ABOUT
The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides annually more than 60 scholarships to the brightest and most talented college students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

HISTORY
More than 35 years ago, the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts formed the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation to pursue a powerful new mission – to use their experience and credibility to inspire student pursuit of advanced education and scientific endeavors to keep America on the leading edge of technology. Today, astronauts from the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs, along with top industry leaders, educational institutions and individuals, have joined the cause. Through their collective support, ASF awards merit-based scholarships to the most intellectually daring undergraduate junior and senior students who excel in STEM fields.

MISSION
To aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in technology and innovation by supporting the very best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while commemorating the legacy of America’s pioneering astronauts.

VISION
ASF seeks to inspire, encourage, and facilitate Astronaut Scholars to embody the highly respected astronaut characteristics, such as intelligence, ambition, self-motivation, high ethical standards, persistence, adaptability, and a passion for science, exploration, and innovation. This focus will aid in placing the best American scholars in positions that will positively change and influence society.
CLASS OF 2021
ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS
INNOVATORS OF TOMORROW

1. Maggie Nelson
   Auburn University
2. Lauren Davis
   Clemson University
3. Mason Weems
   Colorado School of Mines
4. Gabriela Blanchard
   Colorado School of Mines
5. Keri Eliaz
   Colorado State University
6. Grace Robertson
   Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
7. Brian Murphy
   Florida Institute of Technology
8. Brooke Hursh
   Florida Institute of Technology
9. Katie Greenhout
   Georgia Institute of Technology
10. Maxwell Kazman
    Georgia Institute of Technology
11. Kareh Pezeshki
    Harvey Mudd College
12. Chesney Chen
    Johns Hopkins University
13. Benjamin Thomas
    Louisiana State University
14. Rahul Gilman
    Louisiana State University
15. Lily Zhang
    Massachusetts Institute of Technology
16. Syamantak Payra
    Massachusetts Institute of Technology
17. Vaishnavi Phadnis
    Massachusetts Institute of Technology
18. Hope Kirby
    Miami University (Ohio)
19. Britain Steede
    Mississippi State University
20. Reese Dunne
    Mississippi State University
21. Mikayla Harris
    Morgan State University
22. Mariah Shahbodle
    North Carolina A&T State University
23. Noah Wolfe
    North Carolina State University
24. Kathleen Schmidt
    North Dakota State University
25. Mitchell Ticeras
    Ohio State University
26. Dwayne Chase
    Pennsylvania State University
27. Abigail Sipes
    Purdue University
28. John Petziger
    Purdue University
29. Joseph Kirchhoff
    Purdue University
30. Jamila Eatman
    Spelman College
31. Alex Metcalfe
    Syracuse University
32. Cosmas Kravaris
    Texas A&M University
33. Ryan Rehman
    Texas A&M University
34. Joy-Miguel Fontecilla
    Tufts University
35. Eva Damon
    United States Air Force Academy
36. Madison Marsh
    United States Air Force Academy
37. Roberto Peralta
    University of Arizona
38. Orion Ning
    University of California, Berkeley
39. Angela Shar
    University of Central Florida
40. Riley Havel
    University of Central Florida
41. Alexandra Masegian
    University of Chicago
42. Benjamin Kash
    University of Chicago
43. Spencer Hurt
    University of Colorado Boulder
44. Justin Kao
    University of Illinois
45. Jonah Stiel
    University of Kansas
46. Julian Moreno
    University of Kansas
47. Kaylil Bolton
    University of Kentucky
48. Jack Naylor
    University of Michigan
49. Nathon Pharris
    University of Minnesota
50. Sauvir Alaei
    University of Minnesota
51. Shane Flandermyer
    University of Oklahoma
52. Madison Lang
    University of Rochester
53. Leona Muthur
    University of Southern California
54. Teddy Hsieh
    University of Texas at Austin
55. Jacob Bushby
    University of Virginia
56. Carter Vo
    University of Washington
57. Gage Siebert
    University of Wisconsin
58. Lexi Loo
    University of Wisconsin
59. Terellia Cadd
    Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
60. Irene Antony
    Washington University in St. Louis
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD MESSAGE

Reflecting on 2021, I am proud of the continued progress, growth, and most of all, resilience of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. With the support of our donors, corporate partners, volunteers, astronaut network, and Astronaut Scholars, ASF delivered on our mission at its highest level. ASF facilitated inspiring and energizing programs and events to honor the legacy of our space program and fuel the next generation of space explorers and future innovators in all aspects of STEM.

