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WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION

She who  
dares

**2017**  
TRADING  
CARDS



# KOSHI DHINGRA

SCIENCE/ STEM EDUCATOR



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## **KOSHI DHINGRA, ED.D.**

**1 Professional Passion:** Promoting conversation about the diversity of STEM and STEAM thinking in our daily lives, in our communities, and in our world through talkSTEM and walkSTEM.

**2 Fun Fact:** I consulted on the science content in Nickelodeon's preschooler television series *"Blue's Clues."*

**3 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career?** A lot of teachers, scientists, artists, and writers whom I have met over my personal and professional life — these people cared deeply about certain things, shared their vision with others, and inspired others to join them.

**4 What do you love most about your job?** As Director of an education nonprofit organization, you get to play a lot of roles: party planner, photographer, filmmaker, writer, researcher, influencer, and more. You get to meet a lot of interesting people who tend to care about the same things you do, and you also get to meet a lot of different people from all walks of life who teach you new ways of looking at things.

A circular portrait of Sarah Parcak, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt and a necklace. The background of the portrait is a light, neutral color.

**SARAH PARCAK**  
SPACE ARCHAEOLOGIST



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## **SARAH PARCAK, PH.D.**

**1 Street Cred:** National Geographic Explorer, winner of the 2016 TED Prize, founder of the Laboratory for Global Observation, TED Senior Fellow, discovered the lost Egyptian city of Tunis.

**2 Professional Passion:** To make the world's invisible history visible once again.

**3 What inspired you to go into your field of work?** When I was a child, one of my favorite things to do was to look for sand dollars on the seashores. But, these shells are hard to find. They're covered in sand, they're difficult to see. Over time, I started seeing shapes and patterns that helped me to collect them. This grew into a passion for finding things, a love for the past and archaeology.

**4 How do you do your work?** We take images collected from 450 miles above the Earth's surfaces, and use complex algorithms to see subtle changes to the vegetation below that signal manmade objects, hidden from view. Our methods have helped locate 17 potential pyramids in Egypt, in addition to 3,100 forgotten settlements and 1,000 lost tombs.

# TIERNEY THYS

MARINE BIOLOGIST



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## **TIERNEY THYS, PH.D.**

**1 Professional Passion:** The Ocean Sunfish (Mola), a giant fish that can grow more than 10 feet long and weigh over 5,000 pounds. I became enchanted with the Mola after seeing a picture of one on my advisor's wall. To me it just seemed such an unlikely design for any self-respecting open ocean fish. It completely piqued my curiosity and has held me spellbound ever since.

**2 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Do your best to understand what are the biggest fears and obstacles of the people you want to lead. If you can figure a way to alleviate at least some of those fears and obstacles you will be well on your way to being a leader.

**3 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?** Once I did a deep-water night dive on a seamount out at Cocos Islands off Costa Rica and a huge storm moved in. Each time the lightning would crack the sky above, the sea around me would become illuminated in cool lavender light for a split second, but long enough to reveal hundreds of hammerhead sharks just beyond the reach of my flashlight.

# CHRISTINE LEE

BIOARCHAEOLOGIST



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## **CHRISTINE LEE, PH.D.**

**1 Professional Passion:** Paleopathology, the study of ancient human diseases.

**2 What prompted you to go into your field of work?** When I was little, I loved fried chicken and Thanksgiving turkeys. I used to identify everyone's pieces of chicken before allowing anyone to eat them, and then I'd reassemble the bones after everyone had eaten.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** There are very few women archaeologists in East Asia. I have made things work by finding male archaeologists who were willing to work with and support a woman on their field excavations.

**4 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** One of my present archaeological excavations is in Mongolia. We live in traditional nomad round homes called gers and we usually stay in the field for about one month living together.

# AMY FAITH HO

EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN



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## **AMY FAITH HO, M.D.**

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** I decided to go into healthcare as a physician in high school, but I didn't choose my specialty until the last year of medical school!

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** For a few years, I flew on a helicopter as a physician that responds to "scenes" — I'd end up running crouched from a car crash into a "hot" running helicopter after performing all sorts of procedures like intubation or chest tubes on the ground just mere feet away from the crash!

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Don't let being a woman or being young dissuade you from what you want to do.

