School of Earth and Space Exploration
Arizona State University

September 2020

A message from our Director

Dear Friends,

The fall semester is well underway at ASU, and while this school year has been anything but traditional, we are doing our part to keep everyone safe and healthy while continuing our classes, research and community events.

In this month's newsletter, we've highlighted some of our most recent research in

Earth and space from Amanda Clarke with alum Amber Keske, Dan Shim with graduate student Harrison Allen-Sutter, and Park Loyd and Evgenya Shkolnik, as well as a sneak peek of the Psyche Mission Imager filter wheel from instrument PI, Jim Bell.

On the events side, we're pleased to continue hosting our Virtual Night Sky series with the Marston Exploration Theater presenters. This free event allows astronomers of all ages to learn about our stars, planets, asteroids, and the latest space exploration discoveries. We hope you will join us for our next presentation Wednesday, September 30. **Register now here**.

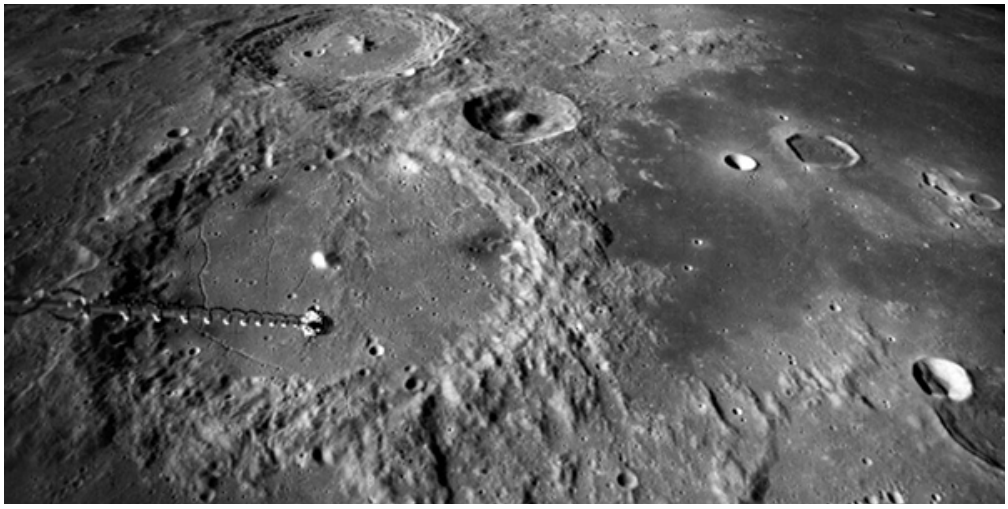
And stay tuned for upcoming information on our virtual Earth and Space Exploration event in October and our New Discoveries Lecture Series in November with SESE faculty member and geobiologist **Elizabeth Trembath-Reichert**. Information will be available soon on our school's **events webpage**.

To stay connected with all our research, events, students, faculty, and alumni we hope you'll follow us and share on social media. For your convenience, links to all our accounts are at the end of this newsletter.

Be well and keep safe,

Mini Wadhwa

In the News



Explosive volcanic eruptions made the early Moon a significantly volatile place

In a study recently published in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, alum Amber Keske with school faculty Amanda Clarke and Mark Robinson demonstrated that the early Moon may have been more volatile-rich than previously thought.

