



Update Issue #91 | DART | Rhea Abdo | University of Baghdad | ASE

1 message

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Get ready for the DART impact!



When Asteroid Day was first created in 2014, it was a call for greater public interest in asteroid discovery and defence. Now, just eight years later, the world will witness the first ever demonstration of a deflection method. This is history in the making and we all have a front row seat.

The impact is scheduled for 7:14 p.m. EDT on Monday, Sept. 26 and will be streamed live on [NASA TV](#). To get the most up-to-date information on where to watch and when, visit nasa.gov/planetarydefense/dart/dart-news and confirm the [impact time in your location](#).

With similar news...

NEO-MAPP team members Paolo Tortora, Patrick Michel, Jean-Baptiste Vincent, Martin Jutzi, Julia de Léon, Naomi Murdoch and Sabina Raducan [share their thoughts and predictions about the coming DART impact.](#)

Host an event surrounding the DART impact! [Global Event Coordinator Saulo Machado has a list of ideas in the latest blog post.](#)

Elena Adams, Space Systems Engineer and Andy Cheng, Chief Scientist at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory explain DART impact in a nutshell. Check out [Elena's](#) and [Andy's](#) videos.

Watch the Wall Street Journal's latest explainer video on DART and [share with your network!](#)

Asteroid Day Community Member Spotlight – Rhea Abdo



The Asteroid Day global programme would not be possible without the invaluable contribution of our interns. They are behind the scenes of our major events like Asteroid Day LIVE, Gala, Technical Briefing and community events in Luxembourg.

In this Community Spotlight we asked Rhea Abdo, a business and marketing student at IAE Metz, School of Management in France about her experience. She joined the Asteroid Day team in November 2020 while she was completing her BA at the University of Lorraine.

When asked if anyone in particular has influenced Rhea while interning at Asteroid Day, she replied, “Planetary scientists Gianluca Masi, Sara Russell, Naomi Murdoch and NASA Astronaut Ron Garan. They were all so inspiring.”

[Read more about Rhea's experience.](#)

ASTEROID DAY IN IRAQ – UNIVERSITY OF BAGHDAD



Established in 1998, the University of Baghdad is the only University in Iraq with a department dedicated to Astronomy and Space. Throughout the year, they carry out various outreach activities, many of them are linked to proposals by the International Astronomical Union. It was thanks to the IAU that they heard about Asteroid Day.

In 2021 University of Baghdad participated in Asteroid Day for the first time. So far they have organised two editions partnering with the The National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) based in Egypt.

[Read how organizer Dr. Ahmed A. Selman plans to educate Iraq about asteroids.](#)

Association of Space Explorers (ASE)

Founded in 1985 by a small group of global astronauts, the [Association of Space Explorers \(ASE\)](#) is an international nonprofit professional and educational organization of over 400 flown astronauts and cosmonauts from

38 nations.

The ASE's mission is to promote the global benefits of space science, exploration and international cooperation, educate and inspire future generations, and foster better stewardship of our home planet.

Thanks to the leadership of the ASE, in 2016 the United Nations declared 30 June as [International Asteroid Day](#) in order to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard."

Meet ASE Members who have made a significant contribution to Asteroid Day and our global programme.



Rusty Schweickart

Rusty Schweickart is not only a founder of the ASE, but also co-founded Asteroid Day alongside musician Dr Brian May, filmmaker Grig Richters, and B612 Foundation President Danica Remy. A former Apollo 9 astronaut, Rusty has dedicated his life towards speaking to governments, the UN and the general public about the need for a global response to NEO threats. [Hear Rusty speak at the 2019 Asteroid Day Gala dinner in Luxembourg.](#)



Dorin Prunariu

Dumitry Dorin Prunariu is one of the founding members of the ASE. He is the Vice Chair of the Asteroid Foundation, the first Romanian cosmonaut and regular speaker of Asteroid Day LIVE and Space Connects Us events. It was Dorin who carried the Asteroid Day resolution to the United Nations General Assembly for its approval. In May 1981 Prunariu accomplished an 8 day space flight on board Soyuz-40 spacecraft and Saliut-6 space station. [Watch Dorin at this past year's Asteroid Day LIVE.](#)



Tom Jones

Former astronaut Tom Jones is a member of the Asteroid Day Expert Panel (ADXP) and 100x Signer. The chairman of the Committee on Near-Earth Objects of the ASE, Tom is outspoken about the long-term hazard from

asteroid impacts on Earth. In more than eleven years with NASA, he flew on four space shuttle missions to Earth orbit. On his last flight, Tom led three spacewalks to install the centerpiece of the International Space Station, the American Destiny laboratory. He has spent fifty-three days working and living in space.

[Watch Tom on 2021 ASE Asteroid Day Webinar](#) with presentations by Lindley Johnson, NASA's Planetary Defense Officer, Kelly Fast, program manager for NASA's NEO Observations Program, David Kring, Principal Scientist, Lunar & Planetary Institute and Elena Adams, DART Mission Systems Engineer.

Today members of the ASE are regular speakers on Asteroid Day LIVE and Space Connects Us Educational events. [Watch these videos.](#)

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