



NASA's Commercialization Training Camp Speaker Roster



Nithin Abraham

Coatings Engineer
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Nithin S. Abraham is a Coatings Engineer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, Maryland. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering from Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York. She also has minors in Chemistry and Mathematics. Nithin has 11 years of technical expertise in spacecraft thermal control coatings and molecular adsorber coatings in support of NASA projects, including satellites,

instruments, and telescopes for earth science, heliophysics, astrophysics, planetary science, and cube-sat missions.

She provides consultation on spray applied paints, vapor deposited thin films, and other thermal surfaces, such as blankets, tapes and materials. She performs coatings characterization, performance and qualification tests, and coordinates the application of coatings on hardware. She is currently the coatings lead on the Roman Space Telescope (RST). Ms. Abraham specializes in coatings technology research, development, and testing for proposals, NASA missions, and strategic technology transfer partnerships. Nithin is the lead technologist on molecular adsorber coatings, a NASA technology that she helped develop and test to address molecular contamination concerns on spaceflight applications. She is involved with evaluating and infusing this technology for ground or flight use on NASA missions and other applications.

Ms. Abraham is the recipient of the NASA Agency Honor Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal (2017), the Directorate Science & Technology Advancement Award (2017), and the NASA James Kerley Award for Technology Partnerships (2018). She



was featured in the 2020 SPIE Women in Optics academic planner to inspire young girls and women worldwide. Nithin and her work in coatings have been featured in NASA STEM Stars, Goddard Tech Transfer Magazine, Instagram accounts for Women@NASA and James Webb Space Telescope, SPIE Professional Magazine, Goddard Cutting Edge Magazine, Strategic Partnership Office technology videos, and NASA TechBriefs. She is also one of the founding members of the Women Engineers in Space and Technology (WEST) group at GSFC. Since 2018, she has been leading the group as its first president. For her involvement in WEST, Nithin and her team received the NASA Agency Group Achievement Award (2019) and the Robert H. Goddard Group Achievement Award (2018).



Obafemi Ayanbadejo

Founder AQ Digital Health

Obafemi Devin Ayanbadejo is a former American professional football running back, fullback and special teams player. His professional football career began as an undrafted free agent in 1997 with the Minnesota Vikings. He played college football at San Diego State where he also earned his BA in Psychology. He also played for the Baltimore Ravens (1999-2002), Miami Dolphins (2002-2003), Arizona Cardinals (2004-2007), Chicago Bears (2007) and California Redwoods (2009) of the UFL. Ayanbadejo was a member and significant contributor on the 2000 Ravens Super Bowl XXXV championship team. He officially retired from professional football in January, of 2010.

Since retiring from professional football, Ayanbadejo has earned his MBA from Johns Hopkins Carey School of business in Baltimore, MD. He has held founding and executive positions in several businesses and startups, including a startup based on technology exclusively licensed from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. AQ Digital Health Institute, founded by Ayanbadejo, is presently working to commercialize a Mobile Health & Fitness Technology that uses artificial intelligence (A.I.) and neural networks to turn your smart phone into a device that can deliver customized health & fitness data in less than 3 minutes by calculating body composition and its effect on metabolic burn rate and its correlation to health and disease risk.



Gary Baxter

President of G. Baxter Enterprises
(GBE)

Former NFL Corner Back

Gary Baxter was born and raised in Tyler, Texas. He attended John Tyler High school where football became a passion for him with a winning record of 50-2. He was a part of the 1994 state champion team. A standout football star at Baylor University who graduated with a communication degree. Baxter was drafted out of Baylor University by the defending Super Bowl Champions Baltimore Ravens in the second round. The Ravens used Baxter as a situational player his rookie year and then he started the next 3 years as Corner back, Nickle back and Safety.