**4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career?** I was 115 pounds when I started as a doctor, and I realized in the chaos of somewhere like an emergency room, you have to assert yourself to make up for the physical presence difference compared to your male counterparts.

# CAROLYN BOYD

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST



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## CAROLYN BOYD, PH.D.

**1 Professional Passion:** Started the Shumla Archaeological Center—a global leader in rock art research & education using advanced science and technology to preserve the endangered murals of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas.

**2 Street Cred:** Received one of archaeology's highest honors, the 2017 Society for American Archaeology Scholarly Book Award, for her most recent book, *The White Shaman Mural*.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Changing perceptions about the ability to bridge art and science to answer questions about our human past.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** People sometimes feel threatened or intimidated by determined and passionate young women. Their response, sadly, can be to retaliate with gossip, ridicule, and slanderous statements. It will hurt and will make you angry, and you may be tempted to quit or retaliate. Stand firm, and rise above it and remain a woman of integrity, respect, and humility.

# MEAGAN POLLOCK

ENGINEER & EQUITY LEADER



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## **MEAGAN POLLOCK, PH.D.**

**1 Professional Passion:** Closing the gender gap in engineering, improving STEM career counseling, equipping STEM professionals to be role models, and equity training for educators.

**2 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career?** My dad encouraged me to solve challenging problems, my mom encouraged me to use my leadership skills to help others learn, my mentor Tegwin Pulley encouraged me to question my beliefs and advocate for others, and young women and young students of color inspired me to pursue the combination of these three professions.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** My work requires that I travel about 40% of the year, and the rest of the time I get to work remotely. I may hike a mountain trail, meander in an art gallery, or kayak a river to find inspiration and creative solutions that are often stifled by simply sitting at a computer.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Choose to make a difference. Choose to work hard. Choose to be true to you.

# LUCY GILDEA

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER



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## LUCY GILDEA, PH.D.

**1 Street Cred:** B.S. in Biology from Georgetown College and a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** One of the pivotal decisions in my life was choosing to leave academia for industry/applied science. I had a yearning to learn what other opportunities were out there beyond academia — I followed my heart to Mary Kay Inc. and couldn't be happier.

**3 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career?** I never imagined I would have the experiences I have had in my career—I have: shadowed surgeons, taught college courses, traveled 30+ countries, lived overseas, given seminars, worked in a state police crime lab and been on TV to talk about my career.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Look at every situation, seminars, classes, guest speakers, and workshops as an opportunity to learn, to network and to hone your understanding of the field.

# TEMPLE GRANDIN

ANIMAL SCIENTIST



PHOTO CREDIT: ROSALIE WINARD



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## TEMPLE GRANDIN, PH.D.

**1 Street Cred:** National Women's Hall of Fame Honoree, American Academy of Arts and Sciences Inductee & the subject of an Emmy Award-winning biopic.

**2 Professional Passion:** Animal welfare advocate and autism spokesperson.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** The most fun stuff I ever did was brainstorming with other people to figure out how to make a new piece of equipment work. We would make up ideas and then go build them in the shop, and when they did not work, I had to figure out how to make it work. Successfully figuring out how to make a new thing work is really fun.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** You have to work really hard and have perseverance. A major motivator was that I wanted to prove I was not stupid and that I could do it. You have to keep your eyes on a goal.

# JENNIFER STIMPSON

EDUCATOR. INNOVATOR. SCIENTIST.



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## JENNIFER STIMPSON

**1 Street Cred:** First African-American woman at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls to graduate with a master's degree in Chemistry.

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** I have traveled the world on a Fulbright-funded excursion to Ghana as well as educational expeditions to Brazil, Northern Uganda, and the Galapagos Islands.

**3 Who inspired you to pursue this career?** My father, my first science mentor, instilled in me how to "pay it forward," by defining the importance of giving back to society through service. I also came to understand the social responsibility bestowed upon professional scientists of color and their connection to the community.

**4 What's one revelation you had as a child?** The science perspective of a young black girl could change the world.

**5 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** I was often not taken seriously in the scientific world. As an African-American woman with a master's degree in Chemistry, I was often academically and professionally alone. Keeping myself encouraged, I endured and persevered, finding my voice to share my passion for the nature of science.

# RACHEL RICHTER

URBAN WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



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## **RACHEL RICHTER**

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** My senior year of high school.

