

Learn more about Gryphon's unveiling, a word from our new Executive Board, and a recap of our team's accomplishments in the Spring season.

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MISSOURI S&T



April 2016 Newsletter

Rover Reveal 2017

We proudly present our fifth and most innovative rover yet, Gryphon! Gryphon was revealed on March 3rd and left students, parents, sponsors, Missouri S&T faculty and staff and the local Rolla media in awe.

This year's reveal event started off with an inspiring message from special guest speaker Dr. Sheyna E. Gifford, also known as the "Space Doctor." Dr. Gifford talked about her time aboard the HI-SEAS IV, a one year simulated mission to Mars hosted in Hawaii, and how their mission impacted the furthering of space exploration.



After the spark of curiosity had been lit, our Chief Executive Officer, Chris “Lenny” Lenahan, shone a light on how our team has evolved MRDT’s vision of “Today. Tomorrow. Forever.” Chris also highlighted the many goals and accomplishments our team has achieved in the 2016-2017 season, including a development platform for new members, focus on getting students involved in projects and processes that prepare them for the workforce, and our team’s dedication to reach out to local STEM schools and exemplify what it means to keep humanity forever curious.

Our Chief Technology Officer, James Zandstra, further excited an already enamored the crowd by speaking on the innovations that have been made in our new team structure, our design process, and the overall concept of what it means to be the next generation of Mars rover. James spoke about the special changes made to our suspension, the growth of team leadership, and how those changes impact the continued progress of our team.

Finally, after much anticipation and excitement from the crowd, our 2017 beast Gryphon was unveiled! We would like to thank all of our sponsors, families, and the university. With their support the 2017 Rover Reveal was a great success!



Congratulations to the newly elected 2017-2018 Executive Board!

Each March, the team elects the Executive Board for the the following academic year, giving the elected officers plenty of time to work alongside the current Executive Board Officers in anticipation for the transition into their new role, which will take place over the summer.

Please welcome the future officers of the Mars Rover Design Team!

Cameron Shilko — Chief Executive Officer

Major: Mechanical Engineering '18

Year: Senior

Hometown: Smithville, MO

Why I love being on Mars Rover: I love being on rover because of the unique people and the challenges we face. Nowhere else can you find a family like this, so dedicated and passionate about a single awesome project.

Favorite Quote:"Work hard in silence let your success be your noise."





Téa Thomas — Chief Financial Officer

Major: Business & Management Systems

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: Lee's Summit, MO

Why I love being on Mars Rover: I like being on Rover because I love watching people get excited about what they're doing and learning and creating.

Favorite quote: "Just run and dream and don't think too hard about your next move" - Chief Warrant Officer Alan Blakney

Jonathan Boyson — Chief Technology Officer

Major: Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Year: Senior

Hometown: Lee's Summit, MO

Why I love being on Mars Rover: I love rover because it is a dedicated and passionate group of individuals focused on creating the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. They not only know how to #RoveSoHard but how to have fun and bond as a team while roving. There is no where else at Missouri S&T you can find a people so dedicated and fun to be around.

Favorite Quote: "The only source of knowledge is experience." ~Albert Einstein



Morgan Long — Chief Administrative Officer

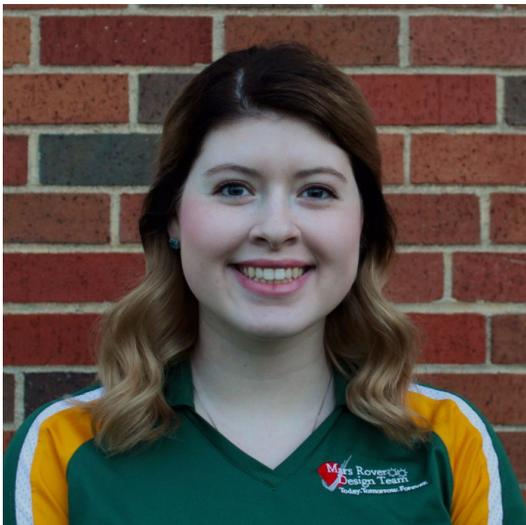
Major: Biological Sciences

Year: Senior

Hometown: Pittsburg, Kansas

Why I love being on Rover: I get to work with an incredible group of people who are all just as passionate about MRDT as I am. Since joining this team, I have found some of my best friends, a second home, and most importantly a family.

Favorite Quote: "Around here we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." -Walt Disney



2017 University Rover Challenge Travel Team

We are happy to announce that there will be fourteen members traveling together to the

University Rover Challenge on behalf of MRDT and Missouri S&T this summer. The team will be spending the next several months making sure that both Gryphon and these travel members are ready to be victorious in the 2017 University Rover Challenge.



This year's travel team, from left to right:

Chris Novatny, Nicole Moon, Gbenga Osibodu, Edward Koharik, Brianna Zandstra, James Zandstra, Drue Satterfield, Andrew Rausch, Tea Thomas, Ellis Sansone, Chris Lenahan, Katelyn Brinker, Ethan Wilhelm, and Matthew Lowe

From the CEO - Chris Lenahan

Hello again, friends of MRDT!

I feel truly blessed to be able to see the growth of our team over the last several months, both as individuals in their continued accomplishments within their fields and projects, and their unifying front in fulfilling the teams vision of Today, Tomorrow, Forever. Our team has continued to make great advancements in the last several weeks, including both the evolving of Gryphon and the continued advancement of our team. With the competition quickly approaching, I feel confident that this team and this rover will be able to perform like never before!

We especially appreciate our sponsors, family, and friends, whose support helps us to fulfil the team's vision and mission.

Spring Break Outreach

This past spring break, while many Martians were busy taming the Gryphon down at S&T, a select few students traveled up to St. Louis to encourage a curiosity for STEM within the next generation. The Martians spread their enthusiasm for STEM with six schools as well as presented at the professional social, Venture Cafe. We were grateful to see many S&T alumni, Martians and others, in attendance. All were proud to call themselves Miners after seeing what MRDT was up to, and one 79' graduate even got to drive Zenith around the event! The schools visited included schools in Union, Mascoutah, and the surrounding St. Louis area. The enthusiasm shown by our

As always, feel free to contact me for any more information on the great work this team is doing this year. Thank you for doing your part in helping us to #RoveSoHard!

-Chris Lenahan
chris.lenahan@mst.edu

Martians was contagious, and for many students this was an exciting first look into STEM programs. Thank you to all Martians who supported and attended the tour, as we show St. Louis how we #RoveSoHard!



PR Spotlight

Several Mars Rover team members (Mark Hampton and Edwark Koharik pictured above, along with Blake Coonrad, Emily Bruns, Nicole Moon, and Jake Mondeshein) spent their spring break visiting local schools to spark interest in those pursuing higher education in STEM fields, and reflecting on how their involvement with the team keeps our members forever curious

Join Us On:



Support:

MRDT could not continue to innovate without the support and contributions of our sponsors, family, and friends. If you would like to make a donation, please click the link below, and under **Designations** select **Mars Rover (507700)**. Thank you for your support, as we continue to **#RoveSoHard** !

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