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CU Briefs – Aug. 2

August 2, 2006

Space

CU awarded \$2.2M for space studies

NASA has awarded CU \$2.2 million for projects designed to better understand how the sun interacts with Earth's radiation environment.

The four projects — part of NASA's Living With a Star Program — are expected to be worth tens of millions of dollars to the university in coming years, said Daniel Baker, director of CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

The work is of interest to NASA because near-Earth space radiation is hazardous to astronauts, orbiting satellites and aircraft flying high-altitude polar routes, CU officials said.

"By winning all four proposals submitted to this program, I'd have to say it has been a pretty good day for LASP and the university," Baker said. "This shows that NASA is very interested in what we believe is some exciting and compelling science, and shows the practical utility of our space research."

Included in the NASA funding is \$1 million for a proposal to design and build instruments to fly on the Mission of Opportunity Radbelt Experiment. The mission will study how accumulations of space radiation form and change during geomagnetic space storms that can block out communications over entire continents, Baker said.

Baker said he expects the MORE mission to eventually be worth about \$43 million to the university.

Also included was \$750,000 for a LASP study for the Global-scale Observations of Limb and Disk mission, designed to make measurements of the ionosphere and thermosphere. The LASP portion of the mission is projected to be worth \$37.9 million to CU in coming years.

Regents

Camera staff

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