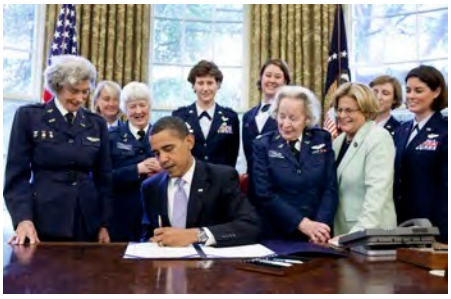
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Los Angeles - Las Vegas Section

Welcome to the
AIAA Los Angeles – Las Vegas Section
AIAA LA-LV Celebrates the American History Month for Women and the Women's Equality Day with Women Aerospace Professionals

Saturday, August 21st, 2021
10:00 am – 2:05 pm PDT (GMT-0700)
An AIAA LA-LV Virtual Event on Zoom
RSVP and Information: https://conta.cc/2TYveNV

TIME (PDT)	EVENTS
10:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction (Ms. Marilee Wheaton)
10:05 AM	"From Passengers to Pilots" (Ms. Leslie Czechowski, Moderator: Mrs. Marilee Wheaton)
11:15 PM	The 1st Panel Discussion (Moderator: Mrs. Marilee Wheaton)
12:25 PM	Ms. Tanja Schroeder (Exhibitor Briefing: "EnCorps and STEM Teachers Program")
12:40 PM	Miss Isis Ginyard (Special K-12 Student Briefing: "Development of the Stella App")
12:55 PM	The 2nd Panel Discussion (with an Early Career (Professional) focus)
02:05 PM	Adjourn



(Part I)

"From Passenger to Pilot"

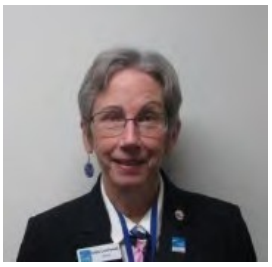
by

Ms. Leslie Czechowski

Docent, Museum of Flight,

Seattle Volunteer, Kent

Library



(Part II) Aerospace Women Professionals Panel Discussion

Ms. Marilee Wheaton (Moderator)

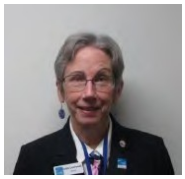
Ms. Claudine Phaire

Dr. Claire Leon

Atty. Jennifer Perdigao

Dr. Anita Sengupta

Dr. Swati Saxena



Ms. Leslie Czechowski

Exhibition and Special Briefings

Ms. Tanja Schroeder
"EnCorps and STEM Teachers Program"

Miss Isis Ginyard
A rising junior at Windward School
"Development of the Stella App"

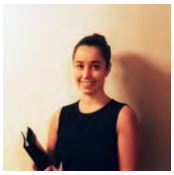
(Part III) Early Career Panel for Women Professionals

Ms. Janet Grondin (Moderator)

Ms. Kathleen Fredette

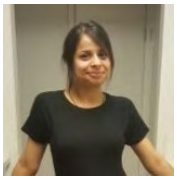
Ms. Janelle Wellons

Dr. Aki Roberge



Ms. Laura Duffy

Ms. Marilyn McPoland

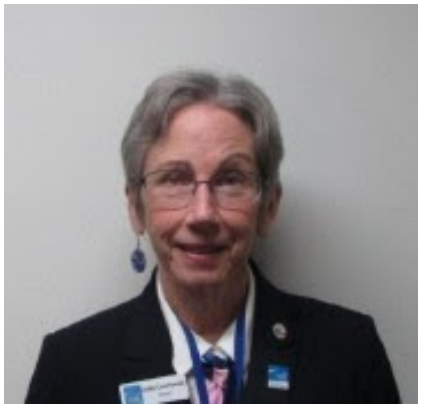


Ms. Niyati Chokshi

Disclaimer: The views of the speakers do not represent the views of AIAA or the AIAA Los Angeles-Las Vegas Section.

