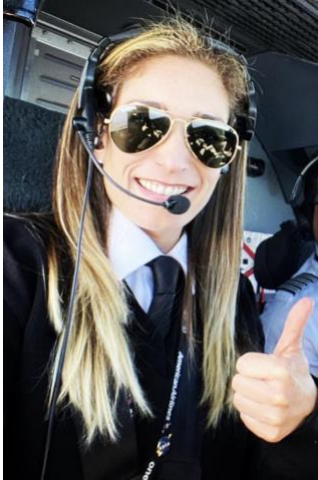


## WAI Sun 'n Fun Connect Lunch Speakers Bios



**Morgan Samuels** As with many other aviators from my generation, Morgan realized that she wanted to be a pilot after watching Top Gun. As a little girl, when asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, her answer was always the same; a fighter pilot. After graduating college, she received a commission in the US Army and became an AH-64D Apache pilot. During her time in the Army, she had the opportunity to serve as a Company Commander, and fly around the world including assignments in South Korea and Germany as well as a combat deployment in Afghanistan.

After completing ten years in the Army, Morgan went in search of her next path. She spent five months traveling around the United States, visiting the National Parks, and selling her artwork. She realized in this time how much she missed flying, and found a flight school in Idaho where she received my helicopter CFI/CFII

ratings.

Shortly after, Morgan moved to Louisiana where she flew helicopters offshore in the Gulf of Mexico working in oil and gas. It was during this time a close friend and former military peer informed her that there was a program for helicopter pilots to transition to the airlines. Morgan returned to school to gain my fixed wing rating and was hired by Piedmont Airlines, where she is currently a First Officer.

Morgan is so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community of women and aviators, and hopes that she can help others to follow their dreams.



**Laura Spolar** is an Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor for United Airlines based in Orlando, Florida. In this role she leads her team of Technicians in completing all assigned work on aircraft within the hangar and performs double-duty as the supervisor point for facility maintenance issues. Her responsibilities include ensuring all work is accomplished safely and efficiently, by supporting her technicians in technical, administrative, and personal matters, as well as, coordinating the work of facility and ground support equipment repair vendors.

Prior to her role as Supervisor, Laura held the position of Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT), working on multiple aircraft types. Though with United a total of 16 years, she has been a certified Airframe and Powerplant technician for more than 26 years, spending most of that time in the Line Maintenance (airport) environment.

Laura is a true advocate for diversity outreach, particularly when it comes to encouraging young women to consider a career in aviation. She inspires them through her long-time, very active participation in tWomen in

Aviation, International and the Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance. Laura currently holds the position of President in WAI's Central Florida Chapter.

Laura's support extends to those within her United family. She is a founding member and a coach of United's first all-female Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Team: "Chix Fix." The team competed in the 2018 & 2019 Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC), making history in 2018 by being the first all-female team to compete commercially. The Chix Fix team will compete again in 2020.



**Lieutenant Commander Danielle Varwig** is originally from New York City and studied mechanical engineering at Penn State University. While at Penn State, she attended Air Force ROTC and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2006. She went through pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas and was selected to fly the C-17 out of Travis Air Force Base, California from 2009-2013. In 2012, she volunteered to fly the MC-12W (ISR type aircraft) based out of Kandahar for 7 1/2 months in support of the Global War on Terrorism. From 2013 - 2017, Danielle was a T-6 flight instructor at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Her last duty station while in the Air Force was at Naval Air Station Pensacola instructing combat system officer training, also in the T-6. Danielle joined the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps through an interservice transfer, commissioning as a NOAA Corps Lieutenant Commander on February 11, 2020. She is stationed at the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland, FL and

is in the training pipeline to become a Hurricane Hunter flying NOAA's Gulfstream IV-SP. Danielle, her husband, two children, and dog are enjoying living in the Tampa Bay area.



**Captain Kristin "Beo" Wolfe** is the Commander, F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team, 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The mission of the F-35A Lightning II Demonstration team is to showcase the unique aerial capabilities of the Air Force's most advanced 5th generation multi-role stealth fighter, the F-35A Lightning II, as well as highlight the history of the Air Force's service through heritage formation flights. Additionally, she provides operational oversight and direction for the 13-personnel team, to include maintenance, aircrew flight equipment, and public affairs Airmen.

Captain Wolfe entered the Air Force in 2011 after receiving her commission from the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program at the University of Alabama. Captain Wolfe is an experienced fighter pilot with more than 800 flying hours in the F-22A Raptor and F-35A Lightning II. Her flying assignments include Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, and fighter training in the F-22A at Langley AFB, Va., and operational assignments at Langley AFB, Va., and Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

#### **EDUCATION:**

2011 Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL  
2017 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. June 2011 – May 2013, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
2. May 2013 – March 2014, Student, F-22A Basic Course, Tyndall AFB, Florida

3. March 2014 – April 2017, F-22A Instructor Pilot, Langley AFB, Virginia
4. April 2017 – September 2017, F-35A Transition Course, Eglin AFB, Florida
5. September 2017 – March 2020, F-35A Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, Hill AFB, Utah
6. March 2020 – Present, F-35A Demonstration Team Commander, Hill AFB, Utah

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

**Rating:** Senior Pilot

**Flight Hours:** More than 800

**Aircraft Flown:** T-6, T-38C, F-22A, F-35A

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Air Force Commendation Medal

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant May 25, 2011

First Lieutenant May 25, 2013

Captain, May 25, 2015

(Current as of February 2020)