



Name: Kaela Martin

Hometown
Eden Prairie, MN

Currently lives in
Prescott, AZ

Education

B.S. Aerospace Engineering, Iowa State University
B.S. Mathematics, Iowa State University
M.A. Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, Purdue University
Ph.D. Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, Purdue University
Employer
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott

Job Description

As an assistant professor in aerospace engineering, I teach undergraduate courses in space mechanics and space systems.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?

An accountant since my dad was an accountant and then a historian before I realized I don't enjoy reading history books.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?

A viable commercial space industry with commercial orbital space flights. Long-term human presence beyond low Earth orbit and more robotic spacecraft exploring planets beyond Earth

One insightful fact you want everyone to know:

Leadership is not just about putting out fires but confronting them before they start.

Professional Interests:

Engineering education, satellite dynamics, space systems

Hobbies

Rock climbing, mountain biking, and cooking delicious meals



Name: Julio C Mendez

Hometown: Maracaibo (Venezuela)

Currently lives: Prescott, AZ

Education:

Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering. North Carolina A&T State University, USA.

Sciences. Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela

B.S. Mechanical Engineering. Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela

Employer: Corredesa, LLC

Job Description: CFD Engineer in charge of developing new methodologies and numerical methods for corrosion analysis

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?

I have always wanted to be part of NASA. Working with multidisciplinary teams developing new technologies.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?

A viable commercial space industry with commercial orbital space flights. Long-term human presence beyond low Earth orbit and more robotic spacecraft exploring planets beyond Earth.

One insightful fact you want everyone to know:

Education is definitely important. Pursuing higher degrees give you the opportunity to learn from experts' experiences. Do not ever give up, regardless of how tough things can look like.

Professional Interests:

Computational Fluid Dynamics, High Performance Computing, Applied Math, Hypersonic flows, Turbulence and combustion.

Hobbies:

Planes, learning and flight.



Name: Ben Salmore

Hometown: Moorpark, CA

Currently lives: in Camarillo, CA

Education:

M.S. Aerospace Engineering (Dynamics and Controls), University of California, San Diego

B.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of California, San Diego

Employer: Aerovironment Inc.

Job Description: Guidance, Navigation, and Control Engineer for sUAS commercial products.
Check out Aerovironment Quantix!

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?
Rocket Scientist.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?
I think that the UAV space will explode as far as transportation, parcel delivery, and data solutions. The biggest hurdles right now are figuring out safety regulations with the FAA and demonstrating the value to the public.

One insightful fact you want everyone to know: Finding a place where you can be yourself and enjoy your work is the most important career move you can make. I've experienced both sides and the environment made all the difference in my professional happiness.

Professional Interests: GNC, sensors, UAVs, modeling and simulation.

Hobbies: I love cooking, hiking, and making video games on side!

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Name: Christopher Gee

Hometown: Honolulu, HI & Darmstadt, Germany

Currently lives: Centreville, VA

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering at West Virginia University

Employer: Aurora Flight Sciences, A Boeing Company

Job Description: Aerostructures Design Engineer and Group Manager

Provide solutions for airframe problems using aerospace materials including carbon fiber, titanium, aluminum, and fiberglass. As a manager I focus on career development, leadership and CAD system expertise for 15+ employees.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?

My mother has told me in the past that I have always asked engineer-type questions. I wanted to either build large trucks or large airplanes, I got to build both in college and at Aurora!

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now? I hope in 20 years we will be able to treat automated flight systems in the same manner as our current elevators. .

One insightful fact you want everyone to know: Engineers have a great ability to verify the solution can work, we need to make sure we are validating the solution should be used in this case. Don't be afraid to ask WHY.

Professional Interests: I focus on advanced prototype and structures design, STEM outreach, career development and aerospace history.

Hobbies: RC aircraft, Jeeps, BBQ, NHL hockey

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Name: Nathan K. Long

Hometown: Melbourne, Australia

Currently lives: Canberra, Australia

Education:

Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace Engineering) (Honours) - RMIT University (2014–2018)

Masters by Research in Computer Science (Trusted Autonomy) - University of New South Wales (2019–Present)

Employer: Defense Science and Technology Group

Job Description: Research Engineer (Cadet)

The development of a novel control technique for a swarm of autonomous vehicles, and the analysis and simulation of multi-vessel interactions.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?
An astronaut, and still do.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?
I believe the fourth industrial revolution will have a huge impact on the aerospace industry. Automation of the majority of aircraft functions will drastically reduce the number of crew onboard. Hypersonic airliners will be in limited use, while aircraft powered by renewable energy will become the new norm. The space industry will flourish, with the range of public and private actors increasing severalfold. Humankind will have a functional permanent presence on the moon, and will have made contact with the Martian surface. The next frontier for human exploration will become the upper Venusian atmosphere.

One insightful fact you want everyone to know: We must act now to try and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Professional Interests: To develop autonomous intelligent robotic systems for extraterrestrial exploration.

Hobbies: Flight training, hiking, camping, tennis and volleyball.



Name: Abhinav Pandey

Hometown: New Delhi, INDIA

Currently lives: New Delhi, INDIA

Education:

B. Tech. in Mechanical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, INDIA

MS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Southern California, USA

Employer: PMG (my company)

Job Description: Leading sales, operations, and administration of PMG. PMG is an engineering design and project management company delivering end-to-end design and design–Build solutions in the food and beverage industry. Currently staffed ~36 personnel, mostly engineers.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?

An engineer who could solve any problem, through knowledge, logic and persistence, like Cyrus Smith in The Mysterious Island by Jules Verne.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?

I see that my company and I are doing something valuable in the aerospace industry. I also see a lot of the technology being shared with other domains and enabling multi-domain implementations, bringing down the cost of aerospace technology and design, which is huge as on date.

One insightful fact you want everyone to know: What is real depends on who is looking.

[Physics + Life]

Professional Interests: Engineering. Design. Project Management. Systems Architecting.

Hobbies: Badminton, books, and programming.



Name: George Wesley Teats III

Hometown: Cypress, California

Currently lives: Clearfield, Utah

Education: Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, The California State Polytechnic University of Pomona

Employer: Northrop Grumman Corporation

Job Description: Design Engineer II

As a kid, what did you want to be when you “grew up”?

When I was a kid I dreamed of one day being able to build Space Vehicles.

How far can YOU see? Where do you see the aerospace industry 10–20 years from now?

In 10 to 20 years, I see the Aerospace Industry colonizing the moon and advancing Space Flight for the ability to travel amongst the stars and planets.

One insightful fact you want everyone to know: Never Give Up; In your life people will speak words to you to make you feel as though you are worthless and a failure, ignore them, and continue to Work with Maximum Effort always because One Day it will Pay Off!

Professional Interests: My Professional Interests are to someday become a Technical Fellow in Space Vehicle Design.

Hobbies: The Hobbies I enjoy are Snowboarding and Surfing because they are majestic to watch and require a lot of skill.