

DANIELLE FONG

PHYSICIST



Danielle Fong is the very definition of a “whiz kid.” Born and raised in Nova Scotia, this soon-to-be 26-year-old dropped out of middle school at age 11. The following year she enrolled as a full-time student at Dalhousie University. While there, she studied computer science and physics, and graduated with honors in 2005 at only 17. Fong then continued on to Princeton to pursue a doctorate in plasma physics. During her studies, she learned the ins and outs of nuclear fusion and realized it could be the answer to revolutionizing global energy in the future. Taking a hiatus from Princeton, Fong founded LightSail Energy in 2009 with Stephen Crane and Edwin P. Berlin. She’s been featured in *Forbes*’ “30 under 30” list in the energy field, and her blog, “Essays by Danielle Fong” shares her opinions on a multitude of topics from entrepreneurship to green technology.

DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT DAY.

The day we reach out into the universe and discover we are not alone.

IF YOU COULD BE THE CEO OF ANY COMPANY, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

The Alliance to Restore the Republic.

NAME ONE PERSON (DEAD OR ALIVE) WHOM YOU’D LIKE TO SLEEP WITH?

Jesus Christ (I bet he’d be a great cuddler.)

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT?

The team that we’ve built at LightSail. Never was there a more talented group of misfits.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN FOCUS RIGHT NOW?

Making an actual product out of this whiz-bang technology.

IS IT EVER OK TO LIE?

When are you going to stop beating your wife?

FAVORITE...

ERA FOR MUSIC: 2004-2005, Montreal and Williamsburg. **FICTIONAL**

CHARACTER: Benedict Cumberbatch’s portrayal of Sherlock Holmes.

ATHLETE: Scott Jurek, the ultramarathoner. **DRINK:** Chia Kombucha.

CURSE WORD: Balderdash!

LEAST FAVORITE...

BODY PART: My tail. Why did we ever stop having useful tails? I’m definitely envious of my primate cousins. **PHRASE:** “Due diligence” **WILD**

ANIMAL: Blobfish **RESPONSIBILITY:** Laundry **PAINTER:** MBW

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN CLINICAL TERMS.

Pathological entrepreneur.

WHAT IS LOVE?

Love is the tacit acknowledgment of someone or something being an essential part of a shared collective being. It is worth dying for. But most importantly, it is worth living for.

Photo by Afra Pourdad