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Reflection Report 3

The class on February 21st with Dave Murrow was especially impactful and memorable for me. Dave talked about launch vehicles and the different types of rockets needed to send satellites and people into orbit and other locations. Dave’s story about working at JPL on the Galileo mission and the Cassini project stood out to me. Working for NASA or Lockheed Martin has always been a goal of mine, and to hear someone who shares the same energy and passion for rocketry as myself, was nice to hear. Dave’s reflection on his early career at JPL reinforced my desire to have a part in space exploration.

A connection that I shared with Dave was his excitement and passion for using model rockets. I myself am very energetic and that same energy is very much present in my body language and speech when I am asked about rockets; or whenever I bring them up in conversation. While Dave studied and specializes in something different than what I am going to school for, it is our similar passion for rocketry that reassures me that there is room in the space industry for someone like me.

Overall, I really enjoyed every aspect of the Pathway to Space experience. This class was very unique and helped introduce me to fields that are very important to the space industry. Being able to hear from people in industry was impactful because I was able to hear their stories and come to the conclusion that this is something I definitely want to be a part of. My only criticism of the Pathway to Space experience is that we didn’t get to hear from a computer scientist. I understand what role computer scientists play in space exploration and the design of on-board systems, however, it would have been really fascinating to hear what the day to day life at Lockheed or NASA for a coder is like.