

Amanda M. Alexander

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER · SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Education

University of Colorado at Boulder

PH.D. IN GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE

- Adviser: Dr. Stephen Mojzsis
- Focus: planetary geology, impact cratering physics, geomorphology, geochemistry, planetary formation

Boulder, Colorado

Expected May 2024

University of Colorado at Boulder

B.A. IN ASTROPHYSICAL AND PLANETARY SCIENCE

- magna cum laude
- geology minor

Boulder, Colorado

Received Dec. 2018

Research Projects

Southwest Research Institute

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Use of iSALE numerical hydrocode in planetary collisions
- Adviser: Dr. Simone Marchi

Boulder, Colorado

May 2019-Present

Southwest Research Institute

STUDENT SCIENTIST

- Rb-Sr Investigation of Sudbury Impact Structure via Thunderbay and Gunflint Lapilli
- Advisers: Drs. Scott Anderson, Tom Whitaker

Boulder, Colorado

Jan. 2019-Aug. 2019

University of Colorado Boulder

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

- The nature and origin of ancient oxygen heterogeneities in Mars Crust
- Adviser: Dr. Stephen Mojzsis

Boulder, Colorado

June 2017-Dec. 2018

University of Alabama Huntsville + NASA MSFC

UNDERGRADUATE REU

- Applications of non-force free solar coronal magnetic field extrapolation
- Advisers: Drs. Qiang Hu, Jacob Heerikhuisen

Huntsville, Alabama

May 2016-Dec. 2016

Mission Involvement

NASA Earth Venture-class Mission CYGNSS

STUDENT ENGINEER

- Flight controller for (8) satellite constellation CYGNSS.
- I develop scripts and programs for data processing and checklists in Python and use ITOS, STOL to communicate with spacecraft. As a mission planner, I determine pass windows and schedules for communication with spacecraft and coordinate such schedules with the ground stations via the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC).
- Project manager: Jillian Redfern

SwRI, Boulder, Colorado

Apr. 2017-Present

NASA Discovery Mission Lucy, SwRI

STUDENT SCIENTIST

- I developed a pipeline using Python and MySQL to conduct astrometric and photometric data analysis of the Lucy mission target objects. The pipeline has been automated, implemented and pre-processed >18 months of data.
- Project manager: Dr. Marc Buie

SwRI, Boulder, Colorado

Jan. 2018-Sep. 2019

Skills

- **Python**, astropy, numpy, pandas, pymysql, scipy
- **Matlab**, visualization and plotting
- **MySQL**, database development, query caching via python, database workbench
- **Linux, Windows OS**, Ubuntu, Debian, Fedora, Windows 7-10
- **Microsoft Office**, excel, word, publisher, powerpoint
- **Adobe Creative Cloud**, photoshop, illustrator
- **ArcGIS**, 2d

Honors & Awards

2019	\$2,500 , Diversity Fellowship	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2019	\$3,000 , Colorado Graduate Grant	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2018	Outstanding Graduate Award , Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences Department	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2017	\$1,150 , CU Boulder Gold Grant	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2016	\$3,800 , CU Boulder Grant	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2015	\$2,500 , Patty Feist Scholarship	<i>CU Boulder</i>

Presentations

2019	49th Annual Astronomy Summer Camp at Beli Brezi , Talk	<i>Ardino, Bulgaria</i>
2018	Earth System and Space Science Conference (ESSS) , Poster presentation	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2018	SwRI Colloquium , Talk	<i>Boulder, CO</i>
2018	Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences Department , Thesis Defense	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2016	American Geophysical Union (AGU) , Poster presentation	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>

Teaching Experience

2019	Guest Lecture , Introduction to Geo-Astronomy	<i>Beli Brezi, Bulgaria</i>
2017	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant , ASTR 1020: Introduction to Astronomy II (for non-majors)	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2017	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant , ASTR 1020: Introduction to Astronomy II (for non-majors)	<i>CU Boulder</i>
2016	Tutor , SAT Math & Science	<i>Tutor Doctor</i>
2015	Tutor , SAT Math & Science	<i>Tutor Doctor</i>

Select Publications

- 2. **Alexander, A.M.**, "The nature and origin of ancient oxygen isotopic heterogeneities in Mars' crust." Undergraduate Honors Theses. 1773., 2018 https://scholar.colorado.edu/honr_theses/1773
- 1. Medina, R, Redfern J, Wells, W, Birath E, Lamb, D, **Alexander, A.M.**, Ewing, T., "When You Have More Satellites than People: The Evolution of CYGNSS Flight Operations," 2019 IEEE Aerospace Conference, Big Sky, MT, USA, 2019, pp. 1-11. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/8741926>