During Innovators Week & Gala, the bright future of our country stood before us as a gathering of the most exceptional young minds preparing to enter into graduate level research and industry. In step with tradition, we brought our current Astronaut Scholar class together, but extended a special invitation to the 2020 Astronaut Scholars who missed this opportunity due to COVID, to join us as well. It was incredibly rewarding to spend this time with them learning about their research, future goals and talking through challenges and all that is ahead of them. The weekend culminated with the Innovators Gala, featuring the Neil Armstrong Award of Excellence presented to Astronaut Scholar Alum and NASA Astronaut Christina Koch.

Time with our scholars was the perfect lead-in to celebrating and honoring our three 2020 U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® Inductees back at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in the Apollo/Saturn V Center. The achievements of Michael Lopez-Alegria, Pamela Melroy, and Scott Kelly served as a great reminder of the path they paved for an exciting future in space exploration.

As we look to another successful year, we are grateful for everyone who extended their support to ASF. Every gift of time and treasure enables ASF to select additional scholars, deliver robust professional development programs and further our mission. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, I thank you for your commitment to honoring our legends and inspiring our future.

Thank you.

Curt Brown
ASF Chairman & Space Shuttle Astronaut

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

In the last quarter of 2021, the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation team gathered for our annual business planning session. Here we were at the end of a year that brought us unprecedented challenges, yet we celebrated a year of great accomplishments. We knew we were resilient and agile, but now what? With no definitive answers, it would have been easy to throw in a learning pandemic as an excuse for proceeding with caution and stopping the course, but we were our founders and Astronaut Scholars more than that – if we are the Foundation that recognizes the future innovators, we needed to model the right mindset to inspire them for 2021. At ASF, we are not short on exemplary leaders and heroes to lean on for a few words of wisdom or advice when facing a challenge. During our session, each staff member received a notebook with the words “Tough & Competent” on the cover – words spoken by Gene Kranz after the Apollo 1 fire.

With that, we launched into 2021 with a “Tough and competent” mindset. Collaborating with Astronaut Scholar alumni, board members, corporate partners, we rolled out a brand-new virtual event – Scientific Connections Conference, which showcased the incredible spectrum of STEM professionals in the ASF network. ASF introduced the Space Explorers Club, providing an intimate virtual gathering for space enthusiasts with astronauts. By June, ASF selected 60 Astronaut Scholars – the largest group of scholars to date. ASF returned to in-person events in August with a memorable Innovators Week & Gala, featuring the Neil Armstrong Award of Excellence, hosted in Orlando, Florida. These incredible few days were filled with energy and excitement, which was the perfect fuel for us to bring back the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® weekend in November. From the playful competence of the Cockpit Challenge, followed by the inspiring talks and discussions, to the sentimental and entertaining induction speeches, the weekend was filled with laughter and joy as our ASF family reunited to celebrate and honor the 2020 astronaut inductors: Michael Lopez-Alegria, Scott Kelly and Pamela Melroy. It was the perfect way to finish off an incredibly successful year.

In the pages that follow, you will have a deeper look at the triumphant year that was 2021. Our many programs continued to flourish, even the Astronaut Scholar Award Ceremonies resumed in-person. With all of this in motion, we were stopped in our tracks by a few moments of extreme generosity: Laura Shepard Churchley and Julie (Sheppard) Jenkins challenged friends, family and ASF supporters to raise money in honor of their father, Alan Shepard, on the 60th anniversary of his first flight; the gift of the Dallara Carbon Trust; and the $1 million grant from Blue Origin’s Club for the Future. While these gifts were unexpected, we take pride in the fact that we work to earn the trust and confidence of our supporters and donors. We are inspired by our founders’ legacy, and tested by our Astronaut Scholars. Thank you for your continued support and dedication and in turn, we are committed to forever remaining “tough” and “competent.”