Baxter became a solid member of one of the NFL's best defense with the Baltimore Ravens. Baxter finished his career with the Cleveland Browns with a total of 8 credited NFL seasons. Since retiring from the NFL, Gary Baxter loves learning about the business world, investing in real estate, sitting on multiple nonprofit boards and still doing continuing education with various organizations. Baxter enjoys exercising, fishing, and hunting.



Steven González

Venture Partner
Seldor Capital

Mr. González is a Venture Partner at Seldor Capital. The venture fund focuses on startups with a space application or that leverage space technology to address the United Nations Sustainability Goals. Mr. González recently retired from NASA, where for over 32 years, he applied his skills in visioning, strategy, innovation and fostering collaborations to benefit the human exploration of space. At the NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC), he led the team to develop the 20-year strategy for the Center

and was instrumental in creating numerous strategic initiatives that connected NASA to the entrepreneur and innovation community in Houston.

Mr. González has been embedded in the innovation ecosystem in Houston during his tenure as the NASA Executive Liaison at the Houston Technology Center (HTC) and the NASA Executive Liaison at the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). During his time at GHP he created a stronger alliance between NASA and the startup community and strategized with GHP leadership on the future direction of the innovation ecosystem in Houston. Additionally, he created collaborations with organizations in the energy, medical, automotive industries and with other government agencies to seed and grow startups and build innovation ecosystems in New York City, Brownsville, TX, Puerto Rico and New Mexico.



Dr. Christyl Johnson

Deputy Center Director for Technology and Research Investments
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

As NASA Goddard's Deputy Center Director for Technology and Research Investments, Dr. Johnson manages the Center's research and development portfolio, and is responsible for formulating the Center's future science and technology goals and leading an integrated program of investments aligned to meet those goals.

Dr. Johnson came to NASA Goddard from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she served under the President's Science Advisor as the Executive Director of the National Science

and Technology Council (NSTC), which is the principal means within the executive branch to coordinate science and technology policy across the Federal research and development enterprise. She was responsible for ensuring the establishment of clear national goals for Federal science and technology investments in a broad array of areas across the executive branch, including basic science, technology, energy, environment, natural resources, and homeland and national security. Prior to joining the White House staff, Dr. Johnson served as the Assistant Associate Administrator of the NASA. In this role, she and the Associate Administrator provided the oversight of the agency's technical mission areas and field center operations.

Dr. Johnson came to the Office of the Administrator from the Office of the Chief Engineer, where she served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for Program Integration and Operations. There, she provided an integrated focus for the development, maintenance, and implementation of agency engineering and program/project management policies, standards, and practices.

Prior to her appointment to the Office of the Chief Engineer, Dr. Johnson served as the Associate Director for Exploratory Missions in the Office of Earth Science, where she managed the formulation and development for all Exploratory Missions. The missions that she managed included QuikToms, GRACE, CLOUDSAT, Triana, AQUARIUS, HYDROS, and OCO, and involved mission development activities at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Goddard Space Flight Center, Langley Research Center and several international and industry partners.

Dr. Johnson began her career at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia in 1985



in the Remote Sensing Technology Branch where she designed and built laser systems for advanced active remote sensors. In 1991, she became the program manager and lead engineer of the Diode-Pumped Cr:LiSAF Technology Development Program. In this role she established several initiatives, one of which was an industry and NASA collaboration to build an efficient Differential Absorption Lidar for remote sensing of H₂O vapor. Under this program, Dr. Johnson delivered the first tunable diode-pumped Cr: LiSAF laser system to achieve 33 mJ. This achievement was highlighted internationally, and Dr. Johnson was invited to collaborate with scientists at Los Alamos National Labs, using this laser system for three weeks of field measurements in the desert of New Mexico. Dr. Johnson also established a state-of-the-art laboratory for stress optic coefficient measurement of laser crystals, and utilized this laboratory to provide the science community and laser industry with the first stress optic coefficients for the Cr:LiSAF laser material. Dr. Johnson held a variety of project management and senior engineering positions at Langley involved in the design, development, and application of state-of-the-art and advanced systems and subsystems for atmospheric, aeronautic and space flight research missions.

