Abstract: A solar sail is a propellantless propulsion system that requires a large, ultra-lightweight deployable design. NASA and other organizations worldwide are working on designs for the earliest generations of solar sails. This talk will cover some of the challenges and goals of solar sail design, recent and ongoing flight projects, and research that has been conducted at NASA Langley Research Center by the Structural Dynamics Branch and student interns.

Bio: Dr. Olive Stohlman is a research aerospace engineer in the Structural Dynamics Branch at NASA Langley Research Center. She specializes in structural testing and thermal/structural analysis of large deployable structures and has worked on solar sails since joining NASA Langley in 2014.