

EXPLORATIONS FISKE PLANETARIUM

CubeSats: Big Science, Small Packages

<https://www.colorado.edu/fiske/about-us/fiske-productions>

NASA is broadening space exploration through a new kind of satellite: the CubeSat. CubeSats are tiny satellites, ranging in size from roughly that of a Rubik's cube to that of shoe or cereal box. To date, more than 800 have been launched into space. Two of these are the Miniature X-ray Solar Spectrometer, or MinXSS, and the Lunar Flashlight. MinXSS was mainly built by graduate students and uses X-ray observations to help us understand how space weather affects Earth's atmosphere, while Lunar Flashlight is searching for frozen water on the Moon's poles.

Interview: Chris Moore, Postdoctoral Researcher at Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Educational Resources

NASA CubeSat resources and videos

https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/cubesats/index.html

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/cubesat/>

https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/cubesats/videos

NASA initiatives to involve students in CubeSats

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/about-cubesat-launch-initiative>

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/about-elana>

Articles about K-12 student involvement in CubeSats

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/first-cubesat-built-by-an-elementary-school-deployed-into-space>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/11/some-high-schoolers-built-a-satellite-and-nasa-just-sent-it-to-space/281681/>

Nanosatellite and CubeSat database

<https://www.nanosats.eu/#page-top>

MinXSS website

<http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/minxss/>

Lunar Flashlight website

https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/cubesat/missions/lunar_flashlight.php

NASA's Science Activation Program funds 24 teams to connect NASA science experts, real content, and experiences with community leaders to do science in ways that activate minds and promote understanding. Fiske's Explorations project is one of those teams.

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-activation-team/fiske-planetarium>

