



Patrizia Caraveo INAF



Role model-a scientist



Role model-an astronaut



YURI GAGARIN COSMONAUT TRAINING CENTRE
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

ESA astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti (left) with cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov, and NASA astronaut Terry Virts (right), in training before their flight to the International Space Station.

Role model- a professor



Learning by doing



C'SPACE
BISCARROSSE, FRANCE

Marie-Bertille, 16, at C'Space event in Biscarrosse, France, is preparing the launch of her own rocket.

Learning by doing



BRANKSOME HALL SCHOOL
TORONTO, CANADA

Zainab (right), 11, has a ticket to fly to space with Virgin Galactic.

Learning to pursue a career

...up to a point

ESA MALINDI STATION - LUIGI BROGLIO SPACE CENTER
MALINDI, KENYA

Anita Vuya recently graduated from Pwani University in Kilifi, Kenya, with a degree in physics, and plans to continue her study of space science at graduate level.

PHOTO: NICHOLE SOBECKI / SIPA PRESS

Space & women

European Space Agency

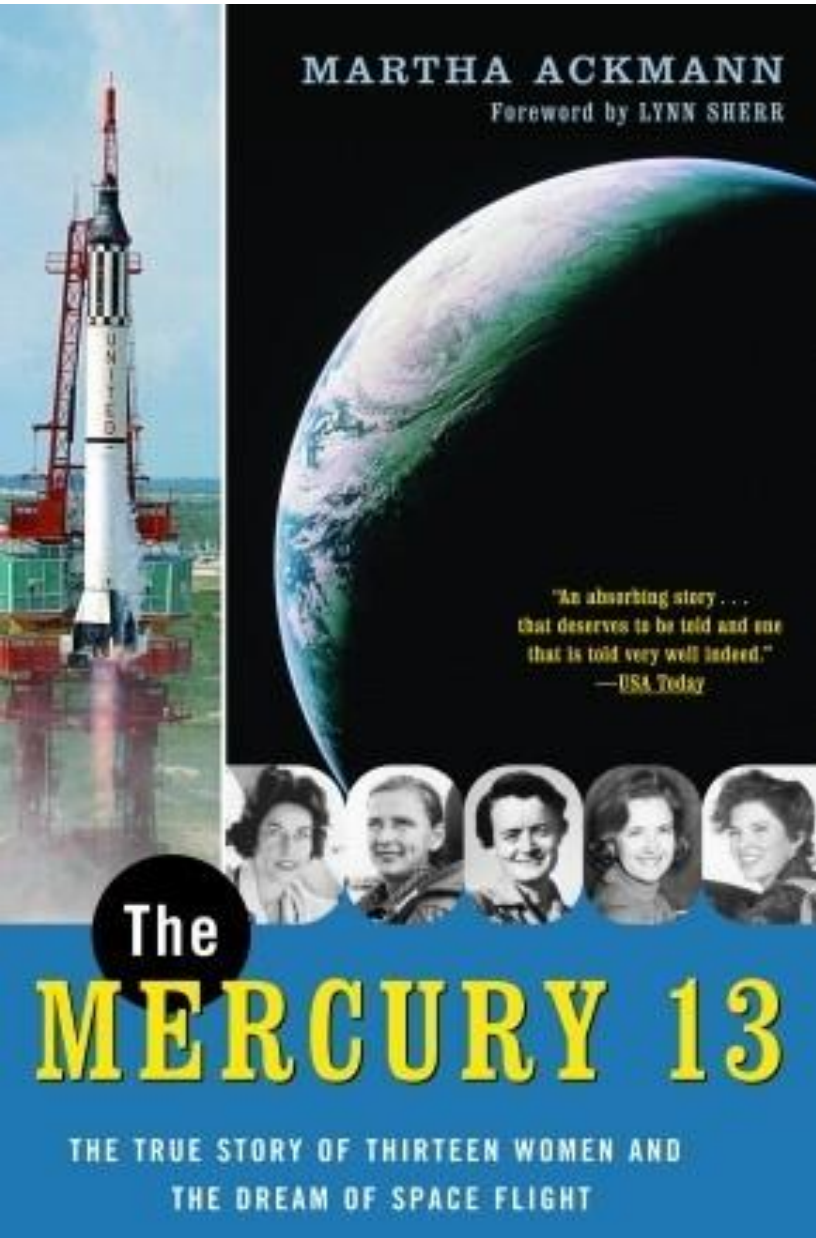


10% is a magic number



10% is the fraction of women astronaut

Space is a tough environment



THE U.S. TEAM IS STILL WARMING UP THE BENCH

The U.S. could have been first to put a woman up in space merely by deciding to do so. Way back in February of 1960 a girl pilot named Jerris Cobb (far right) successfully underwent the same grueling physical examination that the Mercury Astronauts had taken. By 1961 the 12 other women shown here had gone through the same battery of tests. All of them were experienced pilots with qualifications far more impressive than Valentina Tereshkova's. To a woman, they were eager to go into orbit. "I'd like to see what's up there and help America explore space," said Mary Wallace Funk. "One of us better make it fast," warned Irene Leverton, "because the Russians are darned well going to send up women."

Until Astronaut Alan Shepard made the first

American flight in May of 1961, NASA steadfastly disclaimed any connection with woman-in-space training. Only then was Jerris Cobb appointed to her job as a never-consulted consultant to NASA Administrator James Webb. Even after her appointment, any training the ladies received has been unofficial and due entirely to their own stubborn efforts.

