

TWU Book Series Event Script

Shannon Mantaro Opening Remarks

Good evening, and welcome to the inaugural event of our TWU Book Series. I am Shannon Mantaro, Senior Director of the Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership at Texas Woman's University, and I am pleased to see that so many of you have joined us this evening to hear our guest speaker—Dr. Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, the author of "Making Space for Women."

Before we begin, I'd like to tell you just a bit about the TWU Book Series, which is an interdisciplinary project celebrating the personal and public lives and work of courageous trailblazing women in fields such as the arts, sciences, politics, business, education, the military, health sciences and community service. It works with authors focusing on women's leadership, the untold stories of courageous women and matters affecting the lives of women. It is under the guidance of the Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership and funded in part by the generosity of Nancy P. and Thaddeus E. Paup, who are both longtime supporters of TWU, and I'm pleased to say are here with us tonight.

And now I would like to introduce Dr. Claire Sahlin, Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies and the TWU Book Series inaugural General Editor, who will tell you more about tonight's very special guest.

Claire Sahlin Remarks

Thank you, Shannon, and thank you, everyone, for coming tonight. I am so pleased to be here with you to celebrate the very first published book in the TWU Book Series, "Making Space for Women." From the creation of the Manned Spacecraft Center to the launching of the International Space Station and beyond, "Making Space for Women" explores how careers for women at Johnson Space Center have changed over the past fifty years as the workforce became more diverse and fields once closed to women—the astronaut corps and flight control—began to open.

The book's author, Dr. Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, has served as the Johnson Space Center Historian since 2004. She provides real-time resource and reference assistance to internal and external customers, and has shared her expertise with many NASA areas, broadcasting agencies, documentarians and others. She holds the unique distinction of being a scholar of NASA history and women's history. She has been featured as a subject matter expert in several documentaries; is an accomplished oral historian; has presented at numerous national conferences; and authored many publications. In 2014, the Texas State Historical Association awarded the Liz Carpenter Award for Research to "Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives," a book containing her chapter on Mae Jemison, the first female astronaut of color. In 2012, she was awarded the Charles Thomson Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government for her chapter focusing on the Shuttle accidents in NASA's "Wings In Orbit:

Scientific and Engineering Legacies of the Space Shuttle.” Her essay, “You’ve Come a Long Way, Maybe: The First Six Women Astronauts and the Media,” was included in “Spacefarers: Images of Astronauts and Cosmonauts in the Heroic Era of Spaceflight” (2013) and noted as “fascinating and an in-depth study on how the first group of NASA women dealt with the still occasionally sexist media.” For this work, she received her second Thomson Prize in three years.

In 2011, she published her first book, “Winning the West for Women,” a biography of suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe. That same year, she was recognized by NASA Headquarters for her outstanding work as a historian for the Agency.

Please help me welcome Dr. Jennifer Ross-Nazzal.

Jennifer Ross-Nazzal delivers remarks and asks guests for any questions at the end. Ray Willhoft and MarCom member will hand microphones to audience members with questions. Wraps up around 7:30 p.m.

Claire Sahlin Closing Remarks

Thank you, Jennifer, for that fantastic presentation. I’m sure our audience is as impressed and inspired by the women you talked about tonight as I am.

Thank you, everyone, for coming, and I hope you have a good night.