

17 | November | 2022

DISCOVER NASA

with NASA CT Space Grant

A virtual series for CTSGC members to explore topics with NASA Professionals



My Days as a Flight Director **with Tomas Gonzalez-Torres** Space Grant Project Manager, NASA HQ

Tomas Gonzalez-Torres was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and grew up in Iowa. He attended Iowa State University where he received a BS in Aerospace Engineering while completing 6 internships with NASA/Johnson Space Center. He was hired by NASA into the Extravehicular Activities group and supported crew training and mission control operations for multiple spacewalks in support of Space Shuttle missions, International Space Station Assembly, and Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Missions. He was selected as a manager and then as a Mission Control Flight Director in the class of 2011. He served in that position for 5 years before he left NASA and moved back to Iowa to be closer to family. He taught at Iowa State University for 5 years while also being the Director of the Iowa Space Grant Consortium until this past spring (2022) when he returned to NASA as the Space Grant Project Manager.

Scan to learn more



Presentation Moderated by:

Dr. Luz Amaya

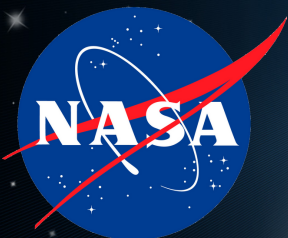
NASA CT Space Grant Consortium Campus Dir.

Associate Professor

Mechanical Engineering Program Coordinator

Department of Engineering

Central Connecticut State University



Partner

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26 | January | 2023

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NASA AI Initiative & Strategies for Groundbreaking Science with James Harrington

*Computer Scientist/Project Manager, NASA
Goddard Space Flight Center*

James Harrington is a computer scientist with the Computer Information Science and Technology Office (CISTO) Research Group at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. He also supports Goddard's Office of STEM Engagement. His primary responsibilities include data science/machine learning research outreach, as well as systemic STEM reform for professional learning and student achievement in STEM

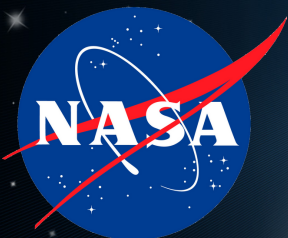
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Presentation Moderated by:

Carolyn Rosiene

Professor of Computer Science
University of Hartford



Partner

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16 | February | 2023

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What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

with Jennifer Fowler

*Range Safety Officer/Uninhabited Aircraft
Systems Pilot, NASA Langley Research Center*

Jennifer's expertise lies in areas of autonomous atmospheric data collection and weather modeling research, with 20 years of experience with autonomous systems and collaborations around the world. She enjoys new challenges and tries to bring a fresh perspective to these challenges by asking questions that are less related to traditional engineering and physical science and more a blend of these traditional approaches while also considering the social implications. Jennifer has experience in analyzing an array of datasets and enjoy finding new patterns that benefit a project in unexpected ways. Her background includes teaching in higher education, designing and building prototype sensors, piloting uninhabited and habited aircraft, and project management with numerous grants.

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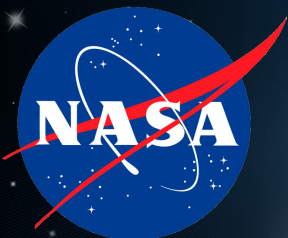


Presentation Moderated by:

Jani Macari Pallis, Ph.D.

NASA CT Space Grant Consortium Campus Dir.

Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
University of Bridgeport



Partner

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16 | March | 2023

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NASA Supersonics Research & the X-59: How They Will Benefit You!

with Donald Durston

Aerospace Engineer, NASA Ames Research Center

Don has been working at NASA Ames Research Center as an Aerospace Engineer for over 43 years on experimental aerodynamics of advanced aircraft concepts in the Ames wind tunnels. He is currently working on the Commercial Supersonics Technology Project, which is preparing to fly the X-59 aircraft that has been designed to have a quiet sonic boom. Don's role on the project is as the lead researcher in charge of sonic boom wind tunnel testing for NASA. He recently led two sonic boom wind tunnel tests of a 1.62%-scale model of the X-59 in supersonic wind tunnels at NASA's Glenn Research Center and at the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency. The data from these tests is being used to validate computer predictions of the X-59's sonic boom characteristics and will be compared to flight test data starting in 2024.

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Presentation Moderated by:

Jani Macari Pallis, Ph.D.

NASA CT Space Grant Consortium Campus Dir.

Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
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13 | April | 2023

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Plants in Space: Veggie and Space Crop Production

with Gioia Massa

Project Scientist, NASA Kennedy Space Center

Gioia Massa is a NASA scientist at Kennedy Space Center working on space crop production for the International Space Station and future exploration endeavors. She led the science team for the Veggie validation and she heads an interdisciplinary team to study nutrition and flavor of space-grown crops. She has a BS in Plant Science from Cornell, a PhD in Plant Biology from Penn State, and postdoctoral research from Purdue and Kennedy Space Center. She has worked in the areas of plant space biology and bioregenerative life support.

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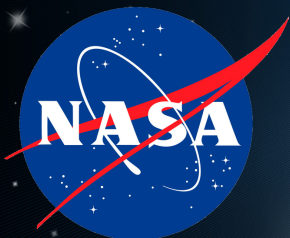
Presentation Moderated by:

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