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** I spent a summer as an intern working with sea turtles at Bald Head Island Conservancy in North Carolina. Bald Head Island is a small barrier island that is only accessible by boat with only about 150 permanent residents, and it has some amazing habitats to explore including maritime forest, salt marshes, and beaches with sand dunes.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Don't be afraid to take risks or step outside your comfort zone. Having the courage to explore a new opportunity can take you to great places.

**4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career?** The wildlife biology field used to be very male-dominated, but that's changing! As a professional working in the field, I know many women leading wildlife conservation efforts.

# JESS CRAMP

MARINE CONSERVATIONIST  
& SHARK RESEARCHER



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## JESS CRAMP

**1 Professional Passion:** Stopping the over-exploitation of sharks and the degradation of our oceans. I strive to inspire the next generation through my work.

**2 Where's most fun place you've conducted your work?** I spent over a month on a tiny island in the Cook Islands called Palmerston. It is home to only 50 people. There are no hotels, street lights or stores, so we had to bring all our food on the sailboat. Our team of 7 scientists slept in one large room together and cooked in an open kitchen on the sand. Learning to live so simply, sharing with our neighbors and working with the community was one of the most precious memories of my scientific career.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** You can be a marine scientist even if you grow up in the forest or in the city. I grew up in the mountains of Pennsylvania. My path wasn't direct or easy, but I found my own way. I even dreamed of becoming a National Geographic Explorer, and I still pinch myself knowing that I am now part of that team. It didn't come easily, but it came because I never gave up working for what matters to me, without any promise of reward.

# LINDA ABRAHAM-SILVER

SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY  
MUSEUM, CEO



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## LINDA ABRAHAM-SILVER, ED.D.

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** I always loved visiting museums, but only considered a museum career after I took a museum studies course at university and then began volunteering. Becoming the CEO of Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a dream come true!

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** This past spring I worked on the island of Socotra — one of the most remote island archipelagos in the Arabian Sea — it has been described as “the most alien-looking place on Earth.” The island is very isolated and a third of its plant life is endemic (found nowhere else on the planet). We were looking for confirmation of previously described lizard species as well as looking for new species that have not yet made it into the scientific literature.

**3 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?** I moved from the United States to the Middle East three months before the Arab Spring began and lived in the Gulf for the next six and a half years. While I was there, I worked for the Government of Abu Dhabi on science education initiatives to help encourage Emirati youth to pursue careers in STEM.

# DELORES ETTER

PROFESSOR IN ELECTRICAL AND  
COMPUTER ENGINEERING



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## DELORES ETTER, PH.D.

**1 Street Cred:** Former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology, Former Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisitions).

**2 What's the most interesting place you've visited through your work?** Antarctica as a member of the National Science Board. The research projects included learning from cores through the polar ice shelves into the underwater sediment to gaining an insight into biological and geological history over millions of years.

**3 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** I started teaching computer engineering after my daughter was born. I liked university teaching so much that I decided to do a Ph.D. in Electrical/Computer Engineering to continue teaching and build a research program.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Build a network of people that know you from actual experiences of working with you in your job, volunteer activities, or hobbies. They can open many unexpected doors for you.

# DEEPALI PALTA

ENGINEER & SCIENTIST



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## DEEPALI PALTA, PH.D.

**1 Street Cred:** I have 4 granted patents for work in sustainability including inventing ways to use biodegradable packaging and food waste.

**2 Professional Passion:** My passion for STEM led me to be a founding team member for PepsiCo STEM Council with the mission to attract and retain the best STEM talent.

**3 Where's the craziest/ most fun place you've conducted your work?** In 2011, I was selected to be part of the inaugural PepsiCorps team to go to Denu, Ghana. It was a month-long experience that provided an opportunity to leverage my STEM and business skills to address a global societal challenge like clean water. We worked with local office and villagers to help them better access and manage their clean water resources. We also visited local schools every Friday to teach kids about hygiene and sanitation. I am grateful for this amazing opportunity as it made me appreciate team work, cultural and thought diversity in problem solving.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Trust your instincts.

# BREEA GOVENAR

SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR,  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



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## **BREEA GOVENAR, PH.D.**

**1 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** Most of my research has been conducted onboard oceanographic research vessels or in deep submergence vehicles, which are both incredibly fun experiences.

