

HOPE JAHREN

GEOBIOLOGIST



DALLAS
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION



HOPE JAHREN, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: *TIME's* "100 Most Influential People" & Best-Selling Author of *Lab Girl*.

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? I love to study plants in Ireland! Ireland is so green, it seems like a paradise for plant life. Under your feet lies a thick layer of peat (dead moss), on top of that is living moss, and growing out of that are grasses, shrubs and trees.

3 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career? My father was a community college instructor and he had a laboratory that he used to teach students how to do basic chemistry, physics and earth science. He loved science and he loved teaching, and he never tired of talking with people about the things that made them curious — I wanted to grow up to be just like him.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? When you do some work that you enjoy, pause and take time to feel the joy of your accomplishment. Learn to recognize what makes you happy in your work, and what you are good at.

STACY TRIMBLE

B737 CAPTAIN



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STACY TRIMBLE

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? I had been working as a Flight Attendant for American Airlines and was fascinated by everything that happened forward of the cockpit door. It led me to start asking questions about being a pilot, and after taking a few flying lessons, I was hooked.

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Conquering my own fear. When I was learning how to fly I had moments where I felt I wasn't cut out to be a pilot. I stopped pursuing my dream because of fear and doubt. However, I wanted to be a pilot too much to give up on it so I forced myself to return to flying, gained the necessary skills and confidence needed to push through the fear, and was forever grateful for finding that courage. A motto emerged from it for me: Move toward the fear. The sense of accomplishment from overcoming it can fuel you toward fantastic experiences.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Being a successful leader means learning how to do your job in a way that brings out the best in others. Do this by being confident, humble, and encouraging.

MEGHYN MEEKS

TURFGRASS BREEDING RESEARCHER



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MEGHYN MEEKS, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: Researcher who assists in developing new, drought tolerant, resource efficient turfgrass varieties for sustainable urban living across Texas and beyond serving a full scope of industry sectors, namely lawns, sports and golf.

2 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career? Environmental issues are constantly demanding solutions for plant problems including those for food, horticultural crops and turfgrasses. I was not raised on a farm, but I never saw it as a barrier to pursuing a career in agriculture because I have a strong work ethic and am willing to step outside my comfort zone to learn about my interests.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Not believing I could perform at the same level as others in a primarily male-dominant field. I learned to adapt—sometimes this meant completing the same tasks differently, which at times were more efficient, but sometimes they took longer. Where there is a will there is a way.

PASCALE ATALLAH

POLYMER SCIENTIST



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PASCALE ATALLAH, PH.D.

1 Fun Facts: State record holder in powerlifting and is a board member and volunteer at a nonprofit gym for those in her community without access to a facility to better themselves physically and mentally.

2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? When I was 5 years old I used to play teacher, and would teach chemistry lessons I had picked up from my older sisters. I knew I wanted to work in polymers and plastics specifically the first day I took a polymer science class.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Being born and raised in Lebanon, the major obstacle I had to overcome was the limiting beliefs that women were restricted in the fields of education they could pursue and jobs they could have. I sometimes need to remind myself that we are in a country and age where men and women in the workplace are equal.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Being a leader means you will sometimes walk alone for a while before others follow you. Don't be afraid of the journey. If you don't succeed, you learn.

ANOUSHEH ANSARI

ENTREPRENEUR &
SPACE AMBASSADOR



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ANOUSHEH ANSARI

1 Street Cred: First female private space explorer, funder of the Ansari X Prize.

2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? Since I was a young girl in Iran, I would lie on my balcony at night and just look up at the stars. I was fascinated by the sheer mystery of space, what's out there, what's it like and how I could get there. When I was young I made the decision to be an astronaut/astrophysicist and travel into space.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? When I came to the United States as a teenager I did not speak a word of English, and I knew I must work hard to learn English. There is so much opportunity in the United States, and I have worked hard to achieve my dreams.

4 What's the most daring thing you've ever done? Going to space! The day of the flight, I thought I would be really nervous and I was surprised that I wasn't. We spent two and a half hours in the capsule preparing launch procedures, and after that they put some music on—it was actually very 'zen-like.'

MELISSA GESSER

AVIATION EXECUTIVE & PILOT



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MELISSA GESSER

1 Street Cred: Executive for a major aerospace company, former United States Air Force Pilot with over 900 hours of flight time, including 230 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? I worked with a client based in Beijing, China. I absolutely loved the immersion in such a different place than the United States. It was an amazing experience—I was reminded that no matter where I am on this tiny planet, the strangers around me are seeking the same things I am: purpose, passion, and love.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Be a wonderful person. Be honest. Be respectful. Be transparent. Be positive. Be confident. Be dependable. These qualities will take you much farther in life than any technical skill you will learn.