Ms. Marilee J. Wheaton
AIAA Fellow
(Event and the 1st Panel Moderator)
Systems Engineering Fellow, The Aerospace Corporation; President-Elect, INCOSE

Marilee J. Wheaton is a Systems Engineering Fellow in the Engineering & Technology Group at The Aerospace Corporation. Wheaton is responsible for providing technical leadership and building capability across the Corporation to include enterprise systems engineering, systems architecting, digital engineering and model-based systems engineering. Previous leadership roles over her thirty-year career at Aerospace include General Manager for the Systems Engineering Division and the Computer Systems Division, and Executive Director of The Aerospace Institute, the corporate university. Wheaton holds a B.A. in mathematics from California Lutheran University, an M.S. in systems engineering from the University of Southern California (USC) and is a graduate of the UCLA Executive Program in Management. Wheaton has served as adjunct faculty in the Systems Architecting and Engineering Program at USC Viterbi. A Fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Wheaton is an active member of the Systems Engineering Technical Committee. She is also a Fellow and Life Member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and a Fellow of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), where she is the current INCOSE President-Elect.



Ms. Leslie Czechowski
(Event Speaker and Panelist (1st Panel))
Docent, Museum of Flight, Seattle
Volunteer, Kent Library

Ms. Leslie Czechowski has a B.A. in Drama Theory, a M.S. in Library Science, and a M.S. in Liberal Studies (concentration in 19th century American history and literature). She has worked in a variety of library and archives positions at Grinnell College, The University of Minnesota, and The University of Pittsburgh. In addition, she taught graduate courses at The College of St. Catherine and The University of Pittsburgh. She has also authored many professional publications and presented on library and archival services.

Leslie has been a volunteer in numerous organizations and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova in 2012. She currently volunteers at the Kent Library teaching Microsoft Office software, volunteers at the Museum's archives, and joined the docent program at the Museum in 2016.

"From Passenger to Pilot"

"The presentation focuses on the development of aviation in the 20th century through women who played significant roles. The first transcontinental passenger was a female reporter from Chicago, and the first stewardess flew on a noted Boeing bi-plane. In the 1920s and 30s Amelia Earhart was a popular pilot, famous for her attempt to fly around the world at the equator. Her friend, Jacqueline Cochran, was another famous pilot through the next two decades, setting speed records in military jet airplanes."

Some of the competitors in the first-ever women's air derby, stopping in East St. Louis, Ill., in August 1929. From left to right: Mary Elizabeth von Mach, Jessie "Chubbie" Miller, Gladys O'Donnell, Thea Rasche, Phoebe Omlie, Louise Thaden, Amelia Earhart, Blanche Noyes, Ruth Elder, and Vera Walker. *St. Louis University Libraries*

Ms. Claudine Phaire
Chair, AIAA Diversity & Inclusion Working Group | AIAA Member
(Panelist (1st Panel))
Principal Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin

Claudine earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering from the State University of NY at Buffalo, an Airframe and Powerplant certificate from Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Claudine has worked in various engineering capacities at General Motors, Raytheon (Missiles and Aircraft) and Lockheed Martin (Sikorsky and Skunk Works). She is currently a Principal Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin Skunk Works and is the Vice Chair of The AIAA Diversity Working Group

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Dr. Claire Leon
Owner, Claire Leon Consulting, LLC.
(Panelist (1st Panel))

Dr. Claire Leon is a Senior manager with >34 years of experience in satellite system design, production, and operations for Government and Commercial programs. In depth experience in leadership of highly technical matrix organizations for all phases of space programs, from conceptual design through mission operations. Extensive background in program and functional management. Strong communication, leadership, technical and organizational skills. Reputation for being focused, people-oriented, dedicated, and having a global perspective.

Dr. Claire Leon, a member of the Senior Executive Service, was the Director of the Launch Enterprise Directorate, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. She is responsible for leading the acquisition, integration, development, production, operation and sustainment of the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program and the Rocket System Launch Program.