Dr. Johnson earned her bachelor's degree in physics from Lincoln University, a master's degree in electrical engineering from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from George Washington University.



Kyle Judah

Executive Director
Liu Idea Lab for Innovation &
Entrepreneurship at Rice University

Kyle Judah is the Executive Director of the Liu Idea Lab for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Rice University, the #1 ranked Entrepreneurship program in the country. As a two time software startup founder, Kyle uses his experiences and lessons learned in the trenches to develop and scale programs that train emerging entrepreneurs and accelerate new ventures to make positive impact in the world.

Prior to joining Rice University in 2020, Kyle was the first Exec. Director of Entrepreneurship at CU Boulder's College of Engineering, following 5 years as an Entrepreneur in Residence and Program Director for MIT's Trust Center for Entrepreneurship, where he helped start and scale MIT's Delta V accelerator program. After the acquisition of his last company, Kyle has been actively angel investing in and advising startups across a broad variety of industries.

Kyle has received his MBA from Babson College with a focus in Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation, and his BA in Sports Marketing from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Dr. Jim Liew

Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University, Founder of SoKat.co, EO DC Board

Dr. Jim Kyung-Soo Liew is an Associate Professor of Finance at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and revels in pushing the boundaries of financial knowledge and product development both as an academic and FinTech entrepreneur. He has published pioneering research in the intersection of social media big data, blockchain, and financial markets.

He currently teaches "Big Data Machine Learning AI," "Crypto-Currencies and

Blockchain," "Advanced Hedge Fund Strategies," and "Leading Entrepreneurship and Innovation" at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of the Johns Hopkins Innovation Factory and has received the Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence 2015-2019. He is on the Editorial Board of The Journal of the British Blockchain Association, Journal of Alternative Investments and the Journal of Portfolio Management where he co-authored the most read Invited Editorial "iGDP?".

About SoKat Consulting, LLC (www.SoKat.co) - SBA 8(a) Certified

Dr. Liew co-founded SoKat Consulting, LLC. SoKat creates award-winning, world-class Machine Learning / AI and Blockchain products and services primarily servicing institutional investors, government agencies, academic institutions and select-startups. SoKat unlocks the hidden value of data through thoughtful and creative solutions, comprising of actionable business intelligence, transparent data analytics, bold predictive models, and next-generation investment products.

Previously, Dr. Liew has been with the Carlyle Asset Management Group, Campbell and Company, and Morgan Stanley. He holds a BA in Mathematics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Finance from Columbia University.

He currently resides just outside of Baltimore with his wife and two daughters, whom he hopes to raise as next generation disruptors.



Eric McGill

Senior Technology Manager
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Eric McGill presently serves as a Sr. Technology Manager for the NASA Goddard's Spaceflight Center's (GSFC) Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO), where he manages the intellectual property portfolio for the Earth Sciences, Applied Engineering & Technology Directorate (AETD) and Mechanical Systems and Missions assurance divisions. He also leads in matters pertaining to business development and direct marketing of technologies for licensing and collaborations. He possesses a strong scientific background in research and technology development, as well as entrepreneurial experience gained from discovering, developing, and successfully launching and commercializing his own patented technology.

Mr. McGill has over 10 years of scientific and product development experience, 4 patented inventions, along with more than 18 years of technology licensing, commercialization and business development experience. Prior to joining NASA GSFC's SPO, he served as a Sr. Technology Transfer Specialist working extensively in support of technology transfer from Department of Defense laboratories to industry. Mr. McGill also worked as a Senior Scientist in R&D and product development for a global medical technology company where he discovered two patented compositions/methods and served as a member of the company's patent review team. He earned a B.S. in Biology from South Carolina State University and a Graduate Certificate in Technology & Commercialization from the University of Baltimore, Merrick School of Business.