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** I read a lecture by a woman who encouraged the audience to “fire your committee of self-limiting beliefs,” and it always stuck with me. At different points in my life when I felt that the environment was telling me that I wasn't successful in one area or another, I had to remind myself that ultimately I had the power to change my circumstances through my determination and hard work, opening new pathways to achieving my goals.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Listen and learn as much as you can, and then act and speak confidently without affect or hesitation to bring out the best in everyone.

# HOPE JAHREN

GEOBIOLOGIST



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## HOPE JAHREN, PH.D.

**1 Street Cred:** *TIME's* "100 Most Influential People" & Best-Selling Author of *Lab Girl*.

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** I love to study plants in Ireland! Ireland is so green, it seems like a paradise for plant life. Under your feet lies a thick layer of peat (dead moss), on top of that is living moss, and growing out of that are grasses, shrubs and trees.

**3 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career?** My father was a community college instructor and he had a laboratory that he used to teach students how to do basic chemistry, physics and earth science. He loved science and he loved teaching, and he never tired of talking with people about the things that made them curious — I wanted to grow up to be just like him.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** When you do some work that you enjoy, pause and take time to feel the joy of your accomplishment. Learn to recognize what makes you happy in your work, and what you are good at.

# STACY TRIMBLE

B737 CAPTAIN



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## STACY TRIMBLE

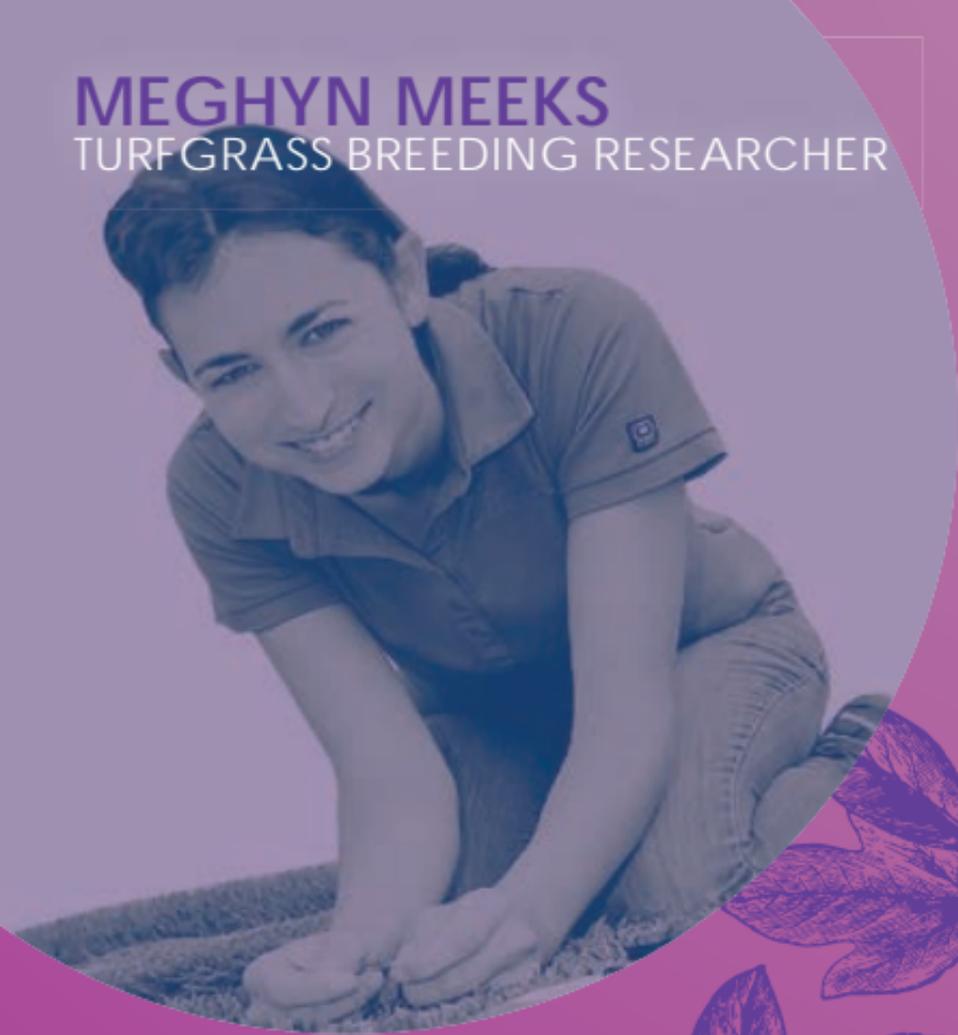
**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** I had been working as a Flight Attendant for American Airlines and was fascinated by everything that happened forward of the cockpit door. It led me to start asking questions about being a pilot, and after taking a few flying lessons, I was hooked.

