

**LUNGRADCON: LUNAR AND SMALL BODIES GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE 2013, CALL FOR PARTICIPATION.** H. A. Fuqua,<sup>1</sup> J. Szalay,<sup>2</sup> K. L. Donaldson Hanna,<sup>3</sup> and P. H. Donohue.<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>University of California at Berkeley, Space Sciences Lab, 7 Gauss Way Berkeley, CA 94703, heidi.fuqua@ssl.berkeley.edu, <sup>2</sup>University of Colorado Boulder, <sup>3</sup>Brown University, <sup>4</sup>University of Notre Dame.

**Introduction:** For the past three years, the Lunar Graduate Conference (*LunGradCon*), has gathered together graduate students and early career post-doctoral researchers for professional development presenting and discussing scientific research in a peer-only environment. Initiated in 2010 by A. Dove and A. Poppe at the University of Colorado [1], the planners modeled *LunGradCon* after the highly successful model of the Astrobiology Graduate Conference (*AbGradCon*) where all aspects of the conference are student-run and facilitated. Thus, *LunGradCon* is for students, by students, providing learning experiences at all levels of planning, preparation, and participation. *LunGradCon* has been generously supported by the NASA Lunar Science Institute.

New this year, *LunGradCon* extends its scope to include small planetary bodies such as Phobos, Deimos, and near Earth asteroids. Now the “Lunar and Small Bodies Graduate Student Conference”, *LunGradCon* 2013 will continue this successful tradition providing a 1.5 day professional development conference held in conjunction with the NASA Lunar Science Forum and the Next Generation Lunar Scientists and Engineers (NGLSE) Workshop at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) in July.

Activities include invited professional development presentations, overview talks providing background within the main research areas of the NASA research institute for science and exploration, original research presentations by participants, discussion on current research, as well as tours of NASA Ames facilities and networking opportunities. Participants provide constructive feedback to each speaker on specific ways to improve their presentation techniques. Feedback on the conference itself continues to provide the planning committee with ways to improve the meeting [2].

*LunGradCon* invests in the future of young scientists by fostering collaboration, building cross-disciplinary communication, and developing leadership skills not provided elsewhere in academic programs. Moreover, *LunGradCon* is having a positive impact on the future of planetary science as it builds a network of strong, young lunar and small body scientists.

We present a summary of the effective aspects of the past *LunGradCons* and solicit participation from graduate students and early career post-doctoral researchers for *LunGradCon* 2013.



**Figure 1. 2012 *LunGradCon* participants in front of Hangar 1 at NASA Ames Research Center.**

**References:** [1] Dove, A., Poppe, A., Neish, C., Fagan, A., Fuqua, H., Kramer, G. Y., Horanyi, M. (2011), *LunGradCon: The Lunar Graduate Conference*, Abstract ED43D-06 presented at 2011 Fall Meeting, AGU, San Francisco, Calif., 5-9 Dec. [2] Dove A., Poppe A., Fagan A. L., Neish C., Fuqua H., Kramer G., Szalay J., and Horanyi M. (2012), *LunGradCon: The Lunar Graduate Student Conference*, Abstract #2713 presented at 2012 LPSC, Houston, Texas, 20 March.

**Additional Information:** Please visit our website, <http://lasp.colorado.edu/ccldas/lgc2013/>, for more information or contact us at [lungradcon@gmail.com](mailto:lungradcon@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Abstract deadline is May 31, 2013. Registration will be open from March 15 – June 15. Limited amount of travel funding is available on a first come basis.