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Scripps' livestream with astronaut Jessica Meir inspires middle school and graduate students to reach for the stars

by [VICTORIA DAVIS](#)

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Between traveling around the earth at 5 miles a second, conducting DNA sequencing and combustion experiments, plus watching the sun rise and set 16 times a day, La Jolla marine biologist Jessica Meir made time to video chat with 150 middle school students from the international space station.

"It really means so much for me to be able to share my life up here with all of you," said Meir at the beginning of her livestream call with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and San Diego's Fulton Middle School and Memorial Preparatory for Scholars and Athletes — two schools supported by Birch Aquarium's Price Philanthropies Ocean Science Education Fund. "It really is one of the big objectives of my mission...to share this experience with as many people as I can because I am so incredibly fortunate to be up here."

Scripps hosted the livestreaming event, STEM to Stars, on Monday, Jan. 27, and students both from the middle schools and Scripps own graduate program had the opportunity to ask Meir pre-prepared questions about her time as a scientist and brand-new astronaut.

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La Jolla marine biologist and NASA astronaut Jessica Meir recently video chatted with local students.
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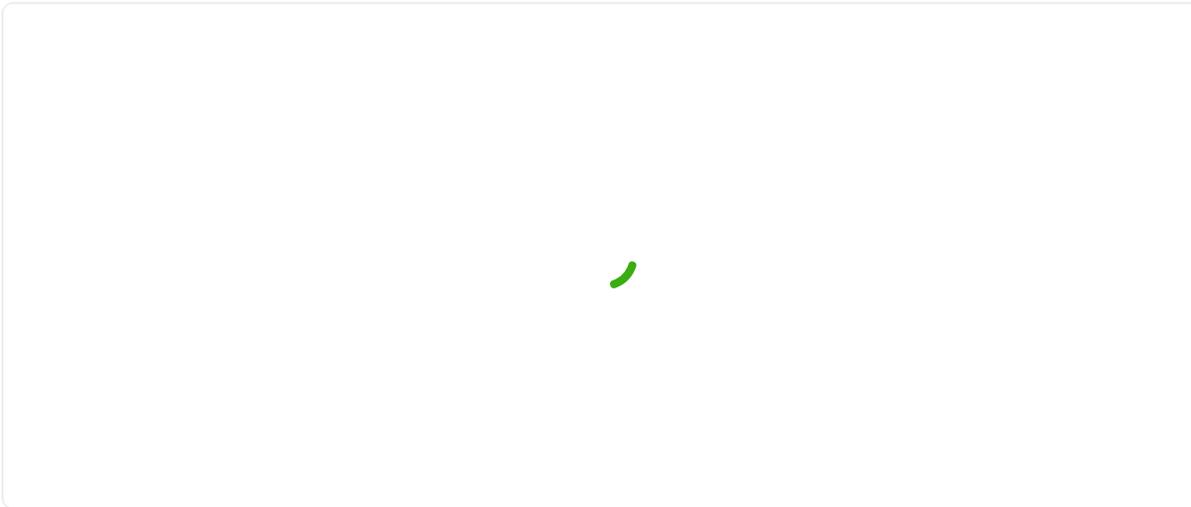
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The Q&A was emceed by UC San Diego astrophysicist Brian Keating and Scripps Oceanography Director Margaret Leinen.

“As a graduate student who comes from Title 1 schools in North Long Beach, much like the eighth-grade students who were visiting, I would have never in my wildest dreams imagined hearing an astronaut refer to us Scripps folks as ‘colleagues,’” said Ivan Moreno, a second-year Ph.D. student in the Marine Biology program at Scripps who attended the livestream. “That short statement was one of the most inspiring moments of the event.”

For half an hour, Meir shared with students her long journey to becoming an astronaut. The biologist and physiologist has traveled around the world, studying animals that thrive in extreme habitats, her most notable adventure being the research she conducted observing emperor penguins in Antarctica. But starting from writing down her dream to become an astronaut in her middle school diary, to applying to NASA in 2013, it’s been the mysteries of space that have always called out to Meir. And she’s not alone.

“Working for NASA is a long-term goal of mine and seeing former Scripps graduate students reach their highest potentials through that same avenue is motivating,” said Moreno.

