

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



2018 - 2019 AGU Centennial Narratives Project

NASA Shares Personal Science Stories from A to Z

The AGU Centennial Narratives Project is an opportunity for individuals to share their personal Earth and space science stories.

EXPLORE SCIENCE

2018

Doug Archer

NASA Johnson Space Center

"Me and million other kids wanted to be an astronaut."



Jacob Bleacher

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"We all have that dream of being the person who walks across plains on Mars."



Carmen Boeing

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"We weigh the ocean and then you can see how much water there is or less water."



John Bolten

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"It's all about getting the information into the hands of local stakeholders."



Paula Bontempi

NASA Headquarters

"It's not just about the ocean, it's about the intersection of the ocean with other earth systems."



Dwayne Brown

NASA Headquarters

"There would not be life without geosciences."



Laurie Cantillo

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"It never occurred to me to work in science communication"



Sandra Cauffman

NASA Headquarters

"We're constantly inventing new ways to use our data for societal benefits."



Steve Clarke

NASA Headquarters

"We have to learn to live off of the planet--we can't take everything with us."



David Crisp

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"If I can be welcomed in this group, doing this work, maybe they can too."



Brian Day

NASA Solar System Exploration
Virtual Institute

"When something changes your understanding, that's why you go into this field."



Bradley Doorn

NASA Headquarters

"What gets my juices flowing is connecting the science to an actual mission."



Anne Douglass

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"We need to figure out how to best manage the planet for all who live here."



Richard Eckman

NASA Headquarters

"For me growing up in the 60s & being a real NASA fan, working for NASA was just a really fulfilling thing."



Kristen Erickson

NASA Headquarters

"Celestial events are always a winner."



James Famiglietti

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"Communication is our responsibility."



Nicola Fox

NASA Headquarters

"Starting Out in Science Before Your First Birthday."



Michael Freilich

NASA Headquarters

"I joined an Oceanography club & actually asked the question that ended up [being] my thesis."



Lawrence Friedl

NASA Headquarters

"Well, why weren't you here before?"



Lori Glaze

NASA Headquarters

"Volcanoes are where we're making new earth, every day."



James Green

NASA Headquarters

"We're moving through a period of understanding [other] planets & how they relate to life on Earth."



Christopher Hain

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"I want to change the world with what we do, not do it for myself."



John Haynes

NASA Headquarters

"I wanted to know—how did these monsters form?"



George Huffman

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

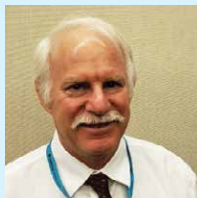
"I learned from watching tv that you could make a living working with weather and how cool is that?"



James Irons

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"AGU is interdisciplinary, [it] helps break down the disciplinary stovepipe we often get into."



Daniel Irwin

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"For really big problems we use really creative solutions."



Gail Skofronick-Jackson

NASA Headquarters

"As soon as it [snow] lands, it starts to metamorphosize"



Kenneth Jucks

NASA Headquarters

"[The Montreal Protocol] is one of the few areas where the international community really came together."



Jack Kaye

NASA Headquarters

"I got a little periodic table wallet card. So, I really am a card-carrying chemist."



Dalia Kirschbaum

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"With satellite data, you can help people understand how the disaster happen in their backyard."



Nathan Kurtz

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"I ask a question that can connect what I'm doing with research in the past or planned for the future."



David Lagomasino

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"The moment that put me on this path was an intro to Geology course."



Tim Lang

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"You need to get into the storm, install it close enough to the lightning, and then run back to the car."



Joseph Lazio

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"We all stand on each other shoulders to make the next discovery."



Ashutosh Limaye

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"[Better satellite monitoring] will improve our ability to bridge the gaps between the haves & have nots."



Norman Loeb

NASA Langley Research Center

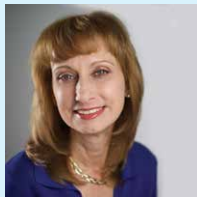
"The measurements are telling us a critical component of climate change."



Rosalyn Lopes

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"If you want to do something, don't let anyone put limitations on you."



Hal Maring

NASA Headquarters

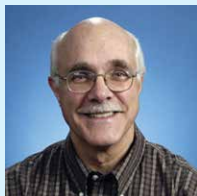
"You can make the claim that airborne transport of dust gives us rum."



Chuck McClain

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"The 6 Mentors You Meet in Life"



Linette McPartland

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"There are no dumb questions, be confident and know that you are the expert in your field."



Michael Meyer

NASA Headquarters

"Apollo 11... That's when I said, I don't have to be a businessman, I don't have to go into the military."



Paul Newman

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"When I was young, I always wanted to play pro baseball, soccer, or basketball"



Conor Nixon

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"Titan is a natural laboratory in synthesis of organic chemicals."



Luke Oman

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"The atmosphere is one of the most complex processes in nature."



Glenn Orton

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"Points that fall off the curve are either a mistake or the Nobel Prize."



Claire Parkinson

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"I am satisfied by simply being able to help out in whatever way I can."



Steve Pawson

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"You can't keep redoing your Ph.D. Really, to be successful, I think you have to change."