With gratitude,

Cory Schumacher
ASF President & Chief Executive Officer

"From this day forward, Flight Control will be known by two words: ‘Tough’ and ‘Competent.’ Tough means we are forever accountable for what we do or what we fail to do. We will never again compromise our responsibilities. Every time we walk into Mission Control, we will know what we stand for. Competent means we will never take anything for granted.” – Gene Kranz
SUPPORTING ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS
Inspire the Next Generation

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation pumps valuable innovators into society that strengthen the United States’ position as a global technology leader. These inspired explorers continue the passion for progress forged by heroic astronauts from more than 30 years ago. Thank you for fueling this next generation.

PETER CREW / DONOR
“I hope my monthly donation to ASF is a donation for our future.”

MELVIN CROFT / DONOR
“After a career working as a geoscientist in industry, I can attest to the importance of having the “best” talent to tackle complex challenges. I’ve met many ASF scholars and have been truly impressed with their knowledge and drive to reach for the stars—in whatever endeavor they devote their lives to. I’m convinced that they will be among the “best” scientists and engineers our country has to offer! Every dollar donated to the ASF is an investment in our future!”

BARRY POWER / DONOR
“The Space Program has inspired me since the days of Gemini and Apollo, and I was lucky to have spent 24 years working on Space Shuttle missions. The ASF has provided me with the opportunity to join with fellow enthusiasts in supporting our country’s best scholars. I get my space fix and the ASF helps to fuel tomorrow’s advancements.”

GREG AND JAN ISAACSON / ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR PARENTS, DONORS
“Our son Scott had the good fortune of being selected as a 2010-2011 Astronaut Scholar. What a generous monetary award and mentorship the Foundation provides for young students aspiring to be the next generation of STEM leaders! We felt it fitting and the right thing to do to give something back. We’ve supported ASF and the Visionary Circle in the years since and are proud to be a part of the ongoing mission of this inspiring Foundation!”

RICK HAUCK / ASTRONAUT, DONOR
“There has never been a time more important for a country to focus on developing its expertise in the STEM fields. Every global challenge has a solution grounded in these fields. Astronaut Scholars have played, and will continue to play a significant role in maintaining U.S. leadership in these critical disciplines.”
LAURA SHEPARD-CHURCHLEY & JULIE JENKINS / CHAIRMAN-BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DONORS

“It’s been a long way, but we’re here.” These were Alan Shepard’s words when planting his feet on the lunar surface. In so many ways, they rang true for all that came with 2021. A year with the hope of coming out of a global pandemic and resuming our lives and a year filled with commemoration for Shepard’s milestones in the history of space exploration. 2021 marked the 60th anniversary of Shepard’s first flight—a historical milestone as he was the first American to travel into space. It was also the 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 14 mission, where he was the fifth person to walk on the moon AND the first to play golf on the moon! As we arrived “here,” Alan’s daughters, Laura, and Julie, decided the best way to honor their father was to raise funds for the mission of ASF, which was very important to him.

A letter and challenge were sent out, “In the spirit of academic achievement that the Foundation strives to encourage and recognize, we invite you to consider a simple Apollo 14 legacy math equation. Let’s start by adding all of the time spent training over three years — 1,095 days — and 10 round trip days to the moon and back. Then we will credit 34 hours for Stu Roosa circling the Moon, plus 33 hours that Daddy and Ed Mitchell spent on the lunar surface. Finally, we will round it up with 14 days spent in quarantine when they returned from their historic mission. Okay, let’s do the math — a total of 1,186. Now, let that number inspire you to factor in a multiplier of your choice.”

The challenge was a success and raised more than $33,000 for ASF and in honor of our Founder and past Chairman, Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Thank you, Laura, and Julie, for igniting such a fun and beneficial campaign!
Thank you to all ASF partners for their continued support!

