

STORIES OF SPACE
PRESS RELEASE
July 20, 2023

Media contact
Penny Gralewski
penny@gralewski.com
630.559.6452

**STORIES of Space Project™ Launches Written Word Stories to the
International Space Station August 11**

Casual Space Podcast Host Leads Global Initiative Delivering Written Stories to the
International Space Station, Making Space Accessible to More People and
Providing Critical Space Exploration Research

ST. CHARLES, IL - July 18, 2023 - [The STORIES of Space Project™](#), a unique opportunity for regular citizens to share their story in space, will officially launch 300+ human written stories to the International Space Station on August 1 as part of a Northrop Grumman Cygnus spacecraft payload on an Antares rocket. The project, 14 months in the making, proposes the question, “Can a story can change the way we explore space?” Hoping to apply today’s written word narratives about space in order to help shape tomorrow’s approach to space exploration, Executive Director Beth Mund and the STORIES of Space team believes each story CAN. Lead by St. Charles resident, Loras alumni, Marquette alumni, [Casual Space podcast](#) host and former NASA Johnson Space Center Public Affairs Officer Beth Mund, STORIES of Space sends written stories to space on SD-cards, helping to engage a growing community of space ambassadors while also creating a unique International Space Station science experiment that tests the effects of radiation on micro-SD electronics and data storage, the materials that hold the stories. STORIES of Space will launch and travel from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia and will reach the International Space Station on August 4.

“The STORIES of Space project engages a growing community of space exploration ambassadors – people who may never train to be an astronaut or travel to space, but space enthusiasts who want to be a part of the discovery and advancements in space,” explained Beth Mund, creator of STORIES of Space

Project and host of the Casual Space podcast, a weekly conversation with space industry experts. “By submitting the written word to a space exploration project, storytellers are thoughtfully creating their own personal and unique story narrative, only limited by their imagination. By sending the *written* word to space, we are able to re-ignite scientific literacy. Words have meaning and profound application when it comes to science, reading and writing about space topics creates a perfect mix of STEAM creativity and practical application.”

The STORIES of Space Project (**S**tory SD Card **T**esting and **O**n-Board **R**esearch on the **I**nternational Space Station **E**xperiment and **S**urvey) will not only fly stories to space, but it will also conduct a scientific experiment while in orbit- helping to determine the ideal data storage hardware for future commercial space applications. Completing science experiments and connecting people to space through the STORIES Project helps change the way we explore space – one story at a time.

Testing Micro-SD Memory Card Radiation Exposure to Improve Future Space Exploration

Micro-SD memory cards are an important component of most small satellites, used to store acquired data for later retrieval. The harsh environment of Low-Earth Orbit contains heavy radiation, which often damages Micro-SD cards in small satellites. For the next six months, the STORIES of Space project will be exposing Micro-SD cards to the harsh space environment located on the outside of the International Space Station. When the Micro-SD cards return to Earth, the radiation levels of each card will be tested at the Utah State University Materials Physics Group (MPG) and the results will be shared with space agencies around the world.

“STORIES of Space is a unique opportunity for creativity and science. Testing for radiation damage in SD cards and other electronics used in small satellites is critical to avoid possible catastrophic events over the duration of space missions,” said Achal Duhoon, Research Assistant in the Materials Physics Group at Utah State University and STORIES ambassador. “As satellite missions are extended for more time and reach farther corners of the universe, the environments become harsher. Mission objectives are more ambitious, reducing shielding to reduce mass, and requiring exposure to more intense radiation. The data we gain from the STORIES of Space orbit will help future missions select the best long-lasting, damage resistant data storage.”

About Beth Mund

Executive Director, STORIES of Space Project

Beth Mund is an analog astronaut, CEO of Stellar Communications, former NASA communications officer, keynote speaker, and space communicator. At NASA, she served as a public affairs officer and International Space Station communications officer. As an analog astronaut, she served on two (2) simulated missions; one to Mars at the HI-SEAS research facility in Hawaii, and a lunar simulation in Poland at the Lunares Research Station. Beth is the host of the weekly [“Casual Space” podcast](#), providing “intimate conversations each week with astronauts and authors, scientists and CEOs, looking to share their love for space exploration while helping to inspire the next generation of difference makers.” Beth Mund works passionately to connect people to space exploration through her projects, her podcast, and her in-person programs.

Mund currently serves on the Space Camp Alumni Board and the Space Drinks Association. She is a founding board member of the Women’s Leadership Alliance at her alma mater, Loras College. For more information, visit <https://www.bethmund.com>.

About the Casual Space Podcast

Discover more than 200+ episodes featuring a variety of topics and incredible collection of guests- from astronauts to artists, scientists to CEO’s, these are the industry experts and explorers you’ll enjoy listening to! Analog astronaut and former NASA communication officer **Beth Mund** serves as your host, inviting you to an engaging conversation about space that makes you feel you're *right there* in the room. Listen. Learn. Laugh! This is **Casual Space**.

5-Star Reviews for **Casual Space Podcast**:

“I’m hooked on Beth’s podcast. She brings a refreshing perspective of what is happening in space exploration and technologies that are being developed. Her guests are some of the bests in their field. I can’t get enough! More please!”- X1metalsmith

“When it comes to space exploration Beth really knows who the real thought leaders are” – Wayne Breitbarth, Author

“Casual Space is AWESOME! I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to ALL of Beth Mund’s Casual Space podcasts. I find it very refreshing to get a wide variety of differing perspectives and insights from individuals associated with space. I look forward to listening to each new episode.” Danny Jaques. Ed.D

Best Space Podcasts Throughout The Universe – bcast.fm Best Space Podcasts You Must Follow in 2023- Feedspot Space Podcasts That Are Out of This World- We Edit Podcasts

Listen and enjoy all episodes of the **Casual Space Podcast** with Beth Mund at www.bethmund.com

