil Giving Day on March 18, 2021**. This annual event focuses on a single day of giving and your donations have a tremendous impact on our school's programming, scholarship funds, and student resources. I am deeply grateful to our broader community, and our friends and colleagues, for the support and continued commitment to our school.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter. For more information on our research, events, students, faculty, and alumni, we have included links to social media at the end of this newsletter. Please follow us, share, and retweet.

Be well and keep safe,



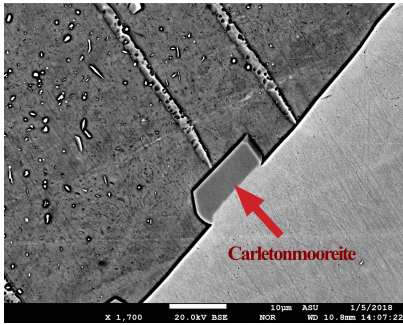
Meenakshi (Mini) Wadhwa

In the News

ASU Mastcam-Z team celebrates successful Mars Perseverance rover landing

On February 18, NASA's Mars Perseverance rover successfully landed on Mars. Onboard the rover is the ASU-led mast-mounted camera system Mastcam-Z, which can zoom from wide angle to telephoto, take 3D images and videos, and take photos in up to 11 unique colors. [ASU held a live landing watch party](#) which the public was invited to attend via Zoom, YouTube and ASU live. Updates on the mission and on Mastcam-Z are available [on the Mastcam-Z website](#).





Mineral 'carletonmooreite' named for founder of ASU Center for Meteorite Studies

A new mineral has been named for ASU Emeritus Regents Professor Carleton Moore, the founding director of ASU's [Center for Meteorite Studies](#).

The mineral, named "carletonmooreite," was found in a large, rare type of meteorite that fell in February 1948 in Norton County, Kansas. Learn more about carletonmooreite and other minerals named for ASU faculty on [ASU News](#).

Melting dusty ice may have carved Martian gullies

By analyzing the occurrences of exposed dusty ice on Mars using data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, ASU planetary scientists **Aditya Khuller** and **Philip Christensen** have found the lowest latitude detection of dusty water ice on Mars. The melting of this dusty water ice could have led to the formation of gullies that have eroded into rock and ice at these locations and may provide places for any surviving life to exist on Mars. [Read more](#)



New technique used to discover how galaxies grow

For decades, space and ground telescopes have provided us with spectacular images of galaxies. What we typically see in an image of a galaxy are the stars, gas and dust that constitute these sprawling systems. But there is a hidden component of galaxies that does not emit enough visible light for us to see. This component is the subject of a recent study by a research team including ASU's **Christopher Dupuis**, **Sanchayeeta Borthakur**, **Mansi Padave**, and **Rolf Jansen**. [Read more](#)

Announcements

Kelin Whipple recognized as Outstanding Faculty Mentor

Congratulations to Kelin Whipple, one of this year's awardees of the Graduate College **Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award**! This 33-year old tradition recognizes the impact that faculty members have on their students through mentorship.



"If I learned one key lesson [...] it's simply to listen, to pay attention and respond in as helpful a way as possible." [Read more](#)



International geochemistry fellowship awarded to Director Wadhwa

Congratulations to our school Director Mini Wadhwa on being honored with the title of **Geochemistry Fellow** by the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry for her major contribution to the field of geochemistry! Wadhwa joins 15 other geochemists around the world receiving the 2021 honorary Geochemistry Fellowship. [Read more](#)

NASA announces SciAct grants for ASU

NASA recently announced funding for the next phase of its Science Activation (SciAct) program, a community based approach to connect NASA science with learners of all ages. The awards include funding for a new program "SCoPE" led by school Professor and Director, Mini Wadhwa and renewed funding for "Infiniscope," led by Professor Ariel Anbar. [Read more](#)



Infiniscope announces K-12 teachers to Advisory Board

To launch their sixth year of the program, the Infiniscope team has announced the members of the Infiniscope 2021–22 Education Advisory Board. This board represents a select team of educators

who focus on continually improving and enhancing the program as well as raising awareness of Infiniscope to teachers nationwide. [Learn more](#)

Lab of the month

In Hilairy Hartnett's biogeochemistry lab known as Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics Lab or [CaNDy LaB](#), researchers study carbon and nitrogen in all ranges of aquatic systems including the ocean, rivers and lakes, or very dry soils. [Watch this video](#) as students from the CaNDy LaB study the chemistry of Tempe Town Lake in ASU's own backyard.



Events



Open Door is going virtual March 1

Once a year, ASU Open Door invites the local community to experience ASU. This year, we'd like to bring everything ASU has to offer — science, the arts, humanities, sustainability and more — to you. Explore our four campus locations including laboratories, living collections, museums and classrooms. Participate in hundreds of interactive, hands-on activities created just for you by our faculty and students. [The 2021 Open Door virtual activities will be available starting March 1.](#)

Virtual Night Sky

Join the ASU Marston Exploration Theater presenters on **Wednesday March 10 and 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.** for a live planetarium presentation. Learn about the planets and stars visible in the night sky from your own backyard and the latest events in space exploration! Register in advance for these FREE Zoom webinars [March 10](#) and [March 24](#).



Sun Devil Giving Day March 18

Save the date for ASU Sun Devil Giving Day, Thursday March 18. This event is just around the corner! To learn more about our scholarship funds and ways to donate, please visit our [school's Giving webpage](#).

Alumni Announcements

Alumni: Keep it current!

Join us on [LinkedIn](#) and [update your contact info](#) so you can receive the latest School and university news, exclusive career and professional development opportunities, unique ASU experiences, invitations to special events and much more!

ASU School of Earth and
Space Exploration
Arizona State University



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— U.S. News & World Report, 6 years, 2016–2021

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