Northrop Grumman has been a partner of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation for more than a decade. Their sponsorship of the Astronaut Scholarship and involvement in the workforce development of young scholars has helped some of our nation’s top talent reach careers that are shaping the world we live in.

“We are delighted to support the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation in making a difference in the lives of students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We’ve supported the Colorado School of Mines Astronaut Scholarship for some time now and we are pleased to add Kent State University to the mix this year. It is an honor to help students achieve their dreams. Northrop Grumman’s financial support ASF provides to these young students while maintaining a mentoring program that continues to support the scholars throughout their lives.”

-Doug Helseth, Senior Director of Business Development at Northrop Grumman, Colonel U.S. Marine Corps, Ret., NASA Astronaut

Transplanted Lodge 2000 was created when Brother (Dwight Empee) Blais Audet moved Transplanted Fraternity or the “Sea of Tranquility” on the Moon in 1969. He carried with him a Special Deputation of the 3rd Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas constituting and appointing Brother Allen as Special Deputy of the Grand Master of the Most Worshippful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and giving him full power in the premises to represent the Grand Master as such, authorizing him to claim the Masonic Jurisdiction there for, the Grand Lodge of Texas. Brother Allen was directed to make due return of all acts, and he certified that the Special Deputation was carried by him to the Moon on July 28, 1969. In order to commemorate this historic event and to further solidify and establish Texas Freemasonry on the Moon, a charter was issued to a new Lodge to be known as Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, whose purpose is that of promoting, encouraging, conducting, and fostering the principles of Freemasonry and to aid in promoting the health, welfare, education, and protection of all children worldwide.

To that purpose, we provide a fraternal bond to Masonic organizations and other worthy Organizations who help make life better for all living on Earth.

We believe that the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is the perfect fit for our purpose and that is why it is important to support these exceptional students.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation was one of 19 charitable organizations selected to receive a $1 million grant from Blue Origin’s Club for the Future to support the best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A gift of this magnitude will help fund the next generation of scientists and astronauts as ASF seeks to inspire and encourage the best and brightest minds.

Founded by Blue Origin in 2019, Clubs for the Future is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM and to help invest the future of life in space. The Club and its collaborations are doing this through their program Pioneers to Space, space-focused curriculum, and access to space on Blue Origin’s rockets.

“We were very excited that the winning bid in our recent auction has allowed us to donate $1 million to our foundation, Club for the Future,” said Bob Smith, Blue Origin CEO. “We have thoughtfully chosen these 19 non-profit organizations to help Club for the Future propel its mission to invest the future of life in space through an inspired generation of future space explorers. We look forward to seeing the impact that can be achieved by partnering with each to represent their core values for education, diversity, and exploration.”

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Leadership


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ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS Paving The Future

ASTRONAUT Scholars create their own legacy — influencing change and impacting society through research, studies and work in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

TERELLE CADD, 2021 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

Terelle Cadd, a 2021 Astronaut Scholar, recently graduated with his bachelors degree in aerospace engineering and was selected as the Outstanding Senior for the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. Terelle took a non-traditional path to engineering by transferring into the university’s program from a local community college in 2019. Since then, he has taken advantage of numerous undergraduate research opportunities both on campus, and off. Notably, Terelle has made meaningful contributions to several disaster relief and exploration projects at the NASA Langley Research Center where he was selected as the Team Lead for a group of multi-disciplinary engineers. As part of NASA’s mission, his team was tasked with designing a rover capable of flying, driving, and operating autonomously within GPS denied environments as well as upgrading the equipment of would-be first responders using NASA technology where applicable, and developing new technologies if needed. In the fall of 2022, Terelle will begin pursuing a doctoral degree in aerospace engineering where he will focus his research on robotics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning for space and commercial applications. “Being part of this community has been life changing. No matter what challenges you face, there is always someone here willing to help, and, to me, that is invaluable,” said Terelle. “I am immensely grateful for the support and mentorship that the ASF has provided which has truly refined what I thought was possible. My hope is to put it forward for years to come and carry out ASF’s legacy by becoming the person that each member of this amazing community has been to me — a leader that brings the best out of others and inspires them to get active, dream big, and achieve the unthinkable.”

