

10 FACTS ABOUT LPL

1. The Department of Planetary Sciences/Lunar and Planetary Laboratory is an academic institution that pursues scholarly research and education across the broad discipline of planetary and solar systems science through use of theoretical studies and data analysis, laboratory and field investigations, numerical modeling, telescopic observations, remote sensing, spacecraft instrumentation, and space mission development and operations.
2. PtyS/LPL is a community of approximately 250 faculty, research and staff scientists, graduate and undergraduate students, research associates, and support staff.
3. The PtyS faculty includes three members (1 is Emeritus) of the National Academy of Sciences, six University Regents' Professors (2 are Emeritus), and a University Distinguished Professor (Emeritus).
4. The Department of Planetary Sciences graduates approximately 4 Ph.D. students per year.
5. External funding from all sources exceeds \$18M per year.
6. Faculty have served as either principal or co- investigators on many spacecraft instruments and missions. PtyS/LPL successfully led and managed surface operations for the PHOENIX Mars mission, becoming the first and so far only university organization to manage a planetary mission. In May 2011, LPL was selected by NASA to lead the OSIRIS-REx mission to 1999 RQ36. PtyS/LPL faculty are deeply involved in Cassini, MESSENGER, LRO, Juno, MRO, WISE, and Odyssey.
7. LPL's Space Watch and Catalina Sky Survey programs have discovered most of the near-Earth asteroids found in the past three years.
8. Approximately 80% of PtyS graduates are still active in the field of solar system sciences or astronomy.
9. In a given academic year, about 30% of PtyS graduate students are funded with fellowships awarded in national competitions; 5 students were awarded College of Science Galileo Circle Scholarships in 2011.
10. According to recent (May 2011) Thomson Reuters data, the UA (primarily LPL) is the top ranked research university for planetary exploration with regard to publications and citations in the scientific literature.



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