



1

00:00:00,433 --> 00:00:02,969

What has been your favorite part about working at NASA?

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00:00:02,969 --> 00:00:05,071

I think I like the excitement of what NASA

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00:00:05,071 --> 00:00:09,442

technologies offer. The project I'm on
right now in commercial supersonics,

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00:00:09,476 --> 00:00:11,878

we're doing something revolutionary.

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00:00:11,878 --> 00:00:15,582

We're enabling supersonic
travel over land, which is currently not

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00:00:15,582 --> 00:00:16,649

feasible.

7

00:00:16,649 --> 00:00:18,385

Meet

8

00:00:18,385 --> 00:00:19,953

Peggy

9

00:00:19,953 --> 00:00:21,521

Cornell

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00:00:22,522 --> 00:00:23,523

What was your path to NASA?

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00:00:23,523 --> 00:00:24,691

I started when I was young.

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00:00:24,891 --> 00:00:27,260

Like most folks,
I wanted to be an astronaut.

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00:00:27,527 --> 00:00:31,464

So I worked toward that general goal.

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00:00:31,898 --> 00:00:34,334

In fact, I worked in this facility -

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00:00:34,334 --> 00:00:37,270

the Aero Acoustic Propulsion Lab.

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00:00:37,270 --> 00:00:40,073

Behind me is the nozzle acoustic test rig
that I spent

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00:00:40,073 --> 00:00:42,142

many hours on as a technician.

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00:00:42,142 --> 00:00:45,378

I've been here 28 years, so I've been

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00:00:45,378 --> 00:00:47,881

in both aeronautics and space
side of the house.

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00:00:47,881 --> 00:00:50,383

What are you working on currently?

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00:00:50,383 --> 00:00:52,819

We're working on lowering the sonic boom
to a sonic thump.

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00:00:52,819 --> 00:00:57,724

It would be equivalent to hearing a car
door slam maybe 20 feet away.

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00:00:57,724 --> 00:01:03,463

So allowing for that quieting technology,
if you will, to be applied to an aircraft

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00:01:03,897 --> 00:01:08,201

will allow for the supersonic travel,
which creates the booms

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00:01:08,768 --> 00:01:12,305

over land so that people aren't
disturbed by it, by the sound.

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00:01:12,605 --> 00:01:16,443

My project before this, we were working on

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00:01:16,443 --> 00:01:20,080

electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicles, which I describe

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00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:23,850

as air taxis, kind of like what you'd have
with The Jetsons.

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00:01:23,983 --> 00:01:26,219

So all revolutionary stuff.

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00:01:26,219 --> 00:01:30,890

I'm also on X-57 building the first
all electric aircraft for NASA.

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00:01:30,890 --> 00:01:33,460

What advice would you give younger generations interested
in a STEM career? To not give up, to persist.

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00:01:33,460 --> 00:01:37,030

A lot of girls
and even young boys think that they have

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00:01:37,030 --> 00:01:40,233

to be really good at both math and science
to get in a field like this,

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00:01:41,101 --> 00:01:43,570

I had to take calculus more than once.

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00:01:43,570 --> 00:01:46,306
I also immersed myself in the STEM fields.

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00:01:46,306 --> 00:01:48,241
I became a student pilot.

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00:01:48,241 --> 00:01:52,245
I started skydiving,
all aerodynamic related activities.

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00:01:52,479 --> 00:01:55,415
I joined the military to go for the T

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00:01:55,415 --> 00:01:58,551
in STEM, the technical part,
and I became a jet engine mechanic.

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00:01:59,185 --> 00:02:01,554
So I worked on the KC 135

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00:02:01,554 --> 00:02:04,324
aircraft for about nine years.

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00:02:04,324 --> 00:02:05,692
What are some of your hobbies?

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00:02:05,692 --> 00:02:06,626
So I have a lot of hobbies.

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00:02:06,626 --> 00:02:09,295
Most of them are aviation centered.

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00:02:09,429 --> 00:02:12,031
I've flown gliders, been on ultralights.

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00:02:12,532 --> 00:02:18,171
I've paraglided off

the side of Mount Haleakala in Maui.

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00:02:18,171 --> 00:02:24,677

I started kayaking over Covid like a lot of people did, so kayaking is fun.

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00:02:24,677 --> 00:02:26,846

What would you tell the 10-year-old version of yourself?

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00:02:26,846 --> 00:02:29,349

Well, I kind of did that when I was around ten or 12 years old.

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00:02:29,349 --> 00:02:31,518

I wrote myself a note and

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00:02:31,818 --> 00:02:33,219

it said, Never give up.

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00:02:33,219 --> 00:02:37,090

No matter what you do, no matter what your goals are, just don't give up.

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00:02:37,190 --> 00:02:39,592

You'll hear that from a lot of people.

Oh, don't give up.

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00:02:39,592 --> 00:02:44,964

But it is truly a very important mantra to go by ...

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00:02:45,198 --> 00:02:47,767

If you see roadblocks go around them.

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00:02:47,767 --> 00:02:48,902

Who or what inspires you?

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00:02:48,902 --> 00:02:52,739

My dad died when I was a very young age and my mom

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00:02:53,106 --> 00:02:56,376

had to take over his roofing business,
which she knew nothing about.

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00:02:56,376 --> 00:03:00,580

So she really taught me
what hard work and dedication was.

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00:03:00,580 --> 00:03:03,249

She had six of us at home to take care of.

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00:03:03,249 --> 00:03:05,018

Still time for you to be an astronaut?

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00:03:05,018 --> 00:03:08,388

No, probably not now,
but I had a lot of fun

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00:03:08,388 --> 00:03:11,291

and good experiences
along the way trying to be an astronaut.

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00:03:11,658 --> 00:03:15,962

And I've got a very successful career
in just starting

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00:03:15,962 --> 00:03:18,531

with that seedling idea of
I want to be an astronaut.

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00:03:18,531 --> 00:03:20,300

What's on your Bucket List?

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00:03:20,300 --> 00:03:24,204

My bucket list is I need to go the last mile. I just need to finish

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00:03:24,204 --> 00:03:25,972

and get my my private pilot's license.

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00:03:26,406 --> 00:03:27,407
Would you go into the past or into the future?

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00:03:27,407 --> 00:03:28,508
Certainly the future.

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00:03:28,508 --> 00:03:28,975
Yeah.