

WOMEN IN STEM SHOWCASE



Raven Baxter, PhD

1993–

Molecular Biologist
& STEM Educator



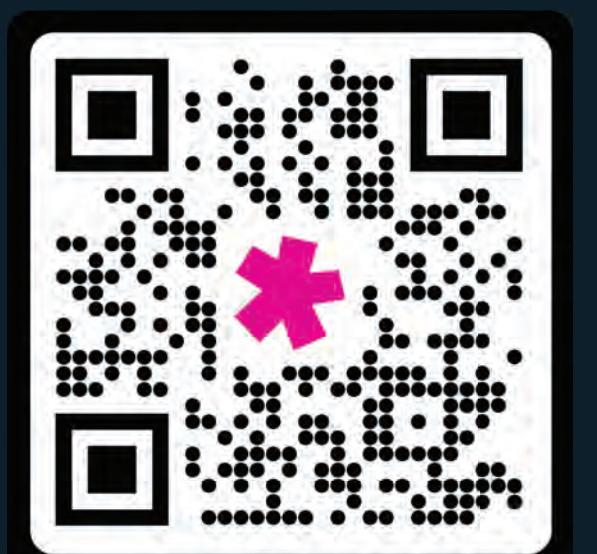
Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Raven Baxter always had a love for science. As a child, she would mix cosmetics together to observe the chemical reactions and even ruined the TV remote while testing the ink transfer capabilities of Silly Putty. These experiments, combined with an intense curiosity for all things scientific, led her mother to enroll her in several STEM-focused programs, including Space Camp. After graduating from Williamsville North High School, Baxter studied at Buffalo State College, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology.

After graduation, she worked in drug discovery at AMRI Global and taught in the Buffalo Public Schools and Erie Community College. In 2017, Baxter created Dr. Raven the Science Maven, a science education platform that teaches through comedy, fashion, music, and storytelling. The isolation she experienced in the corporate world pushed her to focus on accessibility to science education and led her to return to school at the University of Buffalo, earning her PhD in curriculum, instruction, and the science of learning in 2021. Since then, she has released science-themed parodies of several popular rap songs, including "The Antibody Song", which borrows the soundtrack of Meghan Thee Stallion's hit song "Body." She has also provided content and music for Netflix's animated series "Ada Twist, Scientist," as well as creating and hosting a YouTube series called *Nerdy Jobs*, which explores a variety of STEM careers.



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about Raven Baxter

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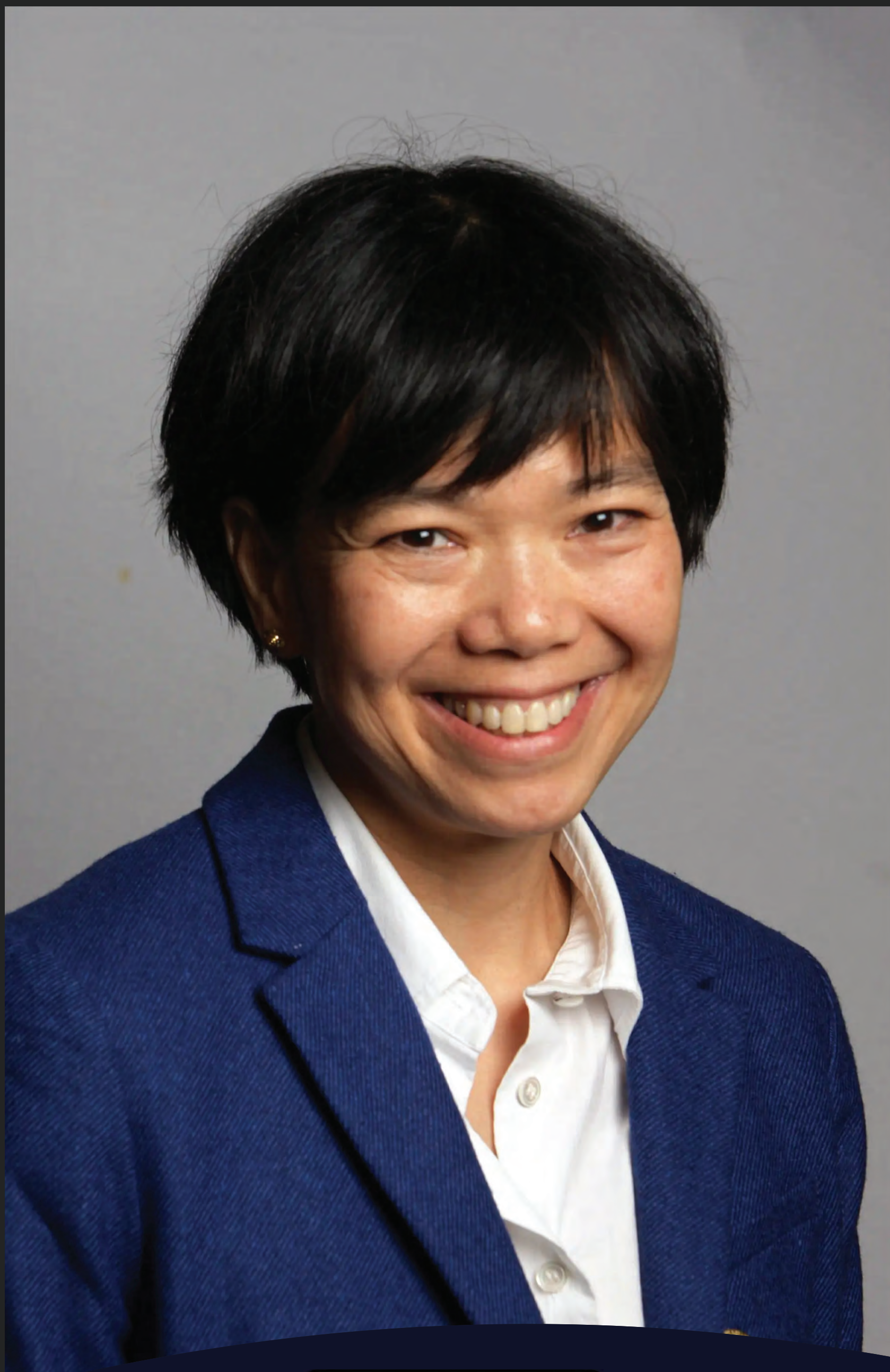
WOMEN IN STEM SHOWCASE