Dr. Leon held a variety of leadership positions prior to joining the Air Force Executive Service. Most recently she was a senior adviser for Integrity Applications Incorporated. She also taught courses in systems engineering and program leadership at Loyola Marymount University. She started her career at Hughes, Space and Communications Group in 1979, in the propulsion department. She gained experience across the company, in systems test, systems engineering, line management, and program management through positions of increasing responsibility. In 2008, she was promoted to Vice President of Navigation and Communications Systems within Boeing, Space and Intelligence Systems, responsible for the Wideband Global SATCOM System, the Transformational Satellite Communications System and Global Positioning System IIF satellite systems, as well as a number of classified programs. She retired from Boeing in 2013, as the Vice President of National Programs after 34 years in the aerospace industry.

Atty. Jennifer Fleming Perdigao (Pilot)
AIAA Member
(Panelist (1st Panel))
General Aviation Pilot
Partner & Co-Chair, Tressler's Transportation Practice Group

Jennifer Fleming Perdigao is a Partner and Co-Chair of Tressler's Transportation Practice Group. Her practice includes insurance coverage and defense as well as advisory matters. Jennifer's insurance coverage experience includes insurance coverage analysis and insurance litigation involving various aviation related policies. Her defense litigation experience involves a wide range of matters including the defense of wrongful death, personal injury and property damage claims arising out of premises, aviation accidents, airport operations, and products liability. Jennifer further provides counseling in connection with FAR compliance, risk management and aviation contracts. Jennifer has training and experience with employment law matters including FEHA claims and wage and hour matters. Jennifer is a licensed pilot and enjoys helping young women pursue aviation-related careers. She earned her J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law and currently works out of Tressler's Los Angeles office.

Dr. Anita Sengupta (Pilot)
(Panelist (1st Panel))
CEO/Founder Hydroplane Ltd.
Research Professor of Astronautics USC
Former NASA JPL Aerospace Engineer
Captain Civil Air Patrol
Instrument Rated pilot

Dr. Sengupta is an aerospace engineer, rocket scientist, pilot, and veteran of the space program. She worked for NASA for 17 years where her engineering projects included her PhD research on developing the ion propulsion system for the Dawn Mission (currently in the main asteroid belt), the supersonic parachute that landed the Curiosity rover on Mars, and the Cold Atom Laboratory an atomic physics facility now on board the International Space Station.

After leaving NASA she led the development of the hyperloop as senior vice president of engineering systems at Virgin Hyperloop, a technology that can enable ground based travel in excess of airline speed.

Her current venture is Co-Founder at Airspace Experience Technologies (ASX), an electrified autonomous VTOL urban aerial mobility technology company. As an engineering savvy executive and pilot, she is now leading the mobility solutions for smart cities by eliminating congestion and reducing the carbon footprint of air travel.

Dr. Sengupta received her MS and PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California, where she is also a Research Associate Professor of Astronautics and Space Technology specializing in interplanetary entry system and green transportation technology.

In her spare time she is an avid pilot, motorcyclist, scuba diver, snowboarder, hiker, long distance runner, and Sci-Fi fan.

Dr. Swati Saxena
AIAA Lifetime Senior Member
(Panelist (1st Panel))
Technical and Project Manager, ANSYS Inc.

B. Tech. - IIT Kanpur
MS and PhD in Aerospace Engineering - Penn State University
Lead Research Scientist and Program Manager - GE Global Research
Technical and Project Manager - Ansys Inc. (2018 – present)
Areas of Interest: Machine Learning in Simulation, Engineering Design - MBSE,/PIDO, Fluid Mechanics and Aero-acoustics, Gas Turbine Design
20+ publications, 2 patents

Ms. Tanja Schroeder
(Exhibitor: "EnCorps and STEM Teachers Program")
Southern California Recruitment Coordinator for EnCorps STEM Teachers Program

Ms. Tanja Schroeder is the Southern California Recruitment Coordinator for EnCorps STEM Teachers Program. EnCorps provides STEM access and closes achievement gaps for students in low income communities by supporting industry professionals becoming teachers. EnCorps vision is to realize a day where all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, are inspired and prepared to pursue their dreams. Through her work at EnCorps, Tanja is constantly inspired by the industry professionals who are passionate about sharing their expertise with the next generation.

