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AERO 201

Professor Shryock

7th December 2018

Experiential 5 – NASA L’SPACE Academy

I first came across this opportunity in my mailbox from our advisors. It said it was looking for dedicated students that had a passion for space exploration and flight. I immediately began to fill out the application. It gave further details that it was a Student Pipeline Accelerator to help students in college get experience for the real world and industry. The sessions that the heads of the Academy provided were phenomenal. We the main leads are Sheri Klug Boonstra and Dan Rivera. They were able to get a hold of many interesting guest speakers some of which gave me insight into how many positions really do make up all the NASA missions and projects. We were able to listen to experiences and gain advice from scientists and engineers such as Rob Manning (chief engineer at NASA JPL) and Dr. Michael Meyer (senior scientist at NASA headquarters) . This was their first time holding the academy, so there were some kinks and issues with communication, but it has been a learning process for all of us. Now for what task they assigned us to design and test. We have been assigned to create a 30 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm 500 g probe that will be deployed from a gondola 9 meters above the Mars surface. They also put us into groups with students who are in different states, so I am gaining experience working with diverse team members. We must decide what our payload will include and how we will safely descend to the Mars surface under the volume and mass constraints. They have provided a Level 2 for the Academy which I will be applying to, to test the team’s design. I will also be applying for opportunities to intern with the Lucy team.