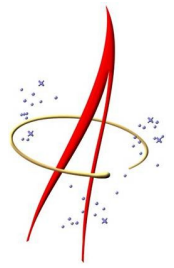


Mars Science Laboratory Mission: The Search for Methane and Carbonate on Mars - and the VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize

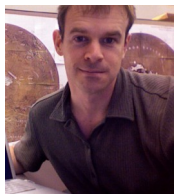


Dr. Adrian Brown, an Australian scientist working at NASA Ames, and Dr. Jennifer Heldmann, an alumni of the Ames Academy, are visiting Australia and have made time to discuss their work, the academy program, and how students can maximize their chances of winning the Space Prize.

The VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize gives an Australian university student the opportunity to participate in a 10 week NASA Academy Program and work on a current NASA project with leading scientists and engineers. The 2009 winner, Elizabeth Blaber will investigate "The Influence of Spaceflight Factors on Biological Function" under the direction of Dr. Eduardo Almeida.

The Prize is open to final year and honors students. Entries are sought in five categories: **Space Engineering; Geology and Planetary Geology; Biology and Human Physiology; Data Processing and Electronics; Space Physics and Astrophysics.** For more details visit www.vssec.vic.edu.au

Speakers



Dr. Adrian Brown is a research scientist at NASA Ames Research Center and the SETI Institute in Mountain View, CA. He is a graduate from the Australian Centre for Astrobiology at Macquarie University, where he worked on mapping hydrothermal systems in the 3.5 billion year old rocks of the Pilbara in Western Australia. Adrian is currently working on the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer (CRISM) on Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Dr Jennifer Heldmann is a research scientist at the NASA Ames Research Center. She obtained her PhD from University of Colorado, where she studied the nature of gully features on Mars. She is currently working on the Lunar CROSS Mission, which impacted the Moon on the 9th October 2009 in search of water in the Moon's poles. Jennifer is a graduate and former staff member of the NASA Ames Academy.



Dates and Venues

Brisbane: Wednesday 30th June (Dr. Brown only)

2.20-3.20pm

In association with SpaceFutures www.aerospacefutures.com.au

Rydges South Bank

Sydney: Thursday 1st July (Dr. Brown only)

1:00-2:00pm

UNSW, Biological Sciences Building, 1st floor, Biomed B Theatre

Adelaide: 5th July (Dr. Brown only)

8:00-9:00pm

RiAus, Science Exchange, Exchange Place, Adelaide

Canberra: 5th July (Dr. Heldmann only)

4:00-6:00pm

In association with Australian Earth Sciences Careers Night

Sir Harold Raggatt Theatre, Geoscience Australia, Cnr Jerrabomberra & Hindmarsh Drv.

Melbourne: 9th July (Dr. Brown & Dr. Heldmann)

6:30-7:30pm

In association with Australian Mars Exploration Conference www.marssociety.org.au

Victorian Space Science Education Centre

Email bookings@vssec.vic.edu.au to reserve a seat