Miss Isis Ginyard

(Special K-12 Student Presentation: "Development of the Stella App")

A rising junior at Windward School

Isis Ginyard is a rising junior at Windward School. She is currently developing an app that helps people working in isolated spaces cope with mental health issues. Her app helps people develop strategies to combat anxiety and depression while they are on missions in space, underwater, Antarctica, and other situations where one is confined to the place where they are for long periods. This app will provide the user with an on-demand psychiatrist who will be able to help them with their problems. Other features such as virtual reality and games will come out in future iterations of the app in order to strengthen relationships between coworkers and reinforce a sense of community in the workplace. Isolation often correlates with prolonged periods of negative emotions. Ms. Ginyard's app aims to not only track the causes of negative shifts in mood for each user, but also give them insight into how their mood is affected by their environment and the tools to effectively manage their moods.

- **4.0** GPA
- President of her high school's **"Junior Scientists"** club
- **Mentor to her high school's Robotics team**
- Created and successfully led a **"Coding Crashcourse"** for her peers
- **"Technovation"** club member – Her team designed **"Pool to School"** car pool application for fellow students.
- Won **First Place** in FIRST LEGO League competition for her **long-duration human space exploration** computer application called **"Stella"** – Allows astronauts to self-monitor their emotional states as well as connect to mental health professionals on Earth to work through problems. Later demonstrated this app at the **Yale University Center for Mental Health and Wellness**.

Ms. Janet Grondin (Moderator)

AIAA Senior Member, (Member Spotlight August 17, 2020)

(Moderator (the 2nd Panel))

Vice President, Intelligence Programs, Stellar Solutions

Former Director, Northrop Grumman | Colonel, USAF-Retired

Former President, Women In Defense Greater Los Angeles Chapter (WID-GLAC)

Executive Board Member, National Defense Industrial Association Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Janet Grondin is Vice President of Intel Programs for Stellar Solutions, Inc., where she is responsible for overseeing numerous mission domains within the Intelligence Sector, including satellite space and ground systems acquisition, systems engineering and integration, and ops support. Prior to this role, she was Vice President of Defense Programs after serving as Director of Emerging Space Capabilities at Stellar Solutions. Grondin is a former Northrop Grumman Director and a retired USAF Colonel with over 30 years of experience in navigation, remote sensing, satellite communications, launch, space superiority, and launch ranges. Her education includes a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering (magna cum laude) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, a M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the AF Institute of Technology, a M.S. in Strategic Studies from Air War College, and a M.S. in Military Operational Art & Science from Air Command and Staff College. She is the Immediate Past President of the Women In Defense Greater Los Angeles Chapter (WID-GLAC) and an Executive Board Member of the National Defense Industrial Association Greater Los Angeles Chapter (NDIA-GLAC).

Stellar Solutions, Inc. is a small, woman-owned business providing high impact engineering services to significant national and international customers for 26 years. Prior to this role, she was Director of Overhead Persistent Infrared Exploitation for Northrop Grumman. Janet is a retired USAF Colonel with over 30 years of experience in navigation, remote sensing, satellite communications, launch, space superiority, and launch ranges. Her education includes a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, a M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the AF Institute of Technology, a M.S. in Strategic Studies, and a M.S. in Military Operational Art & Science. Janet and her husband, Pat, have 2 sons in college and reside in San Pedro, CA. Janet's father was a private pilot and a mechanical engineer. He held several patents and built his own Starduster II from blueprints. She got a ride in his Starduster just before he had to stop flying…it was a beautiful airplane! Janet caught the bug for aviation and space from her Dad and applied to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. She was accepted and also, later, received an AFROTC scholarship. ERAU was the perfect school for her and Det 028 was a great launching pad for her AF career.

Dr. Aki Roberge
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics Laboratory

Dr. Aki Roberge is a research astrophysicist in the Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics Lab at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics with a Planetary Science minor from MIT and a PhD in Astrophysics from Johns Hopkins University. Her work focuses on 1) planet-forming disks around nearby young stars and 2) future space observatories to observe planets around other stars, aka. exoplanets. From 2016 to 2019, she served as the NASA Study Scientist for the Large UV/Optical/Infrared Surveyor (LUVOIR) mission concept, a possible future space telescope aimed at discovering Earth-like planets around other stars and searching them for signs of life. In 2020, she received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for her work on LUVOIR. She was a member of NASA's 2013 Visionary Astrophysics Roadmap Team and recently served on the NASA Planetary Science Advisory Committee. She is currently serving as the Acting Deputy Director for the Sciences & Exploration Directorate at NASA Goddard.