Two years ago, when Russian space scientists visiting the U.S. first let on that they had a training program for female cosmonauts, Jerris Cobb went to Washington, collaring anyone who would listen, pleading for a formal American woman-in-space program. The best she got was polite indifference. Jerris and her 12 colleagues are exhilarated by Valentina's feat, but depressed that it wasn't American. "Now," Jerris said, "maybe we'll get some action."



MARY WALLACE FUNK II

Youngest of the group at 24, she is chief pilot for a California flying service. Last year, on her own initiative, she went through centrifuge tests and a U.S. Marine high-altitude chamber.



JEAN NIXSON

A fifth-grade teacher in Akron, Ohio, she is an Air Force Reserve captain. Once a WASP test pilot and flight instructor, 39-year-old Jean flies everything from blimps to gliders to jets.



MYRTLE CAGLE

A flight instructor in Macon, Ga., she is 34 and married to an ex-pilot. As a child she once jumped from the roof with only a pillowcase to slow her descent. She flew airplanes at 14.



IRENE LEVERTON

Supervisor of a flying school in California, she has independently undergone rigorous pre-space-flight tests at Edwards Air Force Base. At 36, she parachutes and skis to keep in shape.



JAN DIETRICH

Company pilot for a large California construction firm, she has logged over 8,000 hours of flying time and is one of the select group of women with an airline transport pilot's rating.



MARION DIETRICH

Like her twin sister Jan at left, she is a pilot in California. At 36, she flies charter planes, is an accomplished pianist and writes true-lance articles. She also has a degree in psychology.



GENE NORA STUMBOUGH

An amateur cello player with a degree in English, she is 26, works for an aircraft manufacturer in Wichita, Kan. She formerly taught flying, now demonstrates and sells airplanes.



BERNICE TRIMBLE STEADMAN

A lawyer's wife, at 37 she owns and operates a charter service and flying school at the Flint, Mich. airport. She gives frequent lectures on space opportunities for youth and women.



RHEA HURRELL ALLISON

A schoolteacher before she turned pilot, she is 32. She and her husband have an aircraft brokerage business in Texas, and she delivers planes to their customers around the country.



JANE HART

Oldest of the group at 41, she is married to Senator Philip Hart, Michigan Democrat. She has often flown him around on campaign tours, frequently takes their eight children aloft.