“This was the first time we’ve done a livestream with an alum from space,” added Lauren Wood, director of Strategic Communications at Scripps. “We wanted the livestream to be

something shared with the community that would have an inspiring impact on those involved.”

Scripps has quite the portfolio when it comes to sending their students to space, Meir being one of three alumni who have traveled to the “final frontier.” Megan McArthur, who holds a Ph.D. in Oceanography from Scripps, traveled to space in 2009 and helped repair the Hubble telescope. Kate Rubins, who studied microbial biology as an undergraduate, became the first person to sequence DNA in space. Sally Ride, the first woman in space, was a long-time professor of physics at UC San Diego.

“There does seem to be a trend with UCSD and female astronauts,” said Meir, who entertained many a middle schooler with her demonstrations of zero gravity by floating up to the ceiling and suspending her microphone in midair.

According to Wood, Scripps would like to host more livestreaming events like this in the future to encourage more Title 1 and graduate students in their galactic pursuits.

“The most important thing to do is to make sure that you identify your passion and do what it is that you really care about,” said Meir to the students. “Once you’ve done that, you do need to work really hard to make those dreams come true. And it sounds a bit trite when I say it, but it really is true. The point is, really, anyone can do it if that’s what you set your mind out to.”

Moreno added, “Not only am I excited for my own future, but also for the futures of all my other peers in the crowd who maybe resonated with her words of encouragement just as much as I did.”



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KAYLEETAYLOR196 | February 12, 2020

THE ONLY TRUE SPELL CASTER JUST RESTORED MY HAPPINESS BACK, DR,IFADE IS AMAZING.CONTACT HIM VIA EMAIL ifadesolutionspell31@gmail.com OR via his WhatsApp Number: 2349060120490. YOU CAN ALSO VISIT IS WEBSITE : <https://bestonlinespellcasterdrifade1.wordpress.com>

My name is KAYLEE TAYLOR, i live and work in Southampton,UK.After 2 years of Broken marriage, my husband left me with three kids,i felt like ending it all,i almost committed suicide

because he left us with nothing and i was emotionally down all this while but thanks to the great African spell caster Dr,Ifade ,On a faithful day i was online and luckily i came across several testimonies this particular spell caster. Several people testified about how he helped them restored womb,cure cancer,and other sickness.

After contacting him, he made a spell that has brought my lover back loving me till now and i cannot be any happier.

you all can contact him via:email:{ ifadesolutionspell31@gmail.com } you can also call him or Whats App number : 2349060120490. VISIT HIS WEBSITE : <https://bestonlinespellcasterdrifade1...>

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Lisawilliam | February 11, 2020

I want to testify of the good work of Dr Iwisa who helped me in getting my happiness back i was going to have again. i was in a relationship for 4yrs with my boyfriend and everything was going so sweet i loved him so much after a while i noticed some changes in him so i knew something was wrong i tried to please him in several way but yet no outcome.shortly i noticed he was seeing another girl i tried to make him understand that i loved him so much but he wouldn't even listen.one day i read a testimony on a similar case a person testifying of the work of this great Dr Iwisa.i contacted him and let him know all my problems and he said i should not worry myself that everything will be okay within 24 hours my lover was back asking me to forgive him.Anyone similar problem should contact DR IWISA Email: superiorspellhome@gmail.com Call & Whatsapp 27730886631

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Genital Herpes Cure with African Herbal Medicine

I am very happy for sharing this testimony to the world, I was diagnose with Genital Herpes for the past 2 years and I have been searching for cure. I have several outbreaks on my back

and it really affected me morally, I read a testimony on this platform of a lady from Nevada who was cured from Oral herpes with doctor Nelson Herbal medicine from Africa including the doctor official email address. I contacted the doctor through his email and he asked for my whatsapp number which I gave him, after much discussion and few questions he prepared the Herbal medicine and asked for my address which I received the Herbal medicine 3 days later and with his prescription I drank the Herbal medicine for 21 days. After concluding the herbal medicine I went for test and my Herpes result was confirmed Negative with no trace of the virus on my blood. You too can be cured contact doctor Nelson and be cured his email;

drnelsonsaliu10@gmail.com.

or send him a direct text on whatsapp 2348115784357

He has Herbal medicine for preventing the coronavirus

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clara0988 | February 09, 2020

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