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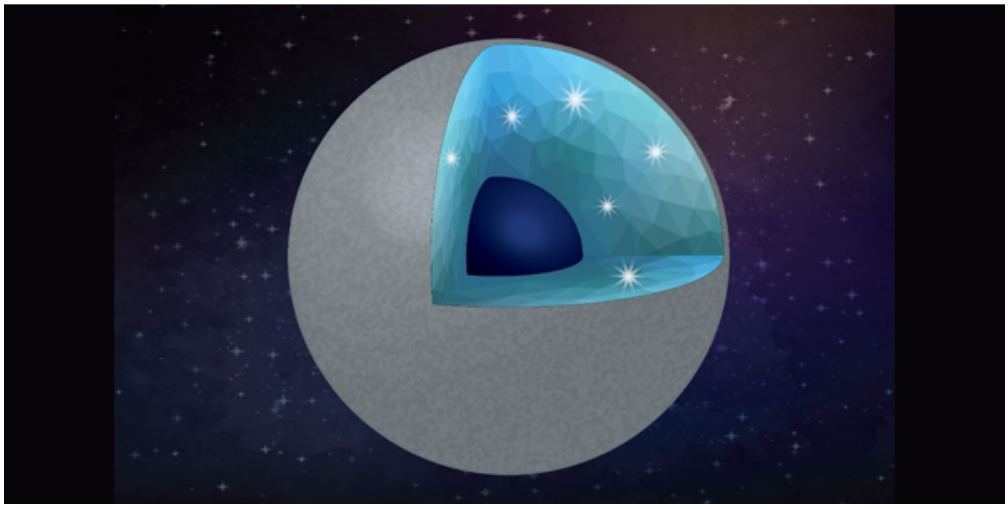
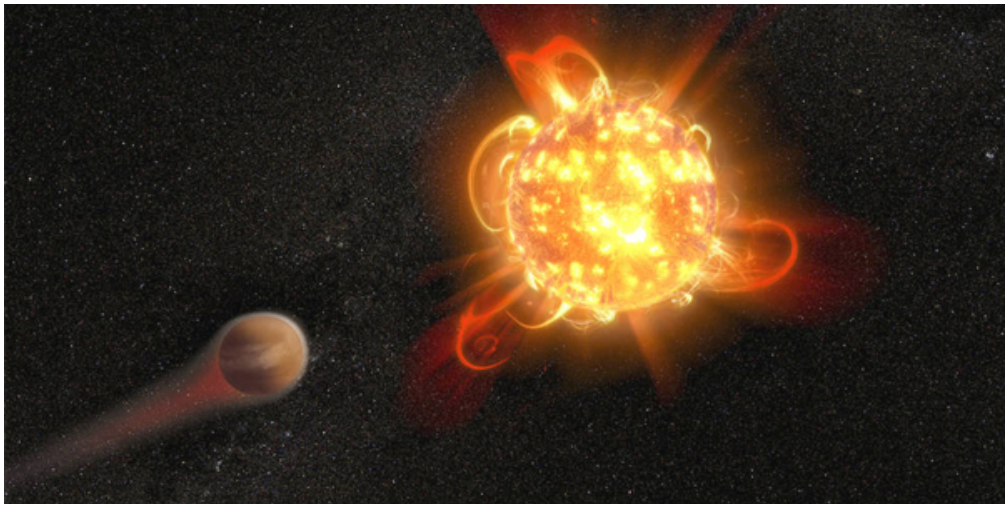


Carbon-rich exoplanets may be made of diamonds

In a new study published in *The Planetary Science Journal*, Harrison Allen-Sutter and Dan Shim with co-authors from the University of Chicago have determined that some carbon-rich exoplanets, given the right circumstances, could be made of diamonds and silica.

Read More



Recently discovered planets not as safe from stellar flares as first thought

Star GJ 887 had initially been spotlighted for the apparently gentle space environment it provides to its recently discovered planets, but school astronomers Parke Loyd and Evgenya Shkolnik had their doubts. Digging into archival Hubble Space Telescope data, they found that this star is not so quiet after all.

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Announcements

Sneak peek at Psyche Imager filter wheel

Fresh out of testing, this image shows the first of two fully-populated filter wheels for the flight versions of the NASA Psyche Mission Multispectral Imager. "We'll be taking a rainbow-colored spectrum of photos of our favorite asteroid through these filters soon enough," says Imager PI Jim Bell. (Photo Credit: MSSS)

ASU ranked No. 1 in innovation for 6th year by US News and World Report

In addition to ranking No. 1 in innovation, ASU received multiple top rankings in first-year experiences, undergraduate teaching and more.

Capping a successful undergraduate experience

Whether building an experimental NASA stratospheric balloon to test a new terahertz sensor technology or prototyping a robotic explorer for future surface exploration of the Psyche

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asteroid, capstone projects allow students to apply their knowledge to real-life applications.

Read more

Events

Interplanetary Quarterly: New Pilot Launch and Initiative Updates

The ASU Interplanetary Initiative invites you behind the scenes for a premier look at their 2020-2021 updates and new pilot projects. By attending this webinar, you will hear exciting updates from the Managing Director and Co-chair, Lindy Elkins-Tanton, and 9 different interdisciplinary pilot projects pursuing big questions around space exploration. Pilot team leads will reveal what it takes to get their ideas off the ground by sharing their highlights, milestones, challenges, and ways to get involved.

Friday September 25 @ 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (MST/PST)

Register

Virtual Night Sky

The Virtual Night Sky is a new series presented by the ASU Marston Exploration Theater team. Join us to learn about the planets and stars visible in the night sky from your own backyard!

Wednesday September 30 @ 7 p.m. AZ time

Space is limited - register in advance for this FREE Zoom webinar! For inquiries, please contact kim.baptista@asu.edu.

Register

Alumni Announcements

ASU alum combines love of geology, passion to share Earth science

Meet Chad, an ASU alum and current graduate student at NAU. Learn about his geology path and the faculty and peers from the school that had a profound impact on his life.

Read Chad's story

Alumni: Keep it current!

A special note to our Alumni to 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!

Update Today

#1 in the U.S. for innovation
ASU ahead of Stanford and MIT
– U.S. News & World Report, 5 years, 2016–2020