Who are the women involved in STEM?

What I wanted to be when I grew up

Have a job that combined my two great passions: maths and aerospace. Outside my immediate family, my Grade 2 teacher had a strong and lasting impact on my self-belief and confidence in my maths and science skills.

Bianca Capra

Senior Lecturer, Aerospace Engineer & Co-Chair YoWIE

UNSW Canberra

Professional

Top-level responsibilities

Using my skills to solve challenges of high-speed vehicle testing; delivering university level engineering courses; advocating for, and driving change in engineering workforce; inspiring and mentoring young women in engineering.

Day-to-day work and skills

Designing new and advanced high-speed testing capability, generating, collecting and analysing data; advocating for more diversity and equity in engineering.

Effective communication; teamwork and leadership; attention to detail.

Personal

Current location and community

Canberra, ACT

My interests and hobbies

I like being active and outdoors. I enjoy reading and challenging my thoughts and beliefs; I quite enjoy craft, and building space-related Lego as well as learning new skills.

I am passionate about

My two great passions are aerospace engineering and increasing equity and diversity in engineering. I love aerospace engineering and high-speed flight and love sharing this with the public young and old. I also want to make a real and valued impact in my technical work.

What I would say to 16-year-old me

Find your voice. Your passion is your power and influence.

I have always loved problem-solving, maths and science and my favourite subjects at school were Maths and Physics.

I completed my Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical and Space, and my PhD in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Queensland.

I watched the high-speed vehicle that I did all the thermal-structural analysis for launch, then crash, (due to a first stage rocket motor failure, and not our vehicle) from a rocket range in Norway.

I moved my family to Canberra and have never looked back.

In the future I want to continue to learn more about unlocking high-speed flight and continue to drive change for greater equity and diversity in engineering.

THE GiST Girls in STEM Toolkit

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