ALLIE FOLICK, 2016 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

Allie Folick was named an Astronaut Scholar in 2016 while completing her B.S. in Biochemistry at Florida Institute of Technology. She went on to complete her Ph.D. in Toxicology at Iowa AMU University in 2021. Her doctoral work focused on using high energy electron beam (HEEB) irradiation technology to treat locusts produced by harmful aflatoxins in drinking water. During her graduate studies, Allie also worked as an environmental consulting intern where she contributed to ecological risk assessment criteria for PFAS substances and other emerging contaminants of concern. Allie recently joined as a toxicologist at Exporex where she specializes in ecological and environmental risk assessment and toxicology. Allie also has a passion for science communication, outreach, and breaking “scientific stereotypes.” While in graduate school, she started the blog, “The Pretty PhD Blog” which prioritizes science communication with clarity and Southern content topics with the hopes of showing women that being a scholar and having other passions (such as fashion) are not mutually exclusive.

JOSH MURDOCK, 2013 & 2014 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

“When I received my scholarship in 2013, I didn’t know how my research with gold nanoparticles & magnetic biosensors for detecting disease had anything to do with astronauts or aerospace. As I continued to develop as a scientist & engineer, I finally saw it come together in 2016. My senior design engineering team was tasked with designing a microscope research device capable of being launched to the ISS. It was then I saw how years of interdisciplinary STEM training in materials & instrumentation had prepared me to help advance our understanding of space. Last summer I successfully defended my Ph.D. thesis at MIT and started a career in Healthcare Strategy Consulting in Washington D.C. Focused on supporting the development of the next generation of products & services for healthcare companies, ASF’s support gave me the momentum to succeed in the engineering & scientific training that led to me where I am. I am driving the growth of biotechnologies changing the practice of medicine & lives of patients every day.”

FIONA THUIGI, 2008 ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

Fiona Thuigi has worked at Johnson Space Center for almost ten years and was just named the 105th Flight Director in 2021. She’s worked in many key functions during her time with NASA, notably on the Gateway vehicle. “Gateway is a spacecraft that will orbit the moon, and basically be a staging point for crew to meet and go down to the surface of the moon. It’s also the vehicle where you will be able to see the lunar surface. It also gives you a platform to do science year-round on lunar orbit.”

Our commitment to supporting our brightest STEM achievers ensures we have a generation inspired to rise above current adversity and fueled to make trailblazing discoveries. This commitment offers us all promise and hope for a brighter future.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS Innovators of Tomorrow

2021 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

2021 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

60
26 FEMALE / 34 MALE

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL SCHOLARS (1996-2021) 677
TOTAL BACHELOR DEGREES 847
TOTAL MASTER DEGREES 254
TOTAL PHD DEGREES 265
TOTAL TECHNICAL PAPERS 2,378
TOTAL PATENTS 126
ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2021 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Auburn University* Clemson University Colorado School of Mines* Colorado State University* Emory-Hedrix Aeronautical University Florida Institute of Technology* George Washington University Harvey Mudd College Johns Hopkins University Louisiana State University* Massachusetts Institute of Technology* Miami University (Ohio) Mississippi State University* Morgan State University* North Carolina A&T State University* North Carolina State University* North Dakota State University* Ohio State University Pennsylvania State University Pennsylvania State University* Penn State University* Smeal College Syracuse University Texas A&M University* Tufts University United States Air Force Academy University of Arizona University of California, Berkeley University of Central Florida* University of Chicago* University of Colorado Boulder University of Illinois* University of Kansas* University of Kentucky University of Michigan University of Minnesota* University of Oklahoma University of Pennsylvania University of Southern California University of Texas at Austin University of Virginia University of Washington University of Wisconsin-Madison Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Washington University on St. Louis

