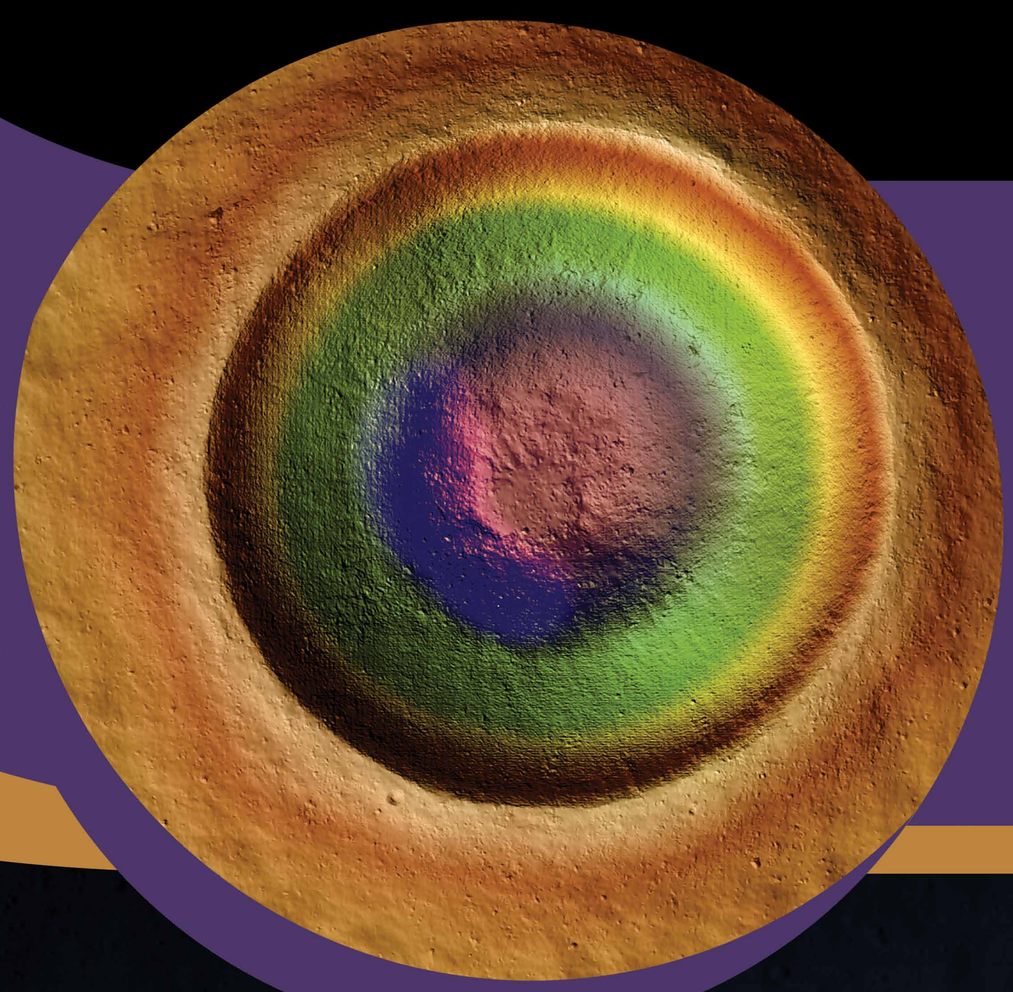
Did you Know . . .

Our Moon has protected Earth for billions of years from impacts. What hit the Moon did not impact us—and that material still resides on the Moon today.

The very thin atmosphere of the Moon, called a surface-boundary exosphere, is the same type of atmosphere found on many other moons, asteroids, and planets.

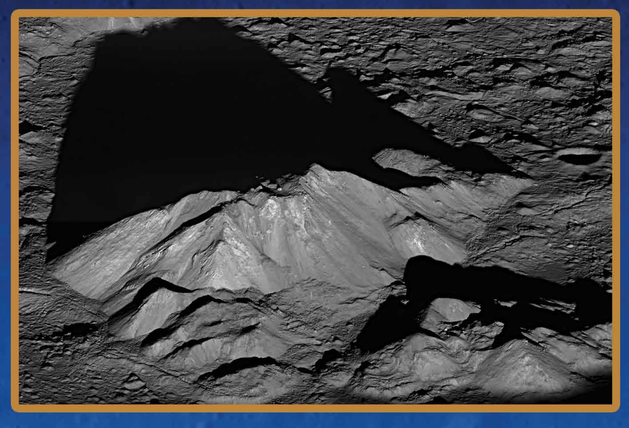
By studying this type of atmosphere right in our own celestial "backyard" we will gain insights into the basic processes that will help us understand the origin and evolution of atmospheres of all types, including our own here on Earth.



NEWS
from the Moon

The density of the Moon's atmosphere is roughly equivalent to the density of the outermost part of the Earth's atmosphere where the International Space Station orbits.

Meteorite impacts are believed to be one of the major sources for the lunar exosphere and lofted dust.



Lunar dust is thought to levitate because of electrostatic charges. This levitating dust might be the cause of the twilight glow over the lunar horizon that was seen by the Apollo astronauts.