



November 2020

A message from our Director

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe the Thanksgiving holidays are almost here and soon we'll be celebrating our Fall 2020 graduates!

At this time, I'd like to especially thank all of our generous donors who have assisted our students in response to the COVID-19 crisis through our Student Emergency Fund. Last month we featured [Paityn Schlosser](#), a geological sciences major who is a recipient of support from this fund. This month, we invite you to meet undergraduate student [Gabriel White](#) and

learn how your contributions are helping to support his education goals.

As a reminder, global Giving Tuesday is December 1. Join us in celebrating this day by supporting the [Student Emergency Fund](#) or any number of [School of Earth and Space Exploration funds and programs](#). Your generous donations help support our students and allow us to continue our academic and public programs.

I hope you enjoy the news, announcements, and student features in this month's 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,



Mini Wadhwa

In the News

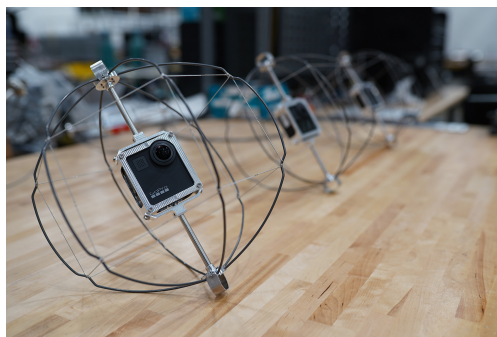


'Oasis effect' in urban parks could contribute to greenhouse gas emissions

While Phoenix area parks can serve as an oasis for residents, the irrigation needed to keep parks lush and cooler comes at a high cost of water consumption. To determine this cost, a team of scientists led by professor and hydrologist Enrique Vivoni and including graduate students Mercedes Kindler, Zhaocheng Wang and Eli Pérez-Ruiz, spent a year collecting data on weather conditions, evapotranspiration and soil water at Encanto Golf Course in Phoenix. [Read more](#)

NASA selects "Lunar ExoCam" for commercial flight test

NASA recently selected 31 promising space technologies for their Flight Opportunities program, including Lunar ExoCam, a project which includes team members and SESE faculty Jnaneshwar Das and Jim Bell. Lunar ExoCam is a high-definition imaging system designed to capture the first-ever video of a lunar lander's final descent and landing taken from the Moon's surface. [Read more](#)



NASA selects ASU science teams for astrobiology research

The NASA Astrobiology Program has announced the selection of eight teams to inaugurate its Interdisciplinary Consortia for Astrobiology Research (ICAR) program. School professor Sara Walker will lead one of the selected projects with Hyunju Kim, Hilairy Hartnett, Elizabeth Trembath-Reichert, Mike Line, Everett Shock, and Ariel Anbar. School professors Evgenya Shkolnik, Maitrayee Bose, and Ariel Anbar are participating in three additional ICAR awarded projects. [Read more](#)

National Fossil Day celebrates the curiosities beneath our feet

Meteorites are some of the oldest objects in the solar system, so how do they compare to fossils? Scientists from ASU including interim director of the [Center for Meteorite Studies](#), Devin Schrader, give us insight on some of the world's more unusual fossils. [Read more](#)



Announcements



Ramon Arrowsmith honored by AGU for outstanding scientific service

Congratulations to SESE professor Ramon Arrowsmith, recipient of the American Geophysical Union's 2020 Paul G. Silver Award for outstanding scientific service. "This award recognizes the significant contributions that Ramon has made to the fields of geodesy, seismology, and tectonophysics through his mentorship of early-career scientists and his leadership on community research initiatives and collaborative efforts," says school director Mini Wadhwa. [Read More](#)

Sheri Klug Boonstra honored by AGU for excellence in Earth and space science education

Congratulations to SESE research professional Sheri Klug Boonstra, recipient of the American Geophysical Union's 2020 Excellence in Earth and Space Science Education award. "Sheri truly understands the needs of both students and teachers, and has dedicated her career to developing materials and programs that both enrich the student's experience and greatly expand the ability of teachers to communicate complex concepts with ease and enthusiasm," says AGU Fellow and SESE professor Phil Christensen. [Read More](#)



NASA Lucy in Space contest

Attention middle and high school students and teachers! Check out the newly launched **Lucy in Space** contest brought to you by the NASA Lucy Mission, the Southwest Research Institute and the ASU Institute of Human Origins! Submit your creative art that explores the connection between our origins on Earth and in our solar system with a chance to win an invitation to the launch of the Lucy Mission in 2021. [Learn more](#)

Lab of the Month

In Elizabeth Trembath-Reichert's Microbiology of the Deep (MOD) Lab, researchers study microbes living below the Earth's surface, deep in the ocean, and deep below the ocean floor. The lab incorporates elements of microbial ecology, astrobiology, geobiology, oceanography, and geochemistry to ask questions about the microbial role in Earth-life interactions.

[Watch this lab tour video](#) to learn more.



Events



Save the Date! Virtual Night Sky December Events

Join the ASU Marston Exploration Theater presenters on **Wednesday December 2 and December 16 @ 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 [December 2](#) and [December 16](#).

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!

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— U.S. News & World Report, 8 years, 2016–2021

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