

Spacesuit Contest Winner Is Charlotte Kiang from Ithaca, NY

Meet the Judges for the Spacesuit Essay Contest



Jim Adams: Deputy Director of Technology at NASA

W. James (Jim) Adams is the Deputy Chief Technologist at NASA in the Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT). The OCT is responsible for coordinating and tracking of all technology investments across the agency and advising the

NASA Administrator on agency technology progress and priorities. Additionally, OCT fosters Technology Transfer, Prizes and Challenges as well as advocates for commercial space enterprise.

Prior to his current position, Adams served as the Deputy Director of the Planetary Science Division within NASA's Science Mission Directorate, overseeing the Discovery, New Frontiers, Lunar Science, and Mars programs. He was responsible for the development of several key technologies including Ion Propulsion, Radioisotope Power Systems and Pu-238 production strategies. Prior to this post, Adams served as the Project Manager for the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, as well as a Space Station Freedom Systems Integration Manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).



Ed Vessel: Neuroscientist at New York University

Dr. Edward Vessel is an internationally recognized expert on neuroaesthetics. His research combines brain imaging with behavioral and computational approaches to study how individuals are moved by, and get pleasure from, visual experiences. He has been

invited to speak on his work to professional and lay audiences at numerous conferences and art museums across the U.S. and Europe, including the 2013 World Science Festival, and has been interviewed about his work and expertise for numerous radio, web, and print media stories. Recently Dr. Vessel completed a project for NASA exploring potential links between sensory stimulation and well-being during long-duration spaceflight. He is currently Co-Director of the ArtLab at New York University and a Research Scientist at the NYU Center for Brain Imaging. Dr. Vessel received his BA in cognitive science from The Johns Hopkins University and his PhD in neuroscience from the University of Southern California in 2004.



Gaia Brown: External Relations, Washington University

Gaia Borgias Brown handles External Relations for the University of Washington William E. Boeing department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Ms. Brown helps companies access student talent and identify potential research partners in aerodynamics, propulsion, fusion, plasma, fluids, structures and controls. Her industry

network includes commercial aircraft manufacturers, UAS companies, space entrepreneurs, government agencies, and international aerospace clusters. In addition to her work with UW, Ms. Brown also holds a business development position with the aerospace management and operations consultancy, Singularity Prime. She has a Bachelors of Science from the Art Institute of Portland.



Ari Maller: Professor, Columbia University New York CityTech

Prof. Maller's is an astrophysicist at CUNY's College of Technology in Brooklyn. His research focuses on the formation and evolution of galaxies. He pursues this through a variety of methods, running hydrodynamical simulations, working with analytic and semi-analytic models, and by analyzing observations in ways more suited for comparison with theoretical modeling. One of his primary interests is in understanding the gaseous halos of galaxies, which provide the fuel for future star formation. He is also active in studying dust in spiral galaxies, quasar absorption systems and their local analogs, how galaxies gain angular momentum and gravitational lensing by spiral galaxies.



Sidney Nakao Nakahodo: Lecturer, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University

Sidney Nakao Nakahodo is co-founder of NewSpace NYC, an organization devoted to promoting business opportunities in commercial spaceflight in the New York City area. He is a member of the Columbia University faculty, where he teaches economic and political development at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Previously he was based in Washington DC and worked at the World Bank. He also served as senior researcher in major think tanks and consulted for the United Nations Development Programme. He started his career providing technical assistance for manufacturing companies in South America.



Lanette Oliver: Teachers in Space Pathfinder

Lanette is currently the Executive Director and lead instructor for SPACE: Science, Physical, Academic, and Cultural Enrichment, a non-profit specializing in personalized and small group instruction. Just a few of Ms.

Oliver's recognitions include: Golden Apple Award winner, Texas Space Grant Scholarship winner, and one of four teachers selected by the Texas Space Grant Consortium to fly aboard a NASA microgravity flight in January, 2009. She has 25+ years experience in education and non-profits, including winning and implementing more than 3 million dollars in grants for innovative educational programming.