4 Who was your role model? My grandfather was a Louisiana farmer; he believed in hard work and that "To whom much is given much is required."

BRITTANY RANSOM

ARTIST, EDUCATOR, TECHNOLOGIST



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BRITTANY RANSOM

1 Artist Statement: I strive to probe the lines between human, animal, and environmental relations while exploring emergent technologies.

2 How do you make art? I work in 3D computerized production, digital fabrication and physical computing / kinetics to produce sculpture and art.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? The Arctic Circle on the coast of Svalbard around 87.9° north. This was a landscape like no other: one that is fragile, endangered, and very wild. I could see polar bears, beluga whales, blue whales, and sea lions in the wild and was able to walk on landscapes that cannot be visited by many.

4 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? My field is heavily political, bureaucratic, male-dominated, and lacks diversity. While this has been challenging, rising to the top has been beyond rewarding, and the most important part of succeeding is being a representation for young women that it is possible to break the stereotype.

ALIZÉ CARRÈRE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



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ALIZÉ CARRÈRE

1 Professional Passion: Innovative adaptations to climate change, highlighting the remarkable resilience of the human species (my short film about this just debuted at the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival).

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Accepting that often times things do not go as planned. I've become very good at accepting change, and being resilient when things take an unexpected turn.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? One of the most incredible places I've conducted field work is in Madagascar. Sometimes I would get to conduct fieldwork in the middle of a forest, full of lemurs and birds and other small creatures calling out in the morning light.

4 What's one piece of advice you have for young women? Don't be afraid to do something that isn't conventional. But truthfully, the more you make yourself different, the more you stand out later on down the line, and the more people recognize you and what you're doing.

RENÉE HLOŽEK

COSMOLOGIST



PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN LASH



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RENÉE HLOŽEK, D.PHIL.

1 Street Cred: Rhodes Scholar, TED Senior Fellow.

2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? I never really had a "eureka" moment, but just kept doing what I love and when I was in high school I realized I wanted to keep doing this!

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Ask for help and talk to other people about the things that you're struggling with. We make each other stronger when we work together.

4 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Sometimes people don't believe in you, or assume that you can't do something because of how you look. It's important to remember that what you look like isn't the thing that makes you a strong thinker: it's your mind!

5 What's the most daring thing you've ever done? I once jumped out of a plane! When it comes to my career, trying something when I'm not sure I'm ready is something that pushes me.

WANDA GASS

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER



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WANDA GASS

1 Street Cred: Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? In high school I decided I wanted to be an engineer so I could improve the lives of many people.

3 What is a fun tidbit you want young women to know about your career? I founded a nonprofit to help high school girls be better prepared for their first physics course.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Don't avoid disagreements, but strive to hear all points of view and the reason behind those views, because it is through thinking out the issues from all sides that you can make an informed decision.

5 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? There was always a message in the back of my head that told me that I didn't deserve to be the first female Fellow at Texas Instruments. I had to learn to state my contributions in an objective way with facts to support my statements without turning my arguments into attacks on other people or overstating my contributions.

LOUISA PRESTON

ASTROBIOLOGIST
& PLANETARY GEOLOGIST



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LOUISA PRESTON, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: UK Space Agency Aurora Research Fellow, TED Fellow, author of *Goldilocks and the Water Bears*.

2 Professional Passion: I work in environments across the Earth where life can survive our planet's most extreme conditions, using them as blueprints for possible extra-terrestrial life forms and habitats.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? The fresh lava flows of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull. We could still see magma far beneath our feet through cracks in the surface and many spots we trekked across caused the soles of our boots to melt.

4 What's the most daring thing you've ever done? Every field trip I take is daring and has its risks. I work in environmentally extreme locations across the world studying Mars analogue environments—many involving extreme temperatures, hot springs and geysers, acidic rivers, frozen deserts and nearly always in remote locations.

KATE CANALES

HUMAN CENTERED DESIGNER
& DESIGN RESEARCHER



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KATE CANALES

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? My freshman year in college, I took a class called “Visual Thinking” that turned out to be the introductory class for Mechanical Engineering. It was all about building things, drawing things, and using your intuition and skill to solve problems. I fell in love with a certain way of seeing the world in that class.