The Astronaut Scholarship is merit-based and awarded to college juniors and seniors majoring in a STEM field. The scholarship candidates are nominated by faculty in their department to a university-wide committee. The university committees select their top candidates and submit them to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) Scholarship Selection Committee. The ASF Scholarship Selection Committee selects the top candidates from each school and presents the final slate to the ASF Board of Directors for approval. This rigorous selection process ensures Astronaut Scholars are dedicated to the lifelong pursuit of discovery and innovation and are well-equipped to realize the Foundation’s mission and fulfill their professional calling.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS FOR THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

Citi | Citi Securities
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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- Auburn University
- Emory-Hedrix Aeronautical University
- George Washington University
- Space Institute
- Arizona State University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Georgia Institute of Technology
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- University of Central Florida
- University of North Carolina
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The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is proud to welcome Utah State University to our partner university family, co-sponsored by Northrop Grumman and Utah State University Alumni and Astronaut, Mary Cleave (ST5-618, ST5-30): “My exposure to excellent research opportunities while a graduate student at Utah State University had such a positive impact on my career, it is great that this scholarship will open that opportunity to some gifted undergraduate students.”

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA – SCHOLAR AWARD CEREMONY

Thank you to ASF supporter Dan Cavanaugh and Astronaut Fred Gregory for celebrating the achievements of Roberto Peralta, 2021 Astronaut Scholar, at the University of Arizona during the ASF Scholar Award ceremony. This year marked 10 years that the University of Arizona has been a partnering university. The event was co-sponsored by Dan who wanted to bring this event to Arizona... “It’s always a pleasure to work with ASF, and the scholarship program gives me the opportunity to interface with some of the finest young minds in the country.”

In an effort to raise awareness to the business community, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council co-sponsored the event and invited many of the area’s business leaders to come out and meet the impressive ASF Astronaut Scholar.
MENTOR PROGRAM

Astronaut Scholars connect with leading executives for one-on-one mentoring to help guide the Scholars’ transition into the post-graduate professional world. Executives share career advice and valuable knowledge that help scholars build networks and develop skills to become strong professionals and leaders.

BRITAIN STEELE AND ASTRONAUT BREWSTER SHAW

“When I received my acceptance from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF), I was most excited about it because I wanted to join a worldwide community that loves STEM as much as I do. I have met astronauts, test pilots, entrepreneurs, and scientists I aspire to be like, one of these individuals being my ASF mentor Brewster Shaw. He has opened my eyes to what it takes to become an astronaut, and he has done nothing but support and advocate for me. His encouragement has meant a lot to me as I am the first in my family to pursue a STEM career. I had always dreamt of being an astronaut since I was a little kid, and to now have the chance to learn from an astronaut has been remarkable. Anybody can look up eligibility requirements to become an astronaut, but there are certain intangibles that you simply cannot search on the internet for. I have learned most from Brewster’s common mindset and characteristics of selected astronauts; his advice and encouragement will hold prevalence for the rest of my life as I pursue this career path.

Because of the Astronaut Scholarship, I can pursue my private pilot’s license as it has always been a dream of mine to fly. My dream as a kid was that I wanted to be Superman. However, as an adult, I found the next best thing: to explore the world as a test pilot and explore the worlds beyond ours as an astronaut.

The Astronaut Scholarship is more than a scholarship. It is an invitation to a life-long community that helps encourage and provide the means for students to pursue their dreams in STEM. Thank you ASF for helping me pursue my dreams of flight and adventure.”

KATIE GROENHOUT
2021 Astronaut Scholar
Georgia Institute of Technology

KATIE GROENHOUT AND SCHOLAR ALUM, ADERO PAIGE

“A德ro has been a great influence on my life over the last few months. Having gone through many of the things I am going through now himself, A德ro is a source of knowledge and calm as I make big decisions about my future. As a graduating senior looking to pursue a Ph.D., he has been mostly helping me with the graduate school admission process. From choosing programs to apply to, mock interviews, helping with personal statements, and talking through my options, A德ro has been flexible in providing me support where I need it in any way he can. Since meeting A德ro, I can say that I’ve gained confidence in the choices I’ve made and have improved the way I think through difficult decisions. I am looking forward to continuing to work with him over the next few months.”

