

Josh: Good afternoon everyone, my name is Josh Choi and I am currently a rising senior at Reservoir High School.

Advait: And my name is Advait, and I am a rising senior at Thomas Jefferson High School. This is both our first summer at Goddard.

Josh: We would like to start off by thanking Mrs. Diane Cockrell, Ms. Melissa Cannon, and the National Space Club Scholars program for providing us with the guidance and encouragement to develop our interests in aerospace. This is a rare opportunity to explore potential careers and be a part of the NASA community. I would also like to thank my mentor, Dr. Richard Damoah, for guiding me through this process.

Advait: It's been an amazing experience for us as interns to work alongside professionals at Goddard.

Josh: Through this program, I am working in Code 618 Biospheric Sciences Laboratory with Dr. Damoah to analyze African climatology and how it affects mosquito behavior and malaria disease. Global transmission of vector-borne diseases such as malaria causes a widespread threat to human health because of its sensitivity to climate conditions. Dr. Damoah's study aims to expose the climate drivers of viral circulation of these harmful diseases and to improve upon outbreak risk assessment. A combination of satellite and ground station rainfall data are compared with vector species data over time to investigate the impact of climate conditions on vector-borne disease.

Advait: I am working with another intern, Nia Hart, with Mr. William E. Conn in the Safety and Mission Assurance Division as well as Mr. Matthew Balman in the Embedded Flight Systems Division. We are working on creating a web database that allows safety engineers to view and create hazard reports as well as access them anywhere around the world. We initially planned to improve upon the old Microsoft Access Database by using Sharepoint to make it accessible on the web, but decided on creating a completely new database by using multiple scripting languages such as javascript, PHP, MySQL, html, and CSS. The goal of the project is to hopefully allow safety engineers to be easily able to check and make sure that new hazards are recorded and any existing hazards are controlled so their respective missions are cleared to go to the next stage of development.

Josh: The reason why Advait and I decided to speak together coming from different buildings, codes, mentors, and projects is because I met Advait on the first day at orientation here and he's become a friend over the past few weeks.

Advait: After just happening to sit together during orientation, we have continued to hang out and have made some other friends who come from all across the DMV and their own unique background

Josh: We all come from different backgrounds and lifestyles. Just to name a few between me and Advait, he comes from an Indian background and I come from a Korean one. He comes from Virginia and I come from Maryland. He plays basketball, and I'm a lacrosse player. He plays trumpet and I play guitar.

Advait: Quite frankly, we don't really have much in common at all. He's into Biology and I am into Computer Science.

Josh: But even though we have