SARAH LEE GORELICK

Trained in mathematics, physics and chemistry, as well as flying, she left her job at A.F.A.T. when her astronaut tests began taking too much time. She is 29, lives in Kansas City.



GERALDINE SLOAN

A pilot for a Dallas aviation firm, she is 33, divorced, has an 11-year-old son. "I do push-ups and watch my diet," she says. "But I'm getting tired of staying in shape for nothing."

Why Not Sp

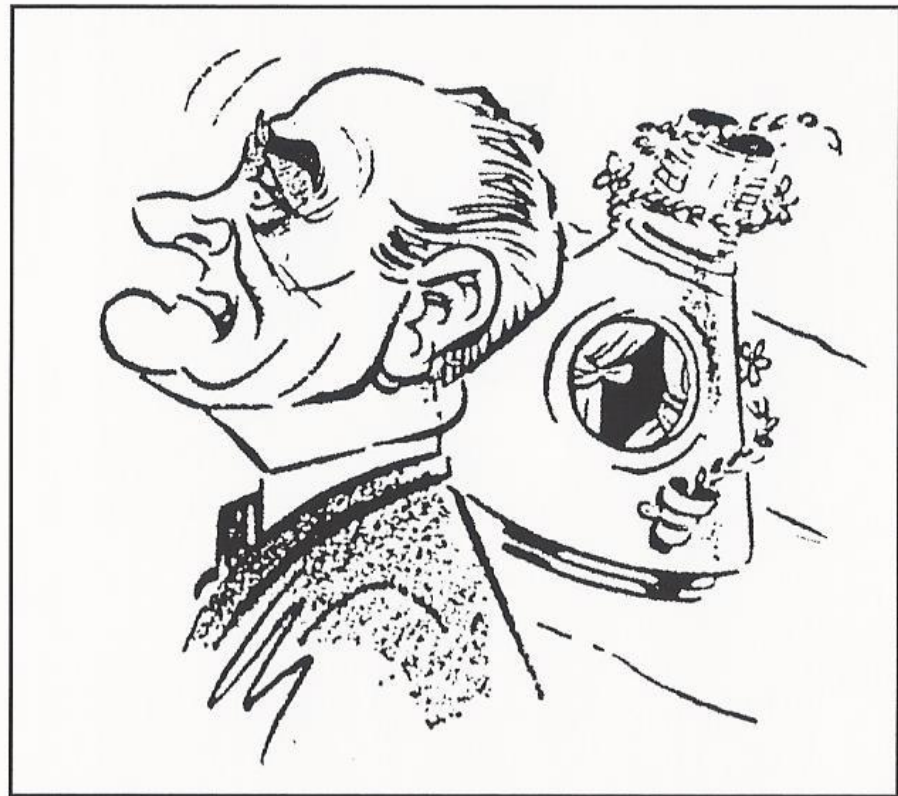


Senator's Wife Hits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Phillip A. Hart's blonde wife — mother of eight — is asking Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson to help break up the "men only" exclusiveness of the Americans-in-space program. She would like to be the first woman in space herself.

The wife of the Michigan Democrat wants the United States to launch a woman-in-space program. So far, she says, she has gotten the cold shoulder.

A program for female astronauts "could be gotten off the ground very quickly if we could just convince men it



astronauts when they first aspired to the job.