ADERO PAIGE
2004 Astronaut Scholar
North Carolina A&T State University
INNOVATORS WEEK & GALA

2021 saw the recurrence of in-person events for the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF), beginning with the Innovators Week & Gala last August held in Orlando, Florida. Fifty Astronaut Scholars traveled from different parts of the country to join together for a weeklong gathering of some of the brightest young minds in STEM, ASF’s Vice Chair, Lisa Schott, kicked off the week with a welcome reception which was interrupted by an invasion of imperial dumplings straight out of the world of Star Wars, revealing to the students that their next day’s tour would be held at Walt Disney World. Once on property, the Disney Imagineers wowed our current class of Astronaut Scholars with a special in-depth tour that dove into the technology and innovation designs that drove Disney experiences. The “magic” continued on the group attended professional development sessions and networking receptions, and even an official “Talegate” party where they were able to don their school gear while mingling and mingling with one another, making lifelong friendships with their fellow Astronaut Scholars. Those who were unable to attend the events were able to join us for the Astronaut Scholars Technical Conference where in-person met virtual, and all were able to formally present their research in a scholarly setting. This celebration of all things scholar culminated with a formal gala, now keynote speaker, former NASA Flight Director Gary Griffin delivered a powerful, unpatriotic speech, and where each Astronaut Scholar was invited on stage to personally accept their Astronaut Scholarship from ASF Chairman, Astronaut Curt Brown. This celebration of ASF’s mission created for each participant a network of future opportunities and exquisite friendships, solidifying their place in our ASF family.

MICHAEL COLLINS FAMILY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In October of 2021, ASF received a significant boost to the Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program with a global CALL. A call to this scope helps ASF to continue transforming the astronaut experience of kids through the Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program. Thanks to this gift, ASF will be providing more opportunities for Astronaut Scholars to participate in professional development with industry leaders and offer for the first time Alumni Week in 2022.

In 2021, we hosted professional development sessions on mental fitness and creative thinking during Innovators Week. Astronaut Scholars participated in an in-depth tour of Walt Disney World with Disney Imagineers to learn the technical and innovative side of the magical experiences produced at this first-class destination. Astronaut Scholars are given the opportunity to present research, entrepreneurial ventures, and current progress in their industry through the Astronaut Scholar Technical Conference, American Dreams Makers Showcase, and the Student Connections Conference. This year will host even more professional development opportunities for our scholars – made possible through this generous support.

U.S. ASTRONAUT HALL OF FAME® INDUCTION WEEKEND FEATURING SPACE REUDEZVOUS

After their initial selection in 2020, Astronauts Michael Lopez-Alegria, Pamela Melroy and Scott Kelly were inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® (AHoF) on November 13, 2021. The accomplishments of these individuals were celebrated with a formal Induction Ceremony and Gala hosted at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. This year, AHoF Weekend was paired with ASF’s renowned Space rendezvous event. Space rendezvous brought space enthusiasts and astronauts together for panel discussions, astronaut talks, a wine tasting with Caldwell Vineyards, and even the Astronaut Cocktail Challenge – a mixology competition held at Zanella’s Italian and Woodfire Pizza.

NEIL ARMSTRONG™ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Our 2020 recipient of the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence was 2000 & 2001 North Carolina State University Astronaut Scholar and NASA Astronaut Christina Koch. Due to the pandemic there was no in-person Innovators Gala and subsequently no award selection for 2021; therefore, Christina was honored at our 2021 Innovators Gala. Due to NASA constraints, our Astronaut Scholar Astronaut was unable to attend so Astronaut Scholar Alan and JSC Flight Director, Flana Flanet, accepted the honor for Christina virtually from Houston, Texas. Congratulations to Christina Koch on this outstanding award and many thanks to Fiona for her exemplary acceptance speech!
LIVE CHAT WITH AN ASTRONAUT

The Live Chat with an Astronaut series, which began in the spring of 2021, hosted two Live Chats over the summer of 2021. Our featured astronauts were Wendy Lawrence and Alysia Dvorak. With the Live Chat sessions, we hope to inspire the next generation of STEM.