Holly Newton

Aerospace Engineer
NASA's Johnson Space Center

Holly Newton is an aerospace engineer working for NASA Johnson Space Center as a Lunar hardware designer and developer in the Crew and Thermal Systems division. Holly got her start in engineering by joining and eventually leading the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team at her high school in Stillwater, MN. She then went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in 2019 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics.

Prior to full time employment at NASA, Holly was involved in the NASA Pathways Internship program for 3 year. Her experience as an intern spanned a variety of topics relating to human spaceflight and included working in Mission Control, Crew and Thermal Systems, Trajectory, and Structures. Holly was the lead mechanical designer on the NASA team that developed a human powered ventilator design for use on long duration space missions and to assist with the worldwide shortage of ventilators caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Stephan Reckie

Executive Director
GEN Space

Stephan is the Executive Director of Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) Space, a universal network of ecosystems for Astropreneurs. He is the co-founder of Angelus Funding, a trust-based global angel network investing in innovative and meaningful opportunities, and he is a World Business Angel Forum Senator and a member of the Global Business Angels Network. Stephan is a co-founding partner at Edge of Space, a company enabling STEM access to space. As the CEO of a non-profit Transform Poverty Global, he is focused on addressing global poverty

along with climate change. Stephan serves on the board of directors of numerous impactful companies, including Spring Health India, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), and has personally made 39 investments since 2012. He is an adjunct professor at the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver, teaching graduate and undergraduate entrepreneurial presentation and sales skills.

Before angel investing, Stephan served in several international executive roles including COO of DigiLink Software, a China-based embedded video solutions developer, and the Director of Sales at India-based Ittiam Systems. As founding Director of EMEA Operations at Telogy Networks, his company was acquired by Texas Instruments.

Stephan holds Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University. He is a second-generation Armenian Russian and a true native New Yorker, fluent in 5 languages. Stephan enjoys traveling the world, having flown over 8 million miles, the equivalent of 16 moon missions. Stephan is a driven volunteer for several impactful organizations and is an active community leader. He resides in Golden, Colorado with his family.



Kris Romig

Commercialization Services Lead
NASA's Johnson Space Center

Kris Romig is currently serving as the Commercialization Services Lead for the Exploration Technology Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Mr. Romig and his team are responsible for curating the intellectual property developed at Johnson Space Center from the disclosure of new innovations through the patent process and eventual licensing of those inventions. Additionally, Mr. Romig guides the team to enhance cross-talk between NASA innovators while improving technology development

collaborations through knowledge exchange.

He also provides strategic leadership for the Exploration Technology Office for the improved integration of JSC's advanced technology development activities, technology transfer, and strategic partnerships. Mr. Romig previously functioned as the Branch Chief for the Energy Conversion Systems Branch at Johnson Space Center where he oversaw In Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) technologies, the design, development, and testing of advanced power generation systems, and pyrotechnic devices for human spaceflight applications. He also served as an Associate Branch Lead for Instrument and Payload Systems Engineering (IPSE) at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). IPSE provided systems engineering support to both outside and in-house GSFC instruments while hosting payload projects through all phases of the project lifecycle.

One of Mr. Romig's focus areas within the branch was the development and coordination of Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) tools and capabilities for GSFC. Mr. Romig has also worked at NASA Headquarters (HQ) as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD) in the Office of Chief Engineer (OCE). In this capacity, Mr. Romig was responsible for providing program lifecycle and systems engineering expertise for human exploration programs and projects such as the Constellation and Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program.

Prior to his work at NASA HQ, Mr. Romig spent more than nine years working as a propulsion engineer and project manager/systems engineer at the Johnson



Space Center (JSC). He supported the Space Shuttle Program and worked to develop cryogenic propulsion component and system level technologies for future exploration missions.