2 Who were your role models? I had a professor in college who was, I believe, the only woman teaching in the Mechanical Engineering department at the time—Dr. Sheri Sheppard. She became my advisor, and is still a friend and role model.

3 What should young women know about your career? We emphasize STEM and STEAM, but a big part of my work leans on psychology, art, anthropology and history. It’s important to maintain your interests in many fields.

ALICIA EGGERT

INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST



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ALICIA EGGERT

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? When I took a sculpture class during my last semester of college (and I was majoring in something else!).

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Most artists claim that they were born with certain talents and inclinations and have been "drawing since they could hold a pencil," but I didn't begin making art until my early twenties. Because I didn't feel like I was born with "the gift," it took me several years to work up the courage to call myself an artist.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? When I lived in Maine I made a sculpture titled "You are (on) an island." It is a blue neon sign and the word "on" flashes on and off at regular intervals to reveal the message, "You *are* an island." I've since been invited to show that sculpture on many different islands and continents including the UK, Australia, Malta and China. I never expected that my art would allow me to travel around the world.

ASHA DE VOS

MARINE BIOLOGIST
& OCEAN EDUCATOR



PHOTO CREDIT: YASHA HEITZEL



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ASHA DE VOS, PH.D.

1 Professional Passion: Researching and protecting the unusual population of Northern Indian Ocean blue whales, telling stories about the ocean, and inspiring the next generation of ocean heroes.

2 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? At 6 I wanted to be an adventurer scientist and that led me toward marine biology.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Vulnerability and visibility are my two superpowers for inspiring and motivating people. Be humble. You are not special; you are just one of the privileged few—use that privilege to leave the planet a better place than you found it.

4 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? My favorite place to work is Sri Lanka because it's home and because that's where I want to have a lasting impact—that's where I want to show the world that no matter where you come from, no matter who you are, no matter what you believe in, it is all possible as long as you dream and set yourself goals.

KIMBERLY POWELL

SUPPORT ESCALATION ENGINEER



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KIMBERLY POWELL

1 Professional Passion: Microsoft's DigiGirlz High Tech Camps where high school girls learn about writing code, robotics and new technologies in response to negative stereotypes about women in the technology field.

2 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Don't be intimidated by those who seem to know more than you and never be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something. It's a great way to learn.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Understanding that I may be the only female in a workgroup and will have to do extra work to prove myself to my male counterparts.

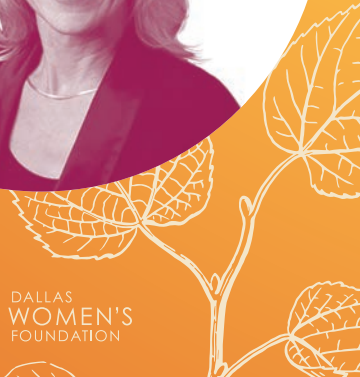
3 What's a good tip to help young women achieve their goals? Write down your vision for your future aspirations on an index card or post-it note and keep it somewhere you can view it every day. Having it in view, will keep you focused and more likely to achieve it!

SHERI SHEPPARD

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR



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SHERI SHEPPARD, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: Recipient of Stanford University's highest award for excellence in teaching as well as numerous other awards for outstanding teaching and notable contributions to the mechanical engineering profession.

2 Fun Fact: Held engineering positions at Detroit's "Big Three"— Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, and Chrysler Corporation.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? My biggest obstacle has been self-doubt. At times I have wondered whether I am smart enough and clever enough to be successful as an engineer and educator. I have gotten over this in part by diving in, asking a lot of questions, and recognizing the unique things I bring to engineering.

4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career? My career has had a number of "curves" in it. I started out wanting to be a musician, then a lawyer, then an automotive engineer, then a researcher, and then a professor. Don't feel like you have to have it all worked out before you live it.

BETSY DEL MONTE

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT



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BETSY DEL MONTE

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? When I was in 3rd grade my parents commissioned an architect to design a house for us. Watching that house go up was when I realized that buildings were just big things that people made... and that I wanted to make them!

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? It was difficult for me to know what my path would be in the field of architecture, as there were very few women in the leadership levels of the profession when I was starting out. Fortunately, there were men who encouraged and supported me, but there were many times when I felt a bit like I was on my own.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? One of the most amazing experiences I had was working with a nonprofit group that supports Ugandan children. I had the chance to travel to Kampala a couple times, and to work with the faculty, staff and students of the school that we planned to build. It was a transformative experience, professionally and personally.