THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

SPACE INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 10, 2026

GCRB Room 130

AGENDA

8:00 AM—8:30 AM **ATTENDEE CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:30 AM—9:20 AM **ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE & EXPLORATION AT UA**

- **Erika Hamden,** *Director, Arizona Space Institute*
- **Walt Harris,** *Chief Scientist, Arizona Space Institute*
- **Tom McMahon,** *Program Manager, Arizona Space Institute*

KEYNOTE

- **Gen. Tom Kunkel** (*USAF Ret), Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Kyl Institute for National Security*

9:20 AM—10:30 AM **MISSIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE & THE ARIZONA SPACE ECOSYSTEM**

- **Andrew Gardner**- *Software for Mission Operations at ASI*
- **Walter Rahmer**-*CatSat Space Craft & Mission Update*
- **Carlos Vargas**- *NASA's Aspera Mission Status Update*
- **Dani Dellaguistina**- *From Asteroids to the Moon: New Insights from OSIRIS-REx/APEX and Artemis Lunar Seismology*
- **Joseph Shields**- *New Science Opportunities at the Large Binocular Telescope*
- **Erica Corral**- *University of Arizona's Advancements in Thermal Protection Systems Materials for Aerospace and Defense*

10:30 AM—10:45 AM **BREAK**

10:45 AM—12:00 PM **ADVANCED INSTRUMENTATION, OPTICS & SENSING SYSTEMS**

- **Jarron Leisenring**- *CCD and CMOS Sensor Manufacturing at UA's Imaging Technology Lab*
- **Brock Parker**- *Read Noise Characterization and Optimization of Skipper CCDs Using Multiple Readout Electronics*
- **Brandon Chalifoux**- *Figuring Lightweight Freeform Mirrors with Ultrafast Laser-Generated Stress*
- **Xubin Zeng**- *SmallSat Snow Lidar with Onboard Quantum Computing*
- **Hao Xin**- *Luneburg Lens Enabled Active and Passive RF Sensors for Autonomous Space Domain Awareness*

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12:00 PM—1:00 PM **NETWORKING LUNCH | GCRB LOBBY**

1:15 PM-2:30 PM **MISSION SCIENCE & LUNAR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

- **Haeun Chung**- *MgnoLya: UV SmallSat Mission for Cultivating Our Understanding of the Galaxy-Halo Connection*
- **Sarah Sutton**- *EMission Imager for Lunar Infrared Analysis in 3D (EMILIA-3D), a Selected Payload for a Commercial Lunar Lander*
- **Pranav Nair**- *Surface Power Generation for Effective Sustainability on the Moon*
- **Victor Tenorio**- *Mine Planning and Production Performance for Icy Regolith Extraction from Selected Craters of the Shackleton de Gerlache Ridge*
- **Federico Pederson**- *Characterization of Sulfur - Regolith Composites in Lunar & Martian Construction*

2:30 PM—2:45 PM **BREAK**
Snacks & Refreshments in GCRB Lobby

2:45 PM-3:45 PM **APPLIED SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES & EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Jaclyn John**- *Channeled Infrared Polarimeter for Probing Ice Clouds*
- ***Arie Herrera***- *A Fuzzy Logic Approach to Determine a Crater Mining Sequence for Icy Regolith Extraction in the Lunar South Pole*
- **Julie Euber**- *Their Eyes on the Skies: What Kindergarten through High School Students Care about in Space*
- **Aaron Eden**- *From Biosphere II to Space Settlement: Building Arizona's Aerospace Workforce Pipeline*

3:45 PM—4:00 PM **CLOSURE & FINAL CONNECTIONS**

- **Walt Harris**