

## Jessica S. Culler

**University of Oklahoma**  
Norman, OK

**Aerospace Engineer**  
Bachelor of Science, May 2005

**NASA Academy Research Project:**  
**Search for Comets and Asteroids**

Principal Investigator: Bill Borucki



### **Education:**

From the time I was in elementary school, I loved math and science. Once someone told me that I could have a career using math and science to solve problems, I knew engineering was for me... and on top of that, there was a discipline that involved space! So today I'm a senior at the University of Oklahoma in aerospace engineering, going through all of the typical classes that entails.

### **Experience:**

My practical experience comes from four incredible co-op tours at NASA-JSC in Houston. There I was able to work semesters or summers in Mission Control Flight Planning, Advanced Exploration Engineering, Aircraft Ops Engineering, and Biotechnology. While working in Aircraft Ops at Ellington Field, I assisted and flew with the KC-135 Reduced Gravity Student Campaign, and experienced simulated zero-g. It's indescribably awesome.

At OU, I'm president of our branch of AIAA and organize several activities each year for the group. Last year, we started a zero-g experiment team, refurbished an engine from a Messerschmitt Me262 (one of the actual first jet engines ever flown), and took a group of students to visit NASA-JSC. Next year will be my second as a Dean's Leadership Council mentor to incoming engineering freshmen. I've taken leadership classes from former Pathfinder and Mars Exploration Program Manager Donna Shirley and retired Air Force General Jerry Holmes, both OU alums. I believe it's important to be well-rounded and to study things besides engineering, so I've taken a year of Russian classes and am in my second of four semesters of Japanese.

### **Extra-curricular Activities:**

I've volunteered for several years at a local wildlife rehabilitation center. There's nothing like handling a cantankerous adult red tail hawk one moment and a tiny baby cottontail the next. I love being outside and working in nature, which probably has roots in my childhood experiences of going out to a lake just about every weekend with my mom, dad, and little sister. Memories of my younger years are full of swimming, exploring coves, rock hopping, and looking at the clear night sky. Along with support and encouragement from my family, these things helped develop my passion for the outdoors, exploration, and space.

While in Houston, I train in iaido (Japanese sword drawing and cutting martial art) and aikido. I also love keeping up with pop culture, including music, movies, TV, and comic books.

