

Book review in Summer 2005 issue of



Association for Women in Science

1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 650

Washington, DC 20005

www.awis.org

BOOK REVIEW

by Margaret Reilly, PhD

Women of Space: Cool Careers on The Final Frontier,

Laura S. Woodmansee.

Apogee Books (Collector's Guide Publishing), Burlington, Ontario, Canada, 2003. Paperback, 208 pages, \$22.95, ISBN 1-894959-03-5.

Women of Space highlights the variety of career options related to space exploration. Brief biographies of more than one hundred remarkable women, with job titles ranging from artist to astronaut, are presented. For example, Lucy McFadden manages education and public outreach for NASA's "Deep Impact" study of the composition of comets and is working on a mission to investigate the largest asteroids, Vesta and Ceres. She holds a doctorate in geology and geophysics. Kendra Perkins is a Government Affairs Specialist at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where she coordinates cooperation between space programs and the government. Her early interest in space was enhanced by the Challenger accident in 1986, which she witnessed on television when she was in the fifth grade.

Marlene Grenon and Joan Saary are young medical doctors pursuing interests related to space exploration. Dr. Grenon's area is the effect of microgravity on the cardiovascular system. Dr. Saary's specialty is occupational medicine: the health of workers as individuals and as groups. she explains that this includes workers in space exploration, who "are like many other work-

ers — they are generally healthy people doing their job in an extreme environment." Educators teach in schools and museums about space exploration. Artists prepare a variety of media to explain technological advances to the general public.

Women of Space includes a brief history of women in space and of major events in space exploration; advice for those with an interest in space careers; a list of resources including websites for further information regarding space exploration; and a CD containing interviews, documents, and a video.

This book closes with a moving tribute to Kalpana Chawla, who lost her life when the Columbia spacecraft disintegrated upon reentry to Earth's atmosphere in February of 2003. Chawla knew the risks of space flight but believed in its importance in advancing knowledge of the universe. Several photos show a beautiful young woman with a radiant smile -- a truly remarkable woman.

Women seeking career guidance may find *Women of Space* to be especially useful. And readers who simply enjoy learning of the accomplishments of women will find this book immensely rewarding.



“Women seeking career guidance may find *Women of Space* to be especially useful.”



www.apogeebooks.com