Amir Blachman: Principal at Space Angels Network

Amir Blachman has over 15 years experience in start-up management, operations, and finance, focusing on sourcing aerospace investment

opportunities and growing early state companies. He holds an MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and a BA in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara. Amir is an instrument-rated private pilot, a Representative of the FAA's Safety Team and a volunteer with the Experimental Aircraft Association. He supports Space Angels Network by building and evaluating the start-up pipeline, cultivating relationships with angel investors, and building strategic partnerships.



Frank Todaro: Invisible World Radio Host

Frank Todaro is host of the award winning science and paranormal based radio program "The Invisible World" regularly interviewing guests from various disciplines associated with space flight and

theoretical physics. Frank has given lectures on various space related topics such as the New Horizons Probe at the 2014 Worlds Science Fair as well as appearing as a guest on The Science Channel's Sci-Fi Science: Physics of the Impossible with Michio Kaku. Frank also acts as master of ceremonies to events such as "Yuri's Night", the annual party/symposium celebrating the first man in space and Space Frontier Foundation's New Space gala. Through the show, he has covered a wide array of events that run the gamut from annual Maker Faire coverage to space launches. Frank Todaro is also a voice actor for animation and video games, giving a voice to characters such as Buzz Lightyear, The Invizimals. Frank is honored to assist with the selection process in this year's TIS Space-walk challenge.



Jason Kring: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Professor of Psychology and Human Factors, Dept of Commercial Space Operations

Professor Kring is widely published and is the faculty advisor for the Human

Performance in Extreme Environments (HPPEE) student group on ERAU. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Human Performance in Extreme Environments and is a reviewer for "Human Factors: The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society" and the "Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research."



Bobby Russell: CEO and Founder Quest for Stars

Bobby Russell is the founder of Quest for Stars. He is a skilled fixed wing pilot, radio-controlled hack, high altitude balloon Jedi, suborbital educational

advocate, & spaceflight enthusiast. During the day, Bobby is an IT Disaster Recovery Manager for a major supplier of UAVs and DARPA toys to the US military. In his spare time, Bobby also volunteers with St. Vincent De Paul Child Literacy Lab. Bobby served in the US Navy as an Electronics, Computer, Cryptography, and Radar Technician.

Find out more about our Spacesuit Contest

Winner, Charlotte Kiang, in our October Newsletter

TIS Alumni Spotlight: Hao Tran



Featuring this month is Hao Tran, chemistry teacher from Fort Worth, Texas. She is a science instructional specialist for 6-12th grades and spends most of her time in classrooms working to improve instructional quality and student engagement. She

states "STEM education combined with educational technology integration in our classrooms is crucial for all our learners. We enter an age where innovation and creativity are limitless. Our children need process skills to keep up with the demands of the 21st century. Science, math and new technologies are the academic platforms for future engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs." Hao has not only been participant but also a facilitator in the Teachers In Space workshops. After each workshop, she is able to take back the projects and lessons to teachers. She supports project based learning and collaboration in the classroom. From the Human Factors and Physiology workshop, she shared spacecraft cabin design and created the first classroom design competition for middle schoolers. She thinks "It is essential that students learn to work as a team and this will serve them well in all professional and personal capacity. She also had several schools submit ISS payload proposals through the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program. She states "it was such a learning experience for the students to think through problems and create an inquiry based project." But it was the flight workshop in Palmdale that really catapulted her passion for flight. She is currently taking some flight hours and enjoying being behind the controls. "It's really thrilling but yet at the same time there is a peacefulness from flying through the clouds." Another facet of the TIS program is meeting other educators, industry professionals, former astronauts, and even science guy Bill Nye. "It really has been such a learning experience to meet such a high caliber of people who share the same passions of space flight and the challenges we face as we

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