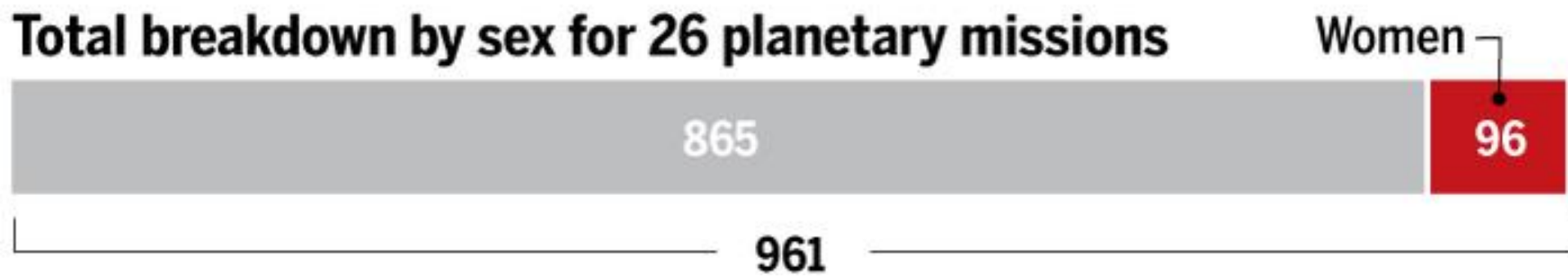
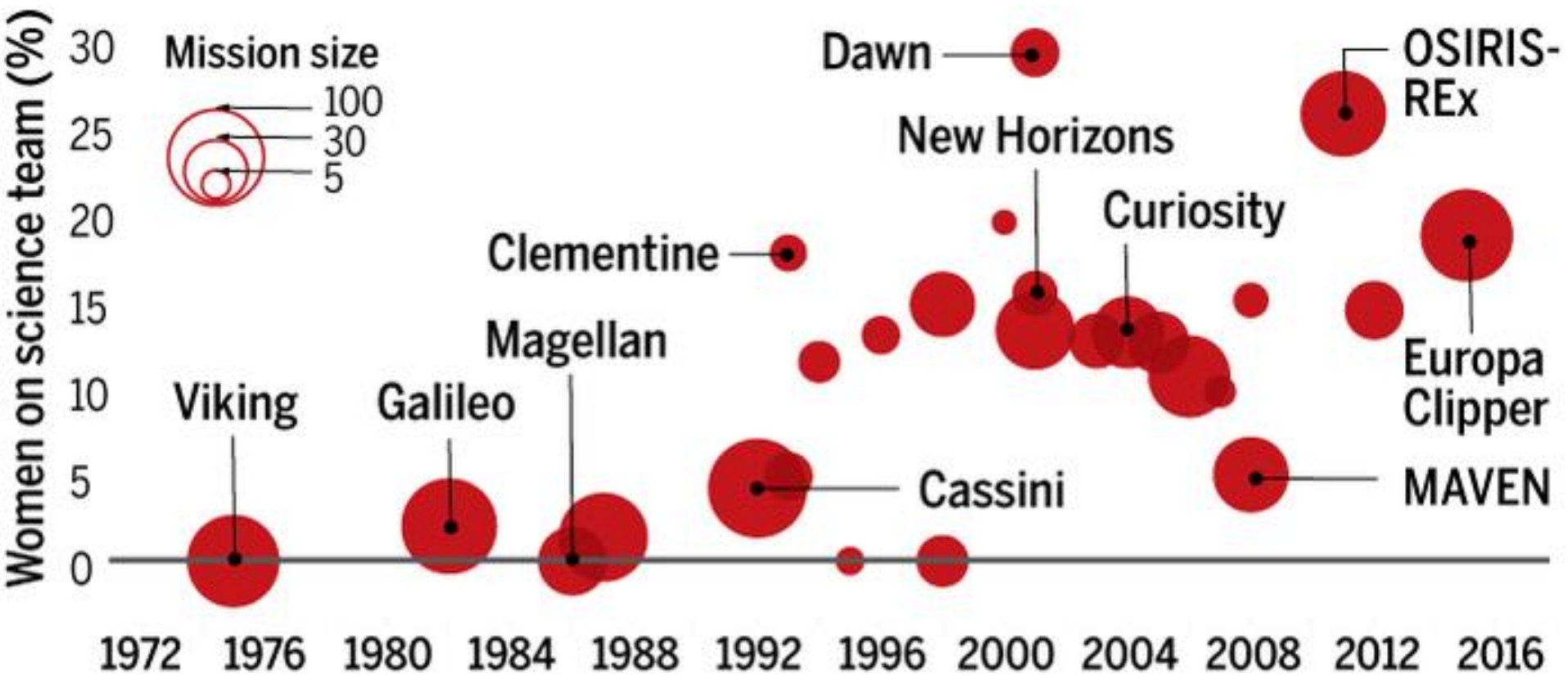
Mrs. Hart and her group have logged more than 1,000 hours of flying time. She is a licensed airplane and helicopter pilot.