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Conquering my own fear. When I was learning how to fly I had moments where I felt I wasn't cut out to be a pilot. I stopped pursuing my dream because of fear and doubt. However, I wanted to be a pilot too much to give up on it so I forced myself to return to flying, gained the necessary skills and confidence needed to push through the fear, and was forever grateful for finding that courage. A motto emerged from it for me: Move toward the fear. The sense of accomplishment from overcoming it can fuel you toward fantastic experiences.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Being a successful leader means learning how to do your job in a way that brings out the best in others. Do this by being confident, humble, and encouraging.

# MEGHYN MEEKS

TURFGRASS BREEDING RESEARCHER



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## **MEGHYN MEEKS, PH.D.**

**1 Street Cred:** Researcher who assists in developing new, drought tolerant, resource efficient turfgrass varieties for sustainable urban living across Texas and beyond serving a full scope of industry sectors, namely lawns, sports and golf.

**2 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career?** Environmental issues are constantly demanding solutions for plant problems including those for food, horticultural crops and turfgrasses. I was not raised on a farm, but I never saw it as a barrier to pursuing a career in agriculture because I have a strong work ethic and am willing to step outside my comfort zone to learn about my interests.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Not believing I could perform at the same level as others in a primarily male-dominant field. I learned to adapt—sometimes this meant completing the same tasks differently, which at times were more efficient, but sometimes they took longer. Where there is a will there is a way.

# PASCALE ATALLAH

POLYMER SCIENTIST



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## **PASCALE ATALLAH, PH.D.**

**1 Fun Facts:** State record holder in powerlifting and is a board member and volunteer at a nonprofit gym for those in her community without access to a facility to better themselves physically and mentally.

**2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** When I was 5 years old I used to play teacher, and would teach chemistry lessons I had picked up from my older sisters. I knew I wanted to work in polymers and plastics specifically the first day I took a polymer science class.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Being born and raised in Lebanon, the major obstacle I had to overcome was the limiting beliefs that women were restricted in the fields of education they could pursue and jobs they could have. I sometimes need to remind myself that we are in a country and age where men and women in the workplace are equal.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Being a leader means you will sometimes walk alone for a while before others follow you. Don't be afraid of the journey. If you don't succeed, you learn.

# ANOUSHEH ANSARI

ENTREPRENEUR &  
SPACE AMBASSADOR



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## **ANOUSHEH ANSARI**

**1 Street Cred:** First female private space explorer, funder of the Ansari X Prize.

**2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** Since I was a young girl in Iran, I would lie on my balcony at night and just look up at the stars. I was fascinated by the sheer mystery of space, what's out there, what's it like and how I could get there. When I was young I made the decision to be an astronaut/astrophysicist and travel into space.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** When I came to the United States as a teenager I did not speak a word of English, and I knew I must work hard to learn English. There is so much opportunity in the United States, and I have worked hard to achieve my dreams.

**4 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?** Going to space! The day of the flight, I thought I would be really nervous and I was surprised that I wasn't. We spent two and a half hours in the capsule preparing launch procedures, and after that they put some music on—it was actually very 'zen-like.'

# MELISSA GESSER

AVIATION EXECUTIVE & PILOT



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## MELISSA GESSER

**1 Street Cred:** Executive for a major aerospace company, former United States Air Force Pilot with over 900 hours of flight time, including 230 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

**2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** I worked with a client based in Beijing, China. I absolutely loved the immersion in such a different place than the United States. It was an amazing experience—I was reminded that no matter where I am on this tiny planet, the strangers around me are seeking the same things I am: purpose, passion, and love.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Be a wonderful person. Be honest. Be respectful. Be transparent. Be positive. Be confident. Be dependable. These qualities will take you much farther in life than any technical skill you will learn.

