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UA Alum Receives 2022 Ronald Greeley Award for Distinguished Service

Houston, TX—November 1, 2022. Andy Shaner, a Senior Education Specialist with the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) in Houston, TX, is the recipient of the 2022 Ronald Greeley Award for Distinguished Service awarded by The Geological Society of America (GSA) Planetary Geology Division (PGD). Shaner was selected for this award for his years of dedicated service to the planetary community and engagement of the younger generation in the planetary sciences.

Shaner received an M.A. in Teaching and Teacher Education with a minor in Planetary Science from The University of Arizona. Programs managed by Shaner have served high school, undergraduate, and graduate students across the country. These programs envelop younger students in the processes of scientific research and have provided mentoring and networking experiences — especially within the realm of planetary geology.

“We are delighted that Andy is being recognized by the GSA for his extensive work engaging audiences in planetary science and research!” said Christine Shupla, Manager of Science Engagement at the LPI. “Andy has played a key role in LPI’s programs for over 13 years, from enabling students to conduct original research to organizing high-quality public lectures, professional development trainings, and public events.”



Shaner leads the highly successful [Exploration of the Moon and Asteroids by Secondary Students \(ExMASS\)](#) research program for high school students that immerses participants in the process of science, particularly lunar and asteroid science. Since 2010, 600 students from 30 states have participated in the ExMASS program and produced 41 student poster presentations given during NASA’s Exploration Science Forum (ESF). Of these, 11 have received awards or honorable mentions in the ESF Student Poster Competition held each year. Shaner is the principal investigator for [Planetary Resources and Content Heroes \(ReaCH\)](#) funded by NASA’s Science Activation program. The ReaCH project works with planetary scientists and informal

educators to assist them in providing diverse audiences with inclusive experiences in NASA's exploration of the solar system.

The award is named for Ronald Greeley, one of the founders of planetary science. The award is given to those "who have rendered exceptional service to the PGD for a multi-year period."

Presentation of the Ronald Greeley Award was held during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America on October 9–12, 2022, in Denver, CO.

For more information, visit <https://community.geosociety.org/pgd/awards/greeley>.

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About USRA

Founded in 1969, under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences at the request of the U.S. Government, the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) is a nonprofit corporation chartered to advance space-related science, technology, and engineering. USRA operates scientific institutes and facilities and conducts other major research and educational programs. USRA engages the university community and employs in-house scientific leadership, innovative research and development, and project management expertise. More information about USRA is available at www.usra.edu.

About LPI

The Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI), operated by Universities Space Research Association, was established during the Apollo program in 1968 to foster international collaboration and to serve as a repository for information gathered during the early years of the space program. Today, the LPI is an intellectual leader in lunar and planetary science. The Institute serves as a scientific forum attracting world-class visiting scientists, postdoctoral fellows, students, and resident experts; supports and serves the research community through newsletters, meetings, and other activities; collects and disseminates planetary data while facilitating the community's access to NASA science; and engages, excites, and educates the public about space science and invests in the development of future generations of explorers. The research carried out at the LPI supports NASA's efforts to explore the solar system. More information about LPI is available at www.lpi.usra.edu.