Steve Platnick

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"We are on a planet that is changing."



William Putman

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"When I was young I always knew I wanted to be a meteorologist."



Elizabeth Rampe

NASA Johnson Space Center

"We as humans have just this innate desire to explore."



Miguel Román

Universities Space Research Association

"We were seeing Christmas lights from space, and seeing people praying on Mount Arafat during the Haaj."



Steve Running

University of Montana

"We have a big mess to clean up. There's no other way to say it."



Sabrina Savage

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"The sun is a terrifying and beautiful laboratory of which we know only a little [about]."



Emily Schaller

NASA Ames Research Center

"My greatest contribution is the students that come through my program."



Christopher Shuman

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"Glaciers are the interface between land, atmosphere, and ocean."



Paul Stackhouse

NASA Langley Research Center

"There were two paths, figure out how things work or figure out to forecast things."



Amber Soja

NASA Langley Research Center

"If we're not taking action then we're part of the problem."



John Sonntag

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"Bridging the Divide with Operation IceBridge."



Robert Swap

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"What other profession allows you to ask questions, chase those things that give you intellectual itches."



Patrick Taylor

NASA Langley Research Center

"Something I learn today is something that [could help] society tomorrow."



Michelle Thaller

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"I've been a professional astronomer for over 20 years, [and it] still gives me goosebumps."



Andi Brinn Thomas

NASA Johnson Space Center

"You are so far up in space, that the Earth, the cities and the landscape all kinda of blends."



Charles Trepte

NASA Langley Research Center

"Particles from the Volcano in the Philippines had made their way all the way to Wisconsin."



Compton Tucker

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"I've always been really curious at solving problems, and I like puzzles."



Woody Turner

NASA Headquarters

"Tracking whales from space."



Thomas Wagner

NASA Headquarters

"One of the most important things that we can do as earth scientists is help society plan for change."



Jeremy Werdell

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"We can watch twenty minutes of the earth 'breathing,' in two minutes"



Bruce Wielicki

NASA Langley Research Center

"The best way to get ahead is to plant seeds of ideas in other people and watch them take off and run with it."



Alex Young

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"Technology continues to expand so quickly & change so dramatically, we don't actually know the true impacts."



David Young

NASA Langley Research Center

"When we met, it was a Reese's Peanut Butter moment: we had the peanut butter & he had the chocolate."



Mehdi Benna

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"Every project we work on, we count them by decades. That delays the rewards."



Brian Cairns

NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

"We can always do something and we should always do what we can when we can."



Ved Chirayath

NASA Ames Research Center

"It's really amazing how difficult it is to study something like the ocean."



James Garvin

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"There is humor and wonderment in all these great people."



Donald Gurnett

University of Iowa Physics and Astronomy

"It was really such a unique experience that I just don't think can happen today."



Justin Kasper

Space Sciences at the University of Michigan

"As a human being, you shouldn't let the individual days go by without appreciating them."



Dana Bolles

NASA Headquarters

"I love the fact that we're serving the public."



Brian Campbell

NASA Wallops Flight Facility

"A lot of teachers that I had as a child they inspired me and I was like man, I really like what they do."



Riley Duren

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"The journey and who you're taking the journey with matters as much as the destination."



Shobhana Gupta

NASA Headquarters

"If you want something bad enough, you can work hard and get it or you can at least try."



Kayla Iacovino

NASA Johnson Space Center

"These are really big questions that right now no one could really answer."



Michael King

University of Colorado Laboratory for Atmospheric Sciences

"I just kept learning more things or finding a niche."



Eric Lindstrom

NASA Headquarters, retired

"Most of these happenings have been because technology became available that could realize the vision."



Russanne Low

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

"The opportunity to be part of this team to build something was really quite compelling."



Paul Mahaffy

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

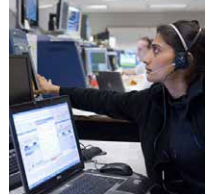
"It's just amazing to go to a new place in the solar system and discover someplace new."



Mamta Nagaraja

NASA Headquarters

"I love where life has taken me."



Cynthia Rosenzweig

NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

"We're going to be able to help the planet."



Lindy Elkins-Tanton

Arizona State University

"It's so fun and such a privilege to be part of this team and see what people can do together"



Nicholeen Viall

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

"The sun kind of affects everything here on Earth in one way or another."



Joseph Westlake

John Hopkins Applied Physics Lab

"The way that space physics, and space instrumentation, and things like that works is very old school."



Amy Winebarger

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

"You have to believe in yourself and your project more than anybody else, and you have to sell it."



Xubin Zeng

University of Arizona for atmospheric science

"Even today I'm still amazed at the power of the simple mathematics and it has benefited my whole career."



Thomas Zurbuchen

NASA Headquarters

"The moment when you run over the finish line as a team is one that you'll never forget in your life"







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To search the narratives archive,
visit: archive.storycorps.org and search keyword **NASA**

Or, visit:

[https://centennial.agu.org/earth-space-science-history/
agu-narratives-library](https://centennial.agu.org/earth-space-science-history/agu-narratives-library)

NASA was honored to be part of such a tremendous effort to
amplify the accomplishments of science over the last 100 years.