

January 2015



Director's Message

Dear SESE Family,

This month we have lost our colleague Alberto Behar, who has been with SESE since 2009.

Alberto, who has been operating, designing, building, testing and deploying scientific instruments and robotics in extreme environments for more than 20 years, died January 9 when the plane he was flying crashed north of Los Angeles. He was 47.

Today much scientific exploration in extreme environments on Earth and in space is done using mobile robots. Alberto dedicated his career to better understanding Earth and beyond by developing instruments that allowed for exploration of regions too dangerous or inaccessible for human explorers.

Alberto once said that new innovations are a way of overcoming the limits on our ability to explore: "Technology is how we get our senses to a remote location where we can't actually go ourselves."

During the course of his career, Alberto has developed instruments and robotics that have reached deep in the ocean's hydrothermal vents, next to volcanoes, under thick ice sheets, in to the stratosphere and on to other planetary bodies. He participated in the exploration of Mars, serving as the Investigation Scientist for both the Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons instrument on the Curiosity rover and the High Energy Neutron Detector on the Mars Odyssey orbiter.

"From his submarines that peeked under Antarctica to his boats that raced Greenland's rivers, Alberto's work enabled measurements of things we'd never known," said Thomas Wagner, the Cryosphere Program

Scientist at NASA Headquarters. "His creativity knew few bounds."

Alberto was one of the first of a new breed of faculty to join the School of Earth and Space Exploration, according to Kip Hodges, founding director of the school. He was a researcher and educator who actively bridged the gap between science and engineering.

Alberto Behar was a uniquely talented engineer, developing ways to measure changes in our natural world in the most challenging environments – the ocean depths or the Antarctic ice cap. He shared with us both a brilliant mind and a big heart: his students were full partners in a grand adventure. His colleagues quickly came to know his caring nature and irrepressible good humor. We will all miss him tremendously.

Alberto is survived by his wife Mary, and their children Indra, Isis, and Athena.

In his memory, SESE and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are creating the Alberto Enrique Behar Research Professorship, and we will seek a like-minded scientific explorer to carry on the spirit of Alberto's work, and to help enforce and protect the spirit of exploration we value at ASU.

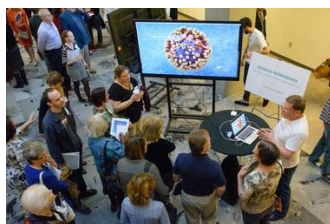
All my best for happy holidays and a wonderful 2015 --

Lindy

RESEARCH NEWS



In 1995, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope released an iconic image that changed people's perception of space. Appearing in movies, TV shows and on items from T-shirts to



More than 200 faculty members and college presidents discussed the future of science education and demonstrated groundbreaking technology that will power the Inspark Science Network, Jan. 16, on Arizona State University's Tempe campus. The Inspark Science Network was



For his scholarship in the area of shared water resources, ASU hydrologist Enrique Vivoni has been awarded a 2015 Leopold Leadership Fellowship. Vivoni, an associate professor in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration and the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, is one of

a postage stamp, the photo of the so-called "Pillars of Creation" offered a glimpse at what the origins of our own solar system's sun might have looked like. [Read more](#)

launched by ASU and Smart Sparrow to develop and share courses that will help students complete general science education courses. [Read more](#)

20 recipients selected for the prestigious North American fellowship program that focuses on communicating scientific research to a wide audience. [Read more](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Natalie Hinkel

ASU Alumnus - 2012 PhD in Astrophysics

Many scientists can recall the moment that inspired their interest in science. For Natalie Hinkel, that moment occurred around the age of 13. She fondly recalls a visit to Miami and her uncle setting up a small 3-4" telescope in the street, and says she was drawn to astrophysics the first time that she saw Saturn through that telescope.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS



SESE New Discoveries Lecture Series

On January 29, SESE Director Lindy Elkins-Tanton will kickoff the SESE New Discoveries series with a talk titled "Building Earth-like planets: From gas and dust to ocean worlds."

The SESE New Discoveries Lecture Series is designed to bring the exciting scientific work of SESE to the general public in a series of informative and up-to-date evening lectures. Each will be given by a member of the SESE faculty. The next lecture will be held on Thursday, February 26 and will be given by Professor Phil Christensen.

For more details, please visit: <http://sese.asu.edu/new-discoveries>



ASU Night of the Open Door invites public to explore more

Arizona State University's largest and most successful open-house event of the year, [Night of the Open Door](#), offers even more to explore this year. More than 100 activities will be hosted by the four ASU Night of the Open door events, from wielding a medieval sword to state-of-the-art video technology. Night of the Open Door at the Tempe campus will be held February 28 from 4-9 p.m. The event enables visitors to explore the Tempe, Polytechnic, Downtown Phoenix and West campuses, with multicultural performances and hands-on activities celebrating the sciences, culture, engineering, humanities, math, language and the arts at their fingertips.

To view our events calendar, click [here](#).



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