**4 Who was your role model?** My grandfather was a Louisiana farmer; he believed in hard work and that "To whom much is given much is required."

# BRITTANY RANSOM

ARTIST, EDUCATOR, TECHNOLOGIST



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## **BRITTANY RANSOM**

**1 Artist Statement:** I strive to probe the lines between human, animal, and environmental relations while exploring emergent technologies.

**2 How do you make art?** I work in 3D computerized production, digital fabrication and physical computing / kinetics to produce sculpture and art.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** The Arctic Circle on the coast of Svalbard around 87.9° north. This was a landscape like no other: one that is fragile, endangered, and very wild. I could see polar bears, beluga whales, blue whales, and sea lions in the wild and was able to walk on landscapes that cannot be visited by many.

**4 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** My field is heavily political, bureaucratic, male-dominated, and lacks diversity. While this has been challenging, rising to the top has been beyond rewarding, and the most important part of succeeding is being a representation for young women that it is possible to break the stereotype.

# ALIZÉ CARRÈRE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



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## ALIZÉ CARRÈRE

**1 Professional Passion:** Innovative adaptations to climate change, highlighting the remarkable resilience of the human species (my short film about this just debuted at the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival).

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Accepting that often times things do not go as planned. I've become very good at accepting change, and being resilient when things take an unexpected turn.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** One of the most incredible places I've conducted field work is in Madagascar. Sometimes I would get to conduct fieldwork in the middle of a forest, full of lemurs and birds and other small creatures calling out in the morning light.

**4 What's one piece of advice you have for young women?** Don't be afraid to do something that isn't conventional. But truthfully, the more you make yourself different, the more you stand out later on down the line, and the more people recognize you and what you're doing.

# RENÉE HLOŽEK

COSMOLOGIST



PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN LASH



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## **RENÉE HLOŽEK, D.PHIL.**

**1 Street Cred:** Rhodes Scholar, TED Senior Fellow.

**2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** I never really had a "eureka" moment, but just kept doing what I love and when I was in high school I realized I wanted to keep doing this!

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Ask for help and talk to other people about the things that you're struggling with. We make each other stronger when we work together.

**4 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Sometimes people don't believe in you, or assume that you can't do something because of how you look. It's important to remember that what you look like isn't the thing that makes you a strong thinker: it's your mind!

**5 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?** I once jumped out of a plane! When it comes to my career, trying something when I'm not sure I'm ready is something that pushes me.

# WANDA GASS

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER



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## WANDA GASS

**1 Street Cred:** Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

**2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** In high school I decided I wanted to be an engineer so I could improve the lives of many people.

**3 What is a fun tidbit you want young women to know about your career?** I founded a nonprofit to help high school girls be better prepared for their first physics course.

**4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Don't avoid disagreements, but strive to hear all points of view and the reason behind those views, because it is through thinking out the issues from all sides that you can make an informed decision.

**5 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** There was always a message in the back of my head that told me that I didn't deserve to be the first female Fellow at Texas Instruments. I had to learn to state my contributions in an objective way with facts to support my statements without turning my arguments into attacks on other people or overstating my contributions.

# LOUISA PRESTON

ASTROBIOLOGIST  
& PLANETARY GEOLOGIST



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## **LOUISA PRESTON, PH.D.**

**1 Street Cred:** UK Space Agency Aurora Research Fellow, TED Fellow, author of *Goldilocks and the Water Bears*.

**2 Professional Passion:** I work in environments across the Earth where life can survive our planet's most extreme conditions, using them as blueprints for possible extra-terrestrial life forms and habitats.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** The fresh lava flows of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull. We could still see magma far beneath our feet through cracks in the surface and many spots we trekked across caused the soles of our boots to melt.

**4 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?** Every field trip I take is daring and has its risks. I work in environmentally extreme locations across the world studying Mars analogue environments—many involving extreme temperatures, hot springs and geysers, acidic rivers, frozen deserts and nearly always in remote locations.

# KATE CANALES

HUMAN CENTERED DESIGNER  
& DESIGN RESEARCHER



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## **KATE CANALES**

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** My freshman year in college, I took a class called “Visual Thinking” that turned out to be the introductory class for Mechanical Engineering. It was all about building things, drawing things, and using your intuition and skill to solve problems. I fell in love with a certain way of seeing the world in that class.

