

December 2021

Dear Friends,

This month's newsletter is dedicated to our Fall 2021 graduates! We are so proud of our graduating students who have persevered and attained this incredibly significant accomplishment in their lives. Please visit our [**Fall 2021 Graduates Webpage**](#) where we've posted student features, including one on our Dean's Medalist, Megan McGroarty.

And while the semester has ended, our exploration and discoveries will continue! The highly anticipated launch of the James Webb Space Telescope is slated for no earlier than December 24. Stay up to date and learn all about [**Webb on the NASA website**](#) and see below for an invitation to join our virtual launch party.

While sharing the good news above, I must also regretfully share the sad news of

the loss of a beloved member of the School of Earth and Space Exploration, Bruce Feldhusen, who passed away earlier this month. Bruce was a dedicated and skilled building manager for ISTB4 who flawlessly handled the daily operations of the building's complex system of offices, laboratories, and cleanrooms. He was our "building whisperer" and a dedicated team member who will be missed by us all. I hope you will keep Bruce's family in your thoughts.

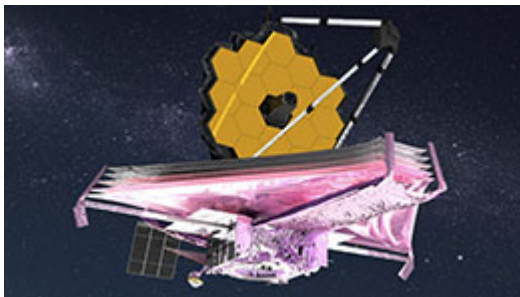
In closing, I wish everyone a peaceful winter break with those you love.

Be well and keep safe,



Meenakshi (Mini) Wadhwa

In the News



You're invited to the James Webb Space Telescope Virtual Launch Party!

The James Webb Space Telescope is the largest, most powerful and complex space telescope ever built. It is targeted

to launch from the European Spaceport in French Guiana no earlier than Friday December 24, 2021 on the Ariane 5 rocket. Join Webb Interdisciplinary Scientist Rogier Windhorst and his team for live launch narration and a Q&A, hosted by professors and astrophysicists Evan Scannapieco and Patrick Young. Space is limited! [**Register here to reserve your spot.**](#)*

**Note: In case of launch postponement, the webinar will reconvene one hour before the next launch opportunity. A new reminder will be sent with instructions to all current registrants.*

Dean's Medalist discovers her passion for research

Megan McGroarty is the Fall 2021 Dean's Medalist for the School of Earth and Space Exploration. She is also a

Barrett, The Honors College student and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in astrobiology and biogeosciences, a minor in German and a certificate in sustainable food systems. [Read more](#)



School pays tribute to Bruce Feldhusen, beloved building automation systems manager

Our hearts go out to the family, friends and colleagues of beloved staff member, Bruce Feldhusen, who passed recently following an extended illness. Bruce was the school's senior building automation systems manager for ISTB4 and was responsible for the daily operations of the building's complex system of offices, cleanrooms, and laboratories. Not only was he our "building whisperer," he was also a true friend. [Read our tribute to Bruce](#)

ASU faculty selected for AGU's national diversity, equity and inclusion leadership

Two ASU professors have been selected for the AGU's first cohort of

Academy Fellows for its LANDInG Academy: Drs. Christy Till (SESE) and Lekelia "Kiki" Jenkins (SFIS). The LANDInG (Leadership Academy and Network for Diversity and Inclusion in the Geosciences) Academy is a two-year professional



development program for current and aspiring diversity, equity and inclusion leaders in the Earth and space sciences. [Read more](#)



Virtual Night Sky

Join the ASU Marston Exploration Theater presenters on **Wednesday, January 12 and 26 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 [January 12](#) and [January 26](#).

New graduates: Join the ASU Alumni Association

As an ASU grad, you are an important and valued member of one of the strongest alumni networks in the country and around the world — half a million strong! As a recent grad taking the next steps in your personal and professional life, ASU is a powerful partner, each step of the way. Wherever you are, make the most of your career, family, activities and more. Join us on [LinkedIn](#), [update your contact information](#) and learn more about the [Alumni Association](#).

ASU School of Earth and
Space Exploration
Arizona State University



#1 in the U.S. for innovation

ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford
— U.S. News & World Report, 8 years, 2010–2021