Ms. Janelle Wellons
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
Instrument Operations Engineer at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Bachelor in Aerospace Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Appearance on the "Super Sensors" episode of PBS Scigirls

Janelle Wellons graduated with her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is currently working at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory as an instrument operations systems engineer in Pasadena, CA. She has won various team and individual awards in her time there, with the most recent being the JPL Bruce Murray Award for "inspiring students to engage in STEM, quenching their thirst for knowledge, and sparking a curiosity greater than the stars in the sky".

Her job consists of planning, generating, and validating the commands to operate scientific instruments in-flight, as well as monitoring their health and safety. She also works to develop instrument ground data systems and concepts to be used in operations. Her current projects consist of the Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols, Sentinel-6, SWOT, and the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and she has previously worked on the Cassini mission. Additionally, she serves as the President of the Black Excellence Strategic Team, one of JPL's Employee Resource Groups.

Wellons is also involved in the local community. She is on the Pasadena YWCA subsidiary board and serves as the advisor for the Glendale and Pasadena YWCA STEAM program TechGyrls, planning activities for girls in elementary through high school. She is also on the Engaging Girls in STEM planning committee, a program that provides girls with the unique opportunity to engage women with successful careers in STEM.

When she isn't working, you can find her scuba diving, cosplaying, traveling, playing video games, enjoying the outdoors, and doing outreach for communities traditionally underrepresented in STEM.

Ms. Marilyn L. McPoland
Treasurer, AIAA LA-LV Section (AIAA Member Spotlight Nov. 25, 2019)
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
Director, Ceremonies & Events at California State University, Dominguez Hills
former: Sr. Director Operations, XPrize | Director, Museum of Flying | Air Show Producer

Marilyn is an avid aviation and aerospace enthusiast and on most weekends, can be found at an airport. She has also had the great fortune of making the cross-country trek from Los Angeles to Oshkosh, for the annual EAA AirVenture Oskhosh, in a YMF-5 Super Waco biplane, Great Lakes biplane, TBM 750 & 800, and a Pilatus PC-12. And she has co-piloted the only two-place British Supermarine Spitfire Mk.9 in the U.S.

With over twenty years in aviation, both professionally and personally, Marilyn's background includes a wide variety of successes at producing never-been-done-before events such as:

The first XPRIZE Air & Space Expo at Holloman Air Force Base with both "fire & fly" activities – rocket launches, lunar lander vehicle competitions and air show performances.

The very first over-the-water airshow at the Huntington Beach Pier with a myriad of military and civilian performances including Bob Hoover, Wayne Handley, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and more.

Record-breaking air shows in Hawaii, with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Jet Performance Team, which attracted more than 250,000 spectators.

Her professional career has piloted her into holding such positions as Senior Director of Operations for the X PRIZE Foundation, Director of Programs for the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica, Executive Producer for the Pierfest Sea and Air Show, and Marketing Director for U.S. Naval Air Station Barbers Point, HI

Throughout her career, she has had the great fortune to work closely with many distinguished aviators including Bob Hoover, Donald Douglas, Jr., Airshow Performers – Sean D. Tucker, and Wayne Handley, a myriad of Astronauts including Buzz Aldrin and Gene Cernan, the Tuskegee Airmen, the WASPS, members of the original Flying Tigers, and many others.

Additionally, Marilyn brings nearly two decades of experience in the planning and implementation of large and small-scale corporate events. Her commitment to excellence has led to her personal success in a variety of industries including aviation, space exploration, government, economic development, and higher education.

Marilyn worked for with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, and was responsible for overseeing the LAEDC's key events including the annual Eddy Awards, which during her tenure, honored such organizations as SpaceX, Los Angeles World Airports, Caltech, Magic Johnson, and NBCUniversal.