**2 Who were your role models?** I had a professor in college who was, I believe, the only woman teaching in the Mechanical Engineering department at the time—Dr. Sheri Sheppard. She became my advisor, and is still a friend and role model.

**3 What should young women know about your career?** We emphasize STEM and STEAM, but a big part of my work leans on psychology, art, anthropology and history. It’s important to maintain your interests in many fields.

# ALICIA EGGERT

INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST



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## **ALICIA EGGERT**

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** When I took a sculpture class during my last semester of college (and I was majoring in something else!).

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Most artists claim that they were born with certain talents and inclinations and have been "drawing since they could hold a pencil," but I didn't begin making art until my early twenties. Because I didn't feel like I was born with "the gift," it took me several years to work up the courage to call myself an artist.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** When I lived in Maine I made a sculpture titled "You are (on) an island." It is a blue neon sign and the word "on" flashes on and off at regular intervals to reveal the message, "You \*are\* an island." I've since been invited to show that sculpture on many different islands and continents including the UK, Australia, Malta and China. I never expected that my art would allow me to travel around the world.

# ASHA DE VOS

MARINE BIOLOGIST  
& OCEAN EDUCATOR



PHOTO CREDIT: YASHA HEITZEL



DALLAS  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION



## ASHA DE VOS, PH.D.

**1 Professional Passion:** Researching and protecting the unusual population of Northern Indian Ocean blue whales, telling stories about the ocean, and inspiring the next generation of ocean heroes.

**2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** At 6 I wanted to be an adventurer scientist and that led me toward marine biology.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Vulnerability and visibility are my two superpowers for inspiring and motivating people. Be humble. You are not special; you are just one of the privileged few—use that privilege to leave the planet a better place than you found it.

**4 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** My favorite place to work is Sri Lanka because it's home and because that's where I want to have a lasting impact—that's where I want to show the world that no matter where you come from, no matter who you are, no matter what you believe in, it is all possible as long as you dream and set yourself goals.

# KIMBERLY POWELL

SUPPORT ESCALATION ENGINEER



DALLAS  
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## **KIMBERLY POWELL**

**1 Professional Passion:** Microsoft's DigiGirlz High Tech Camps where high school girls learn about writing code, robotics and new technologies in response to negative stereotypes about women in the technology field.

**2 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** Don't be intimidated by those who seem to know more than you and never be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something. It's a great way to learn.

**3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** Understanding that I may be the only female in a workgroup and will have to do extra work to prove myself to my male counterparts.

**3 What's a good tip to help young women achieve their goals?** Write down your vision for your future aspirations on an index card or post-it note and keep it somewhere you can view it every day. Having it in view, will keep you focused and more likely to achieve it!

# SHERI SHEPPARD

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR



DALLAS  
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## **SHERI SHEPPARD, PH.D.**

**1 Street Cred:** Recipient of Stanford University's highest award for excellence in teaching as well as numerous other awards for outstanding teaching and notable contributions to the mechanical engineering profession.

**2 Fun Fact:** Held engineering positions at Detroit's "Big Three"— Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, and Chrysler Corporation.

**3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women?** My biggest obstacle has been self-doubt. At times I have wondered whether I am smart enough and clever enough to be successful as an engineer and educator. I have gotten over this in part by diving in, asking a lot of questions, and recognizing the unique things I bring to engineering.

**4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career?** My career has had a number of "curves" in it. I started out wanting to be a musician, then a lawyer, then an automotive engineer, then a researcher, and then a professor. Don't feel like you have to have it all worked out before you live it.

# BETSY DEL MONTE

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT



DALLAS  
WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION



## BETSY DEL MONTE

**1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work?** When I was in 3rd grade my parents commissioned an architect to design a house for us. Watching that house go up was when I realized that buildings were just big things that people made... and that I wanted to make them!

**2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field?** It was difficult for me to know what my path would be in the field of architecture, as there were very few women in the leadership levels of the profession when I was starting out. Fortunately, there were men who encouraged and supported me, but there were many times when I felt a bit like I was on my own.

**3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work?** One of the most amazing experiences I had was working with a nonprofit group that supports Ugandan children. I had the chance to travel to Kampala a couple times, and to work with the faculty, staff and students of the school that we planned to build. It was a transformative experience, professionally and personally.