

Nexus

The Newsletter of The Baldwin Foundation for Education

MAJOR JASMIN MOGHBELI '01 U.S. MARINE CORPS PILOT - ASTRONAUT

Jasmin Moghbeli has been selected as one of NASA's newest astronauts. Born in Bad Nauheim, Germany, she grew up in Baldwin and considers it her home town. Although there have been other foreign-born astronauts she is the first with roots in the Middle East, as her parents are of Iranian origin and fled Iran following the 1979 Iranian revolution. While a sixth-grader at Lenox Elementary School, she learned about Valentina Tereshkova, a Russian cosmonaut who in 1963 became the first woman in space. With her mother's help she built a space suit, constructed out of white windbreakers and a plastic container that served as the helmet. From an early age, she was ambitious and an excellent student. Her parents supported her dream to become an astronaut and one summer sent her to space camp in Alabama. She returned with a replica flight suit that she still has today.

Major Moghbeli earned a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and Information Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a member of the women's volleyball, basketball and lacrosse teams. This was followed by a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. She is also a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and has accumulated more than 1,600 hours of flight time and 150 combat missions. Major Moghbeli, a Marine pilot who flew combat missions in Afghanistan, is the recipient of four Air Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various unit commendations. She was awarded both the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School Class 144 Outstanding Developmental Phase II Award and The Commander Willie McCool Outstanding Student Award as the Class 144 Honor Graduate. As one of the new astronauts, she joins an impressive group of six men and six women including a marine biologist and a Harvard-trained physician. Half of them are civilians and half are military.



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