Accompanying her Thursday will be Jerrie Cobb of Oklahoma City, a widely known woman pilot who was the first to take the tests. Mrs. Hart has written members of the Senate and House space com-

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not just in orbit





Back to 10%, but improving



MOM orbit insertion



Women in Italian astronomy

Francesca Matteucci, Università di Trieste, Chair of INAF Scientific Council

Raffaele Gratton, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova

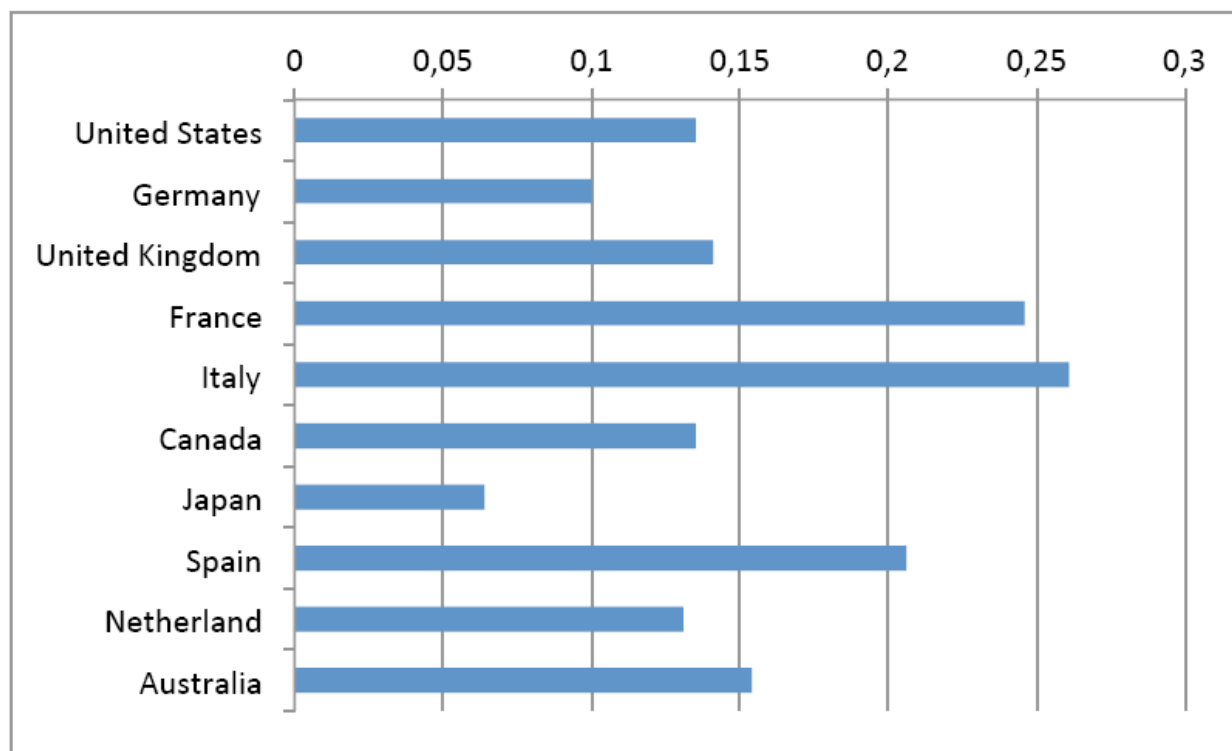


Figure 3. Fraction of women among IAU members of the ten most productive countries in astronomy