SCIENTIFIC CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

2021 was the inaugural year for our first virtual STEM Conference where Astronaut Scholars were connected directly with prominent industry speakers. Everyone listened to talks about innovative research and groundbreaking discoveries during the two-day event by an outstanding group of VIP guest lecturers. The all-star lineup included twenty-five Astronaut Scholars (current and alumni), ten industry leaders, and even a Nobel Prize Laureate. A huge thank you to our presenting sponsors, Ann & Gordon Brown.

A special thank you to our sponsors.

Ann & Gordon Brown
Booz Allen Hamilton

AMERICAN DREAM MAKERS SHOWCASE

What many people do not know about ASF is we have Astronaut Scholar ENTREPRENEURS! Our American Dream Makers program is meeting and chatting up our Astronaut Scholar alumni group of business minded professionals who are growing each year. In 2021, we hosted a panel showcasing eight of these superstars who spoke about their research and ideas, answering questions about their proposed business plans as well as making connections to help further their ideas.

SPACE SIPS

Space Sips is a virtual wine tasting hosted as a collaboration with long-time ASF Corporate Partner, Caldwell Vineyard. This virtual tasting allows guests the opportunity to sip Caldwell Vineyard’s Rocket Science Red Wine from the comfort of their homes while interacting in an intimate setting with a featured astronaut and the Caldwell team regaling them with incredible stories about both space and the wine business. In 2021, our featured Space Sips astronauts were Steve Smith and Winston Scott.

Carol Fitzgerald Tyler & John Tyler

alcami

KBI Biopharma

Rice University

Shut-Eye

Fareva

Sandia National Laboratories

Notable

Quality CMC Consulting

Sternberg

Cambrex

Katch
A positive experience coming from the pandemic was the start of the new Space Explorers Club. Members of this club receive signed memorabilia and engage in monthly virtual presentations with some of the legendary leaders in aerospace. Apollo Astronaut, Fred Haise, kicked off the 2021 membership program discussing the Enterprise Test mission. Other featured astronaut speakers included: Michael Coats, Eileen Collins, Sandy Magnus, and Jerry Ross. They enthralled participants with stories from their past missions as well as discussion about the current space program. Even Laura Shepard-Churchley popped in for a quick visit after her space flight on Blue Origin. To learn more about becoming a member, visit our website; membership is limited.

“The Explorers Club is a unique opportunity to support the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation’s mission. In a small format, you are able to connect with inspirational leaders and explorers. It is a wonderful experience to enhance your personal passions of space exploration while knowing at the same time you are helping future STEM opportunities through supporting ASF.” – Matt, SEC member

“Nowhere else on Earth can you connect personally with so many astronauts, spaceflight experts, and space fans! The Explorers Club is as unique an experience as you will find anywhere.” – Chris, SEC member

**DISCOVER**
How You Can Get Involved

- DONATE
- ATTEND OR SPONSOR AN EVENT
- BECOME A MENTOR
- SPONSOR AN ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

- CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
- JOIN OUR VISIONARY CIRCLE
- BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MERCURY 7 SOCIETY
- VOLUNTEER

**SCHOLARS GIVE BACK**

Astronaut Scholar Alumni Cole Kazenbeek and Amanda Matheson took the lead in challenging their peers to further engage in the Foundation. Both Cole and Amanda became more involved just a couple years after initially receiving the Astronaut Scholarship. They have shown their support through attending events, participating in committees, and donating annually to the Scholars Give Back Campaign, a scholar-organized giving campaign to support the next generation of Astronaut Scholars.
ABOUT THE COVER:
Allie Folcik, 2016 Astronaut Scholar from Florida Institute of Technology and Astronaut Alan Shepard
Symbolizes the inspiration and fuel that our founders and astronaut supporters contribute as Astronaut Scholars discover the future.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
CREATED BY THE MERCURY 7 ASTRONAUTS

www.astronautscholarship.org

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