Jane Luu, PhD

1963–

Astronomer &
Defense Systems Engineer



It might be hard to believe considering the number of celestial bodies she has discovered, but Jane Luu didn't think much about space until she was in her twenties. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, she spent the first decade of her life playing in the alleyway with her many cousins. She learned French and attended a French school up until 1975 when her family immigrated to the US after the end of the Vietnam War. Once in the States, Luu attended school in Ventura, California, eventually graduating as valedictorian. As a first-generation college student, she relied on a college selectivity guide bought by her father when applying to schools, and was accepted to Stanford, MIT, and Princeton.

Choosing Stanford for the financial aid the school offered, Luu graduated in 1984 with a degree in physics and started working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This job opened her mind to the wonders of space, and she decided to pursue a graduate degree at MIT in astrophysics, receiving her PhD in 1992. Luu spent years performing research around the world and has helped discover 37 minor planets, including the 1992 discovery of 15760 Albion. Temporarily lauded as a tenth planet, Albion is now recognized as the first discovered object in the Kuiper Belt. The belt is a region of icy objects beyond Neptune's orbit that includes dwarf planet Pluto (previously considered the ninth planet in our solar system). In 1996, an asteroid in the Phocaea family was renamed in her honor – 5430 Luu.



Scan above to learn more
about Jane Luu

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WOMEN IN STEM SHOWCASE



Africa Flores-Anderson

1983–

Agronomist &
Geospatial Technologist



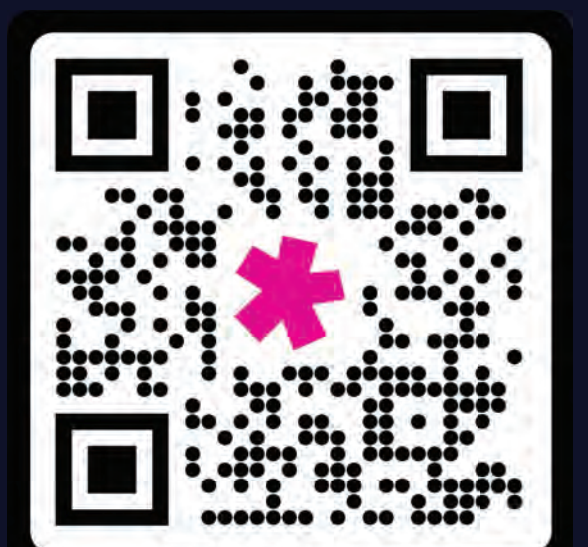
Africa Ixmucane Flores-Anderson was born and raised in Retalhuleu, a heavily agricultural area in southwestern Guatemala. The environmental consequences of farming were all too clear, and she watched as the lakes, rivers, and forests around her paid the price. Inspired by this experience, she studied agricultural engineering at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City, where she developed algorithms to predict the biomass of Caribbean pine and teak forest plantations. After graduating in 2006, she worked for Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas before moving to Panama two years later. In Panama, she worked on implementing SERVIR, a NASA program that combines satellite data and geospatial technologies to predict and address the challenges created by global warming and its environmental effects.

In 2011, she moved to Huntsville, Alabama, to continue her studies and research, earning her master's degree in earth system sciences in 2013. For her master's thesis, she used hyperspectral (electromagnetic) images of Lake Atitlán in Guatemala to develop an algorithm that predicts concentrations of chlorophyll. After her graduation, she continued her work with SERVIR, focusing on West Africa, eastern and southern Africa, the Amazon rainforest, Hindu-Kush Himalaya, and Lower Mekong regions. She has also continued her study of Lake Atitlán as a National Geographic Explorer, working with AI tools to forecast harmful algae blooms.



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about SERVIR from NASA

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WOMEN IN STEM SHOWCASE



Dr. Lillie Rosa Minoka-Hill (Yondagent)

1875/76–1952

Physician



Lillie Rosa Minoka-Hill was the second woman of Native American descent to be formally trained as a physician. She was born in 1875 or 1876 to a Mohawk mother who passed away shortly after. Although accounts vary about her early life, at around the age of five she was taken from her family and adopted by Joshua Allen, a Quaker physician who lived in Philadelphia. Like many Native American youth at the time, she was sent to a boarding school in Philadelphia before enrolling in the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

After her graduation in 1899, she interned at the medical college before opening her own private practice at the Lincoln Institute, a charity school for Native American girls. One of the students at the institute, a young Oneida woman named Anna Hill, introduced Lillie to her older brother, Charles Abram Hill. They married in 1905, and she agreed to move to his family's allotment on the Oneida reservation in Wisconsin under the condition that she could continue to practice medicine. Once in Wisconsin, she opened a health clinic in her kitchen. Over time, Minoka-Hill's skill was recognized, especially by the women living on the reservation. When the hospital's doctor was called away during WWI, she became the primary physician on the reservation, walking to her patients if they couldn't come to her and often bartering her services based on what a family could afford. In 1947, she was formally adopted by the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin in honor of her decades of service and given the name Yondagent, which means 'She Carries Aid' or 'She Who Saves'.



Scan above to learn
more about Lillie Rosa
Minoka-Hill

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