Bart Skalla

CFO and Co-Founder
RevRoad

Bart Skalla is CFO and co-founder of RevRoad, a venture services firm in Silicon Slopes (based in Provo, UT). RevRoad provides entrepreneurs who are solving big problems customized in-house services from coding to capital, strategy to sales, and finance to philanthropy after a successful exit. Bart's career has spanned 25 years in financial, defense and tech industries. From startups to large multinational companies, he's learned how value is added in any organization. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from BYU-Hawaii and later earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. He lives in Ridgway, Colorado and is married to a former school teacher with whom he helped raise four great kids.



Dennis Small

Senior Technology Manager
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Dennis Small presently serves as a Technology Manager for the NASA Goddard's Spaceflight Center's (GSFC) Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO), where he has the opportunity to meet with businesses and universities talk about partnering opportunity and the outstanding technologies available for licensing at NASA Goddard. This falls in line with the Presidential Memorandum: Accelerating Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Federal Research in Support of High-Growth Businesses. An initiative established to foster innovation by increasing the rate of technology transfer and the economic and societal impacts from Federal research and development (R&D) investments of

businesses to fuel economic growth.

His job includes the identification, review, and evaluation of advanced aerospace technologies for potential patenting, and/or licensing options, in addition to the negotiations of mutually beneficial partnerships between NASA and private industry, academia, and/or other government organizations.

Prior to joining NASA GSFC's SPO, he spent over 25 years at NASA in the area of Ground System Implementation. He served as the Acting Earth Observing System Mission Operations System (EMOS) Manager. He was responsible for maintenance and enhancement of the highly complex telemetry and command (T&C) ground system, as well as on-line and analysis subsystems needed for planning, analysis, and real-time operational support for the Aqua, Aura, Terra, and TRMM missions. He was the Technical Monitor of 4 contractor tasks supporting EMOS re-engineering and maintenance of both ground system software and hardware components.

He also served as Mission Operation Implementation Manager for the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope mission, which explores the most extreme environments in the Universe; where nature harnesses energies far beyond anything possible on Earth. The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope mission also searches for signs of new laws of physics and what the mysterious Dark Matter is composed.



Ray Wagner

Electrical Engineer

NASA's Johnson Space Center

Raymond Wagner leads the low power wireless sensor research and development effort at NASA-Johnson Space Center, and he is involved in related programs for development of wireless communications systems for vehicle, habitat, and surface operations. He is active in standards development for international space agencies within the Consultative Committee for Space Data systems, and he is spearheading the effort to introduce LTE and 5G technologies to the lunar surface. He earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 2007 as an NSF

Graduate Research Fellow at Rice University in Houston, Texas with a thesis concerning distributed data processing algorithms for wireless sensor networks. His research interests include novel applications of RFID, passive and active wireless sensor networks, low-power embedded computing, and distributed signal processing. He is a winner of the NASA technology achievement medal for his work in wireless technologies enabling human exploration.



Aaron Wallace

Co-Founder, CEO of Onedrus

Aaron Wallace was raised in San Diego, CA. He attended UCLA on an athletic scholarship and graduated with his degree in sociology. Following his undergrad, Aaron was drafted to the Tennessee Titans in the 7th round of the 2016 NFL draft. During his NFL career, Aaron played for the Titans, Bengals, and Broncos before retiring from the league. Since retiring from the NFL, Aaron has enrolled in the MBA program at Indiana University and co-founded his company Onedrus. Onedrus is looking to design and sell air filtration systems for commercial buildings.



Joe Wesley

Entrepreneur and Former NFL Linebacker

Joe Wesley is an entrepreneur and former NFL Linebacker. Joe played professional football for 5 seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, Jacksonville Jaguars and the Berlin Thunder in NFL Europe. Joe also served as President for the NFLPA Former Players, Houston Chapter and achieved the Chapter of the Year Award during his tenure.

Post NFL, Joe has spent 15 years as a Safety Professional working in heavy industry within the oil & gas, refinery, chemical manufacturing, and commercial construction sectors.

Joe has a passion for innovation, creativity and helping others. He recently completed his M.B.A and continues to explore new entrepreneurial business ventures.