Bridging the Lunar Generational Gap: NextGen and LEAG

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What is NextGen?

Next Generation Lunar Scientists and Engineers (NGLSE or NextGen)

(n.) Assemblage of graduate students, post-docs, and early career scientists who have a passion and vision for lunar science and exploration and who are the future lunar workforce for NASA, academia, and industry.
Purpose of NextGen

- Provide guidance and networking opportunities to early career lunar students and professionals
- Foster collaboration with other groups within the lunar community.
• Founded informally in 2008 (Bleacher et al., 2011)

• Significant growth in recent years

• Meets in conjunction with meetings such as LPSC and SSERVI Forums (and now LEAG!)
Why NextGen?

• We are the future lunar science workforce
• Bridge the gap between our generation and the Apollo generation
• New perspectives; new innovative solutions
• Preparation in training and leading the next generation
• Experience with the integration of science and engineering
• Advocacy
• Passion, drive, and vision
Current Activities

- Professional Development Workshops
  - Central part of the NGLSE community

- Community Building
  - Bringing scientists and engineers together for a common cause
  - Establishing connections with engineers at Boeing

- Advocacy

(Bleacher et al., 2011)

(Petro et al., 2012)
NextGen and LEAG

Establishing interaction and fusion between LEAG and NextGen is crucial in bridging generational knowledge and experience gaps, and for preparing the NextGen to lead and train future generations.
NextGen and LEAG: Conferences and Workshops

• Central part of the NextGen community
• Grounds for networking and sharing the latest in lunar science research
• Interactions between NextGen and LEAG at conferences will enable collaborations and discussion regarding ongoing lunar science projects and missions.
• The NGLSE needs LEAG to intentionally work towards fostering early career professionals, and involvement in workshops is one way that this need can be met.
• Informal gatherings
  – social hours, dinners, informal gatherings for discussion
• Example: LPSC 2015 “Happy Hour”
  – Happening again at LPSC 2016!

**Wednesday evening:**
Frisco Tap House, immediately after poster session
NextGen and LEAG: Advocacy

• Join together to reach out to our Congressional representatives
• Show that all ages of lunar scientists and engineers are passionate about continued lunar science and exploration.
Conclusions

• NextGen aims to work alongside LEAG to keep the Moon at the forefront of discussion for future human and robotic exploration.

• Connections between early and late-career scientists and engineers will ensure that we benefit from the knowledge of the previous generation.