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## ASU remembers the past, looks to the future of space travel



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TEMPE, AZ -- Arizona State University is playing a pivotal role in remembering NASA's past and its future.

On Monday's 40th anniversary of the moon landing, school children toured an actually working NASA lab.

"I think it's a celebration for Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landing on the moon," said 11-year-old Jiovani Richardson.

You might think the lab is in Houston or Cape Canaveral, but it's in Tempe.

"This is a very big deal. This is humankind's first voyage to another world," said Samuel Lawrence, a lunar geologist who works for ASU.

ASU is teaming up with the Johnson Space Center in Houston in converting all 36,000 Apollo mission pictures into digital images.

"What we do here is take the negatives and process virtual prints of these negatives," said Lawrence.

Since 1997, about 1/3 of the pictures have been processed and can be viewed [online here](#).

"You can look at the pictures and kind of relive that a little bit," said Lawrence.

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Looking to the future, ASU is the headquarters for the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC).

"It's rare to find an institution that is so committed to exploration of space," said Lawrence.

The LROC orbits the moon and takes pictures to map the surface.

[In some pictures, you can actually see the landings from past Apollo missions.](#)

"It was just really special seeing that come up on the screen for the first time," said Lawrence. "That was a lot of fun. They were right where they were supposed to be."

Pictures in preparation for future space missions.

"We know we can do it. We've been there before. We can do it again," said Lawrence.

It's one small step for another trip to the Moon -- one giant leap to Mars.

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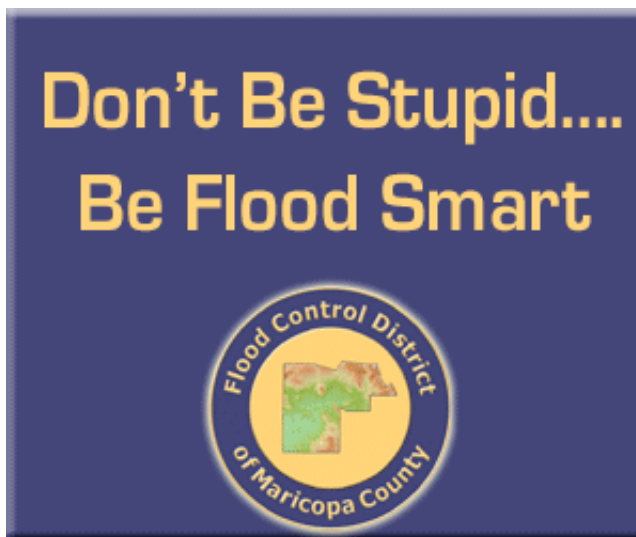
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