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.

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.

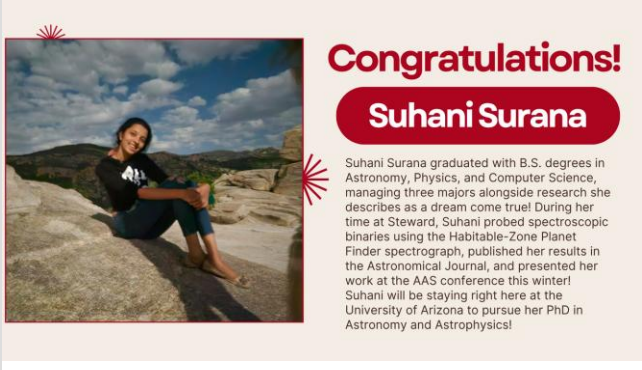
Learn more

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



Learn more

UA Astrophyisics 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**

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For more information or questions

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