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## Bethany L. Ehlmann

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**Washington University**  
St. Louis, MO

**Earth & Planetary Sciences,  
Mathematics, and Environmental  
Studies**  
Bachelor of Arts, 2004

**NASA Academy Research  
Project:  
The Potential for Liquid Water  
on Mars**

PI's Dr. Chris McKay and Jen  
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### **Experience:**

My first two years at Washington University have provided a remarkable set of experiences and convinced me to pursue the passion for space exploration that had led me to declare, at the age of six, that I wanted to be an astrophysicist, just like Stephen Hawking. While I've since decided that astrophysics is definitely not for me, I'm fascinated by research of Mars and analogous extreme environments on Earth. I've had the opportunity to work in WU's Remote Sensing Lab under Professor Ray Arvidson on projects to develop a hydrologic model of Lake Waiau, located on top of Mauna Kea in Hawaii and to extract surface microtopography from suspension data of the Mars Pathfinder mission's Sojourner Rover. While getting a behind-the-scenes view of planning for upcoming Mars missions, I've had the opportunity to explore more deeply interests in both space and environmental science.

### **Extra-Curricular Interests:**

Outside of class and the lab, I do a lot of work with WU's student government, serving as a co-chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. I'm also a member of the Committee on Environmental Quality, a group of faculty, students, and administrators working to "green" the campus. I've long been a lover of all sports, and I spend a lot of my free time with WUWU, the Wash U Women's Ultimate club team, tossing a frisbee, traveling to tournaments, and just hanging out.

Born in Laguna Beach, California, I grew up and went to school in Tallahassee, Florida and graduated from Rickards High School's International Baccalaureate Program. My parents made a point to travel often with my younger brother and me even when we were quite young, trekking, sometimes even dragging me unwillingly, across the U.S. and a few times abroad. Though sometimes weary from a long road trip, the experiences left me with a zest for traveling, a love of the outdoors and the beauty in nature, and a curiosity about the diversity of cultures and places on Earth. Travel experiences and the new ideas and cultures I've been exposed to in high school and college have left me with a sense of wonder at the complexity and vastness of our universe, the same feeling which pushes me

to explore the universe outside of our planet, seeking answers to the questions “how did we get here?” and “are we alone?”