

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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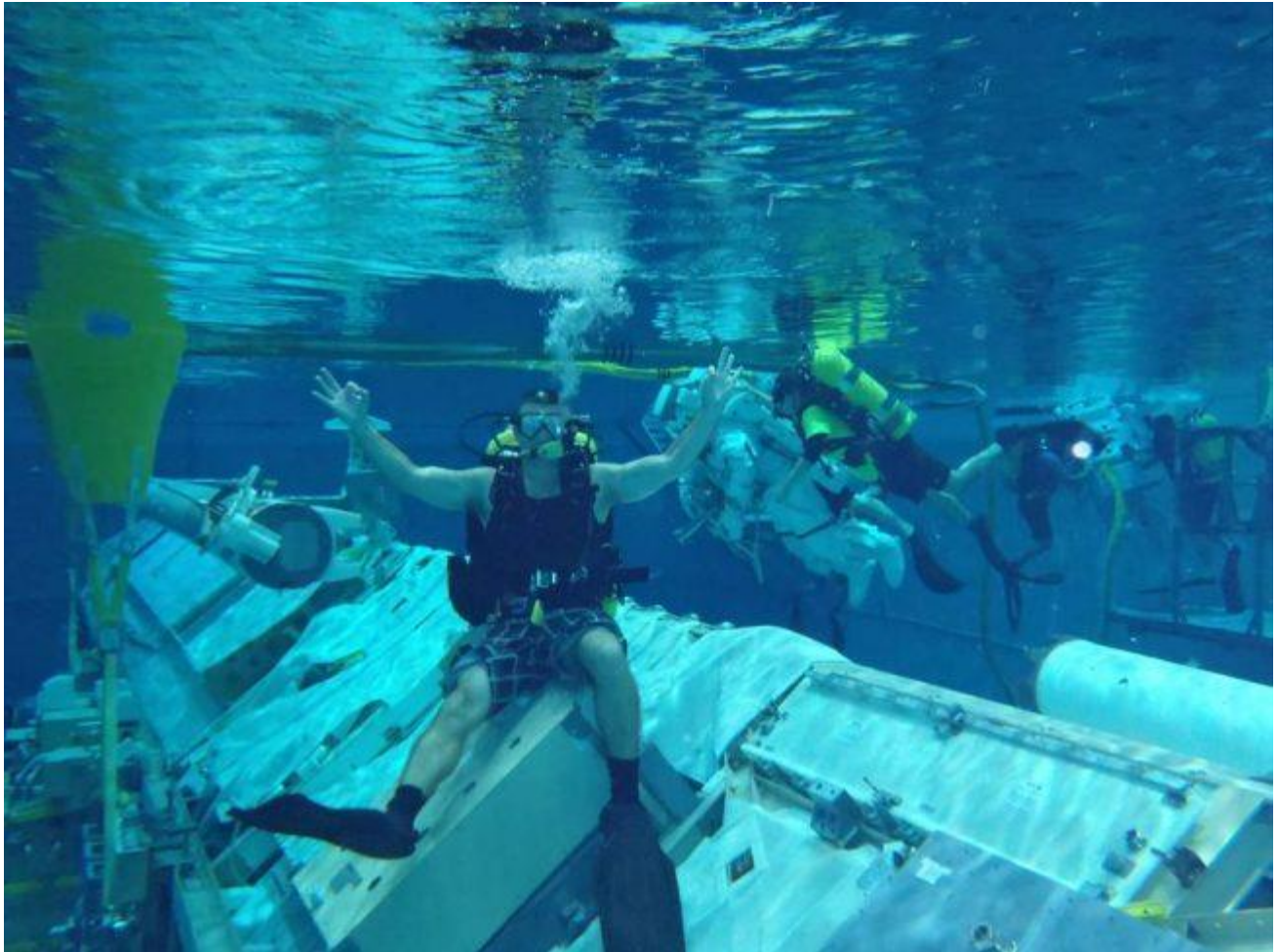
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His True Blue spirit is out of this world

DECEMBER 13, 2016



Statesboro native James Shaw ('16) is living the life his 5-year-old self dreamed of — working for NASA. The mechanical engineering major just finished his fourth rotation in a cooperative education program (co-op) with NASA and is thanking his True Blue experiences for leading him there.

After graduating from Southeast Bulloch High School in 2003, Shaw joined the U.S. Army and served in South Korea, Kuwait and Iraq. He came to Georgia Southern in the spring of 2010 to pursue his engineering degree at the University he had always wanted to attend.

Shaw happened upon an expired NASA co-op poster in the engineering building, and decided to go online to browse available openings. He found an application for a co-op, an educational program in which students participate in planned work experiences related to their academic major or career interest, that was only open that particular week. He seized the opportunity to apply, and soon after, was interviewed and hired.

"I always wanted to be an astronaut, but as I got older I began to understand what it takes to build something as complicated as a spacecraft, and I realized that astronauts are just the tip of the spear when it comes to exploring space," Shaw explained. "I still have intentions of submitting an astronaut candidate packet. I just don't qualify — yet."



During his co-op as an undergraduate, Shaw helped test and model batteries for Robonaut and lunar landers, studied the ablation heat shield on spacecrafts, repaired 3D printers and worked on training simulators for the flight controllers.

"My favorite experience so far was when I got to sit on console in Mission Control during Scott Kelly's first spacewalk," said Shaw.