Currently Marilyn holds the position of Director of Events at California State University, Dominguez Hills. In this role, she oversees a department that manages in excess of 60 annual events. She is also involved in creating a documentary on the Dominguez Hills 1910 Air Meet.

Marilyn has served on Boards for the American Marketing Association, the Association of Western States Aviation Museums, and for the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Ms. Kathleen Fredette (Glider Pilot)
AIAA Educator Member
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
AIAA Educator Member, Coach, Presenter, Glider Pilot,
Director of STEAM Initiatives for iLEAD CA Charter Schools,
SOFIA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador,
One of the first 6 educators to fly on SOFIA and have flown 4 missions altogether,
NASA Endeavor Fellow

With a master's degree in STEM Education, Curriculum and Design, Kathleen Fredette, iLEAD's Director of STEAM Initiatives, has more than a decade of experience in teaching STEM, in addition to having taught gifted math and science and remedial math. She is certified in GATE instruction and has single-subject science and multi-subject Credentials.

As an airborne astronomy ambassador, she has flown four NASA SOFIA missions, including one with astronaut John Grunsfeld. But what is more fun is supporting students as they develop and fly student authored experiments to ISS (they've sent nine so far!) and running a project that resulted in one thousand kids taking their first glider flight and 5 high school students becoming pilots while still in high school.

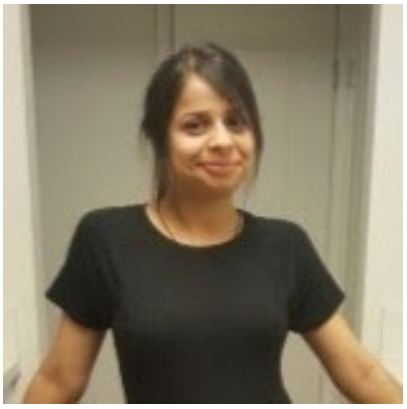
Kathleen is a NASA Endeavor Leadership Distinction Award recipient; Women in Aerospace national award recipient; certified glider pilot; Space Foundation teacher liaison; presenter at national conferences, including CA Assoc. for the Gifted; National Science Teacher Association; STEMposium; California Science Teacher Association; Experimental Soaring Association; Space Exploration Educators Conference, ASCEND and ICA.

Kathleen has been married to her husband, Mark, for 35 years and they have four sons. Her interests also include soaring, reading, scuba, gardening, cooking without recipes, connecting with others, the latest biohacking, and most important: her faith.

Ms. Laura Duffy
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
Space Systems Engineer, Canyon Consulting, LLC
PhD Student, Colorado State University

Ms. Duffy is a Space Systems Engineer with >7 years experience working for the Department of Defense. As an Air Force Officer, she led the launch of the first Global Positioning System (GPS)-III satellite, led system engineering efforts for the National Space Defense Center (NSDC), and led Positioning, Navigation, & Timing (PNT) Research and Development (R&D) efforts for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). As a Space Systems Engineer at Canyon Consulting, she has performed a variety of technical systems engineering analysis for the Air Force Vanguard Program: Navigation Technology Satellite (NTS)-3.

Ms. Duffy earned a Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy and a Master of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. She is pursuing her PhD in Systems Engineering from Colorado State University, studying cislunar space systems architectures. She is looking forward to continuing her support of the efficient utilization of space while growing her involvement with professional organizations such as AIAA.



Ms. Niyati Chokshi
(Panelist (the 2nd Panel))
Graduate Research Assistant at Bagley College of Engineering
Ph.D candidate- Aerospace Engineering
Mississippi State University

Ms. Niyati Chokshi is an experienced CFD Application Engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the Aerospace industry and rocket club. Skilled in CFD, ANSYS, FLUENT, SolidWorks, simulations, management, and a strong business development professional and project manager with a Master's degree focused in Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering (Computational Fluid Dynamics) from California State University-Long Beach. She is currently an Graduate Research Assistant at Bagley College of Engineering and also a Ph.D candidate in Aerospace Engineering, Mississippi State University.