



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Astronomy & Steward Observatory

June Newsletter



This artist's concept depicts a distant galaxy with an active quasar at its center. The "quasar winds" are propelling hundreds of solar masses of material outward into the galaxy disk each year. This affects the entire galaxy as the material snowplows into surrounding gas and dust. NASA, ESA and J. Olmsted (STScI)

[Learn more](#)

Cosmic blowtorches: How quasars shut down star formation in the early universe

In a [paper](#) published in Nature, a team led by Weizhe Liu and Xiaohui Fan at the University of Arizona's [Steward Observatory](#) reports the discovery of an unprecedented number of exceptionally fast and powerful galactic "winds" streaming from quasars a mere one billion years after the Big Bang (for comparison, the universe is currently 13.8 billion years old)..



C&EN:How the Giant Magellan Telescope got its mirrors

The powerful instrument promises to reveal the cosmos in greater detail than ever before. To accomplish this feat, engineers had to make the world's largest mirrors.

Only one place in the world is capable of building the large, lightweight mirrors for the GMT: the Richard F. Caris Mirror Laboratory at the University of Arizona. Peek behind the scenes to see how these giant mirrors were made.

[Learn more](#)



Walter Rahmer works in the CatSat conference room with a flame-scarred Wilbur plushie (who hitched a ride on launch hardware) keeping him company. Beside him, an art piece composed of images from the spacecraft sits next to the recognition it won.

[Learn more](#)

Inside CatSat, the U of A student-led satellite mission

When University of Arizona students designed, built and launched a nanosatellite the size of a large cereal box, they weren't just conducting science – they were learning to run a space mission.

Eight CubeSats built by educational and nonprofit organizations, including the U of A, launched in July 2023 from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California aboard a commercial rideshare rocket. While most of them have since gone dark, [CatSat](#) is still transmitting data and exceeding expectations.

Celebrating Outstanding Achievement



Congratulations to prof Yancy Shirley who was accepted into the Franke Honors Academy of Scholars for Teaching Excellence!!

[Learn more](#)

Class of 2026: The Next Generation of Discovery



Congratulations!

Suhani Surana

Suhani Surana graduated with B.S. degrees in Astronomy, Physics, and Computer Science, managing three majors alongside research she describes as a dream come true! During her time at Steward, Suhani probed spectroscopic binaries using the Habitable-Zone Planet Finder spectrograph, published her results in the Astronomical Journal, and presented her work at the AAS conference this winter! Suhani will be staying right here at the University of Arizona to pursue her PhD in Astronomy and Astrophysics!

Congratulations!

Kari Shearl

Kari Shearl graduated with her B.S. in Astronomy after following a love of the field that began in a freshman gen ed course! During her time at Steward, Kari spent a summer as a NASA Europa ICONS intern at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where she performed 2D fracture mechanics models to investigate the potential for habitability on Jupiter's moon Europa! Kari will be working for a year before going on to pursue a master's degree!



Congratulations!

Lauren Jones

Lauren Jones graduated with her degree in Astronomy and a minor in Physics, inspired by a love of the field that began with a Chris Impey book in high school! During her time at Steward, Lauren spent three years as a student worker at Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, sharing her passion for astronomy and science with the broader Tucson community! Lauren will continue her education at UArizona through the TeachArizona program, earning her master's in education with an emphasis in physics!



Congratulations!

Anna Brandigi

Anna Brandigi graduated with their B.S. in Astronomy and Physics after a lifelong passion for the cosmos that began with the discovery of TRAPPIST-1's planetary system in seventh grade! During their time at Steward, Anna worked on two research projects — studying hot exozodiacal dust in a binary star system as a NASA Space Grant Intern, and mapping dense gas tracers in the Taurus Molecular Cloud — and has recently been accepted into an Astronomy & Astrophysics Master's program!



[Learn more](#)



UA Astrophysics Professor Erika Hamden hosts AZPM Arizona Science

Arizona Science explores the latest research and technological innovations taking place in Southern Arizona and at the University of Arizona.

[Learn more](#)

Public Evening Lecture Series will return in the Fall

In the meantime, take the opportunity to catch up on any missed lectures!

[Previous Public Lecture Videos](#)

Friends of Steward Observatory

Your generosity helps us explore the cosmos

while inspiring those who will lead the next generation of discovery!

Steward Observatory: A Summer of Discovery Begins

June marks the arrival of summer—a season of longer days, brighter skies, and new opportunities for exploration. At Steward Observatory, it is also a time to celebrate achievement while looking ahead to the discoveries yet to come.

As our students embark on new journeys following graduation, research and innovation continue to thrive across our community. From the classroom to the observatory, the spirit of curiosity that drives astronomy remains stronger than ever.

Exploring New Horizons

Astronomy is built on exploration. Every observation, experiment, and research project begins with a simple question about the universe around us.

This year, our students and researchers have pushed the boundaries of knowledge, studying distant galaxies, investigating planetary systems, and developing new tools to unlock the secrets of the cosmos. Their accomplishments reflect the creativity, determination, and passion that define Steward Observatory.

Growing the Next Generation of Discoverers

Summer is a season of growth, and your support helps cultivate the next generation of scientists and explorers.

Through scholarships, research opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences, donors make it possible for students to gain the skills and experiences that prepare them for impactful careers. Your generosity helps transform curiosity into discovery and learning into leadership.

Looking Toward the Future

As we begin a new season, we are reminded that every discovery opens the door to another question, another opportunity, and another horizon to explore.

Thank you for being part of the Steward Observatory community. Your support fuels groundbreaking research, inspires future astronomers, and helps ensure that the next generation can continue reaching for the stars.

Together, we look forward to a summer filled with wonder, exploration, and discovery.

[.Learn more](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Additional Astronomy Giving Options](#)

Connect With Us!



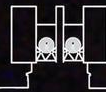
[Have a Friend Sign up For Our Monthly Astronomy Newsletter](#)

For more information or questions

Cathi Duncan | 520-621-1320 | cduncanf@arizona.edu

Steward Observatory

100 years of innovation and discovery



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

933 N. Cherry Ave. | Tucson, AZ 85721 US

emma®