He noticed the difficulty Kelly was having trying to grease the Space Station's robotic arm and offered a suggestion to ease the process. His idea was passed on to the flight director who then modified the procedure using Shaw's recommendations and complimented him on his idea.

"Nothing like having NASA engineers and a flight director call you brilliant," said Shaw.

Shaw's coursework at Georgia Southern has given him the skills he needs to excel in this program. His knowledge of solid modeling, heat transfer, statics and dynamics was exactly what he needed to prepare for this co-op.

"Georgia Southern offers so much hands-on experience in their engineering curriculum," said Shaw.

Not only did Shaw's hands-on experiences in class help him to succeed, but his relationships with his professors including Associate Professor Mosfequr Rahman, Ph.D., Professor Aniruddha Mitra, Ph.D., and Department Chair and Professor Brian L. Vlcek, Ph.D., also helped him grow.

"My academic success has largely been because of the overwhelming support from professors in the department," said Shaw. "I've had the privilege of taking multiple classes with Dr. Rahman, Dr. Mitra and Dr. Vlcek. Even before being selected for this co-op, I had a paper published by Dr. Rahman from my project on finite element analysis. This really helped me in the long-run because I was able to talk about it in my interview with NASA."

Shaw has accepted a full-time position in NASA'S Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory and will start in January after graduating in December.

"I would love to have other Georgia Southern students working for NASA, so I love encouraging people by sharing my story," said Shaw.

To learn more about co-ops at Georgia Southern, visit <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career/students/internships-co-ops/>.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving 20,673 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

College of Education awards use of 3D printer to Bulloch County school

DECEMBER 13, 2016



(L-R) College of Education (COE) Dean Thomas Koballa, Ph.D.; Bulloch County Superintendent Charles Wilson; Sallie Zetterower STEM Teacher Ansley Mays; Sallie Zetterower Principal Julie Mizell; COE Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development Chair Beth Durodoye, Ed.D.; Innovation Studio Co-Founder and COE faculty Mete Akcaoglu, Ph.D.; and Innovation Studio co-founder and COE faculty Eunbae Lee, Ph.D.

Sallie Zetterower Elementary School was named the winner of the 3D Printer for Your School contest hosted by the [College of Education's Innovation Studio](#) at Georgia Southern University. The printer

was delivered to the Sallie Zetterower Elementary STEM Lab on Monday during the 5th grade STEM class.

In October, the College announced it was accepting proposals for a contest to provide the use of a 3D printer for an area school. In an effort to expand their partnerships with P-12 schools, Innovation Studio founders and College of Education faculty Mete Akcaoglu, Ph.D., and Eunbae Lee, Ph.D., established the contest to provide an opportunity for collaboration while offering students the chance to broaden their problem solving and critical thinking skills through STEM activities.

"Through hands-on experiences with new technologies, like the 3D printer, the Innovation Studio shows all of our learners that technology can be both a tool to create and to educate others about the learning process," said Akcaoglu.

Proposals required schools to detail plans for use of the 3D printer as well as learning outcomes for students.

"The proposal from Sallie Zetterower was a very strong proposal that was well planned," explained Lee.

The plan includes ideas to combine 3D printing activities with the school's growing outdoor classroom. Each grade will have specific performance tasks that can be related to units commonly covered in their math or science classes.

Sallie Zetterower award-winning teacher and author of the proposal Ansley Mays' excitement when telling her 5th grade class about the lab's newest piece of equipment was contagious.

"One of my passions is the outdoor classroom, and I wanted to find a way to use a 3D printer and connect this project across grade levels," said Mays. "This printer will provide approximately 700 students with hands-on experiences that enrich their classroom lessons."

Each of Bulloch County Schools' nine elementary schools has a STEM Exploratory Lab with a dedicated teacher. All students cycle through the labs at least once each week for supplemental, innovative learning in addition to the science, technology, engineering and math lessons they already receive in their regular classroom setting.

Receiving a printer for the school's use is not where this project ends. Innovation Studio's Akcaoglu and Lee will coordinate with the Sallie Zetterower STEM Lab and Mays to help demonstrate the various projects that can be achieved with the use of a 3D printer.

"This will be a new partnership for the Innovation Studio," explained Lee. "We are excited to collaborate with Sallie Zetterower and hope to also have them even visit the Innovation Studio on campus at Georgia Southern."

The Innovation Studio is a space in the College of Education dedicated to serving educators, students, staff, youth and local community members to foster a culture of innovation and provide experience with cutting-edge technology. The studio was opened in 2015 with the assistance of funding from the College of Education and houses equipment including 3D printers, a virtual reality headset, large screen projection system, television with video gaming systems, robotics and more.

The College of Education is one of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University. From 1924 to 1955, this institution's main focus centered on educating or preparing future teachers and the bachelor's degree in education is the University's oldest professional degree. In 1992, COE established the University's first doctoral program. Today, the College prepares future educators and leaders through intensive field experiences, cutting-edge technology and research-based instruction. COE offers four Bachelor of Science in Education majors that prepare students for teacher certification and it offers the Master of Arts in Teaching degree, ten Master of Education degrees, nine education specialist degrees and two doctoral degrees. There are three academic departments in the College of Education: Curriculum, Foundations and Reading; Leadership, Technology, and Human Development; and Teaching and Learning. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/COE

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