

# Bridging the Lunar Generational Gap: NextGen and LEAG

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# What is NextGen?

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Next Generation Lunar Scientists and Engineers  
(NGLSE or NextGen)

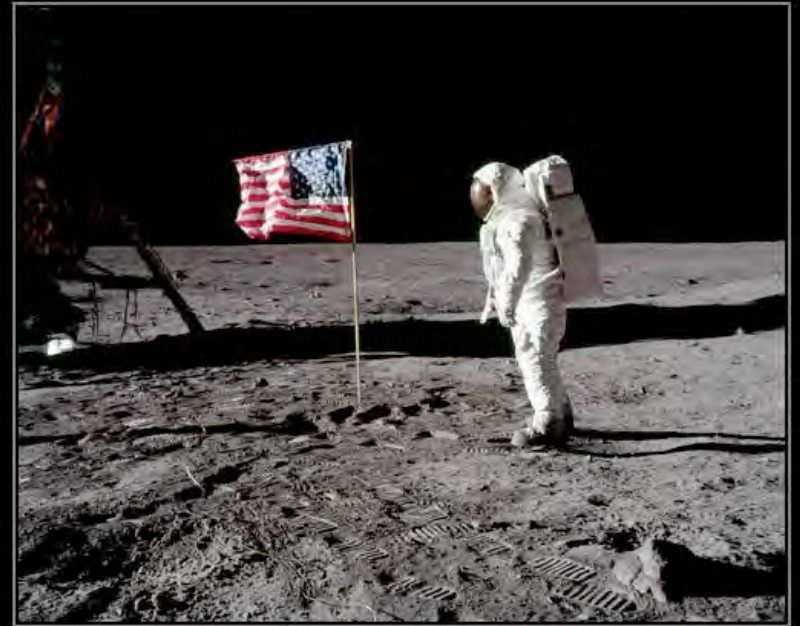
*(n.) Assemblage of graduate students, post-docs, and early career scientists who have a passion and vision for lunar science and exploration and who are the future lunar workforce for NASA, academia, and industry.*



# Purpose of NextGen

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- Provide guidance and networking opportunities to early career lunar students and professionals
- Foster collaboration with other groups within the lunar community.



THE MOON LANDING

QUESTION IT AND BUZZ ALDRIN IS LEGALLY  
ALLOWED TO PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE



# Background of NextGen

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- Founded informally in 2008 (Bleacher et al., 2011)
- Significant growth in recent years
- Meets in conjunction with meetings such as LPSC and SSERVI Forums (and now LEAG!)



# Why NextGen?

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- We are the future lunar science workforce
- Bridge the gap between our generation and the Apollo generation
- New perspectives; new innovative solutions
- Preparation in training and leading the next generation
- Experience with the integration of science and engineering
- Advocacy
- Passion, drive, and vision



# Current Activities

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- Professional Development Workshops
  - Central part of the NGLSE community
- Community Building
  - Bringing scientists and engineers together for a common cause
  - Establishing connections with engineers at Boeing
- Advocacy



(Bleacher et al., 2011)



(Petro et al., 2012)



# NextGen and LEAG

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*Establishing interaction and fusion between LEAG and NextGen is crucial in bridging generational knowledge and experience gaps, and for preparing the NextGen to lead and train future generations*





# NextGen and LEAG: Conferences and Workshops

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- Central part of the NextGen community
- Grounds for networking and sharing the latest in lunar science research
- Interactions between NextGen and LEAG at conferences will enable collaborations and discussion regarding ongoing lunar science projects and missions.
- The NGLSE needs LEAG to intentionally work towards fostering early career professionals, and involvement in workshops is one way that this need can be met.



Lunar and Planetary <sup>46<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Science Conference

March 16–20, 2015  
The Woodlands, Texas  
#LPSC2015



# NextGen and LEAG: Community Building

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- Informal gatherings
  - social hours, dinners, informal gatherings for discussion
- Example: LPSC 2015 “Happy Hour”
  - Happening again at LPSC 2016!

Wednesday evening:

Frisco Tap House,  
immediately after poster  
session



# NextGen and LEAG: Advocacy

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- Join together to reach out to our Congressional representatives
- Show that all ages of lunar scientists and engineers are passionate about continued lunar science and exploration.



# Conclusions

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- NextGen aims to work alongside LEAG to keep the Moon at the forefront of discussion for future human and robotic exploration
- Connections between early and late-career scientists and engineers will ensure that we benefit from the knowledge of the previous generation.

