



May 2022

Dear Friends,

This month's newsletter is dedicated to our Spring 2022 graduates! We are so proud of our graduating students who have persevered and attained this incredibly significant accomplishment in their lives. Please visit our [**Spring 2022 Graduates Webpage**](#) where we've posted student features, including one on our Dean's Medalist, Erin Alexander.

And while the semester has ended, our exploration and discoveries will continue! The highly anticipated first images from the [James Webb Space Telescope](#) are expected to debut this summer.



In addition, the launch of NASA's Psyche Mission is also slated for later this summer. Stay up to date and learn all about [Psyche on the NASA website](#) and [Psyche on the SESE website](#).

Plus, ShadowCam is a NASA-funded instrument hosted onboard the Korean Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLRO) and is also scheduled for a summer launch. Learn about the instrument and mission on the [ShadowCam SESE webpage](#).

I hope you will all take some time to relax and re-energize over the summer months, and I will look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus in the fall!

Be well and keep safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meenakshi Wadhwa".

Meenakshi (Mini) Wadhwa
Director of the School of Earth and Space Exploration

In the News



Spring 2022 Dean's Medalist

This spring, Erin Alexander will be graduating from ASU with a bachelor of science degree in earth and space exploration — geological sciences, a

minor in biochemistry and a certificate in field geology. She is also the School of Earth and Space Exploration Dean's Medalist for 2022. [Read more](#)

2 ASU professors appointed as first-ever Navrotsky Professors of Materials Research



Associate professors Candace Chan in the School for Engineering of Matter, Transport and Energy, and SESE's Dan (Sang-Heon) Shim have recently been appointed the first-ever Navrotsky Professors of Materials Research and selected for the professorship based on their significant contributions in the field of materials research. Through the Navrotsky Professorship of Materials Research, Chan and Shim will serve to build the field of solid state science and materials research at ASU. The funding they receive will also enable them to step into a leadership role, while encouraging materials research innovation and collaborations. [Read more](#)



A space mission that welcomes students onboard

The Psyche mission — a four-year journey to a metal-rich asteroid expected to launch in August and that

could provide clues into the formation of planets — is Arizona State University's first deep-space NASA mission. But from the moment the Psyche mission was awarded to her team in 2017, Principal Investigator Lindy Elkins-Tanton knew she wanted to make Psyche mission accessible to students throughout the country. Space exploration, she said, "is for everyone." [Read more](#)

NASA-supported sensor aims to improve weather data collection



Featured by the NASA Flight Opportunities Program, ASU researchers including SESE's Michael

Baricuatro, Sean Bryan, Drae Carter, Dan Bliss, Jonathan Greenfield, Chris Groppi, Phil Mauskopf, Kyle Massingill, Joe Tinlin, Scott Smas and Roshni Sureshare are evaluating a small, lightweight, efficient 3D imaging sensor designed for weather forecasting on consecutive balloon flights made possible by NASA's Flight Opportunities program. Called CubeSounder, the innovation could benefit future balloon flights and CubeSats by enabling state-of-the-art atmospheric sounding capabilities – a process in which sensors probe the sky vertically for details on temperature, moisture, and water vapor, revealing subtle changes in the Earth's atmosphere. [Read more](#)



Virtual Night Sky

Join the ASU Marston Exploration Theater presenters on **Wednesday, June 1, 15, and 29 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 [June 1](#), [June 15](#), and [June 29](#).

Alumni Announcements

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, 5 years, 2016–2021

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PO Box 876004 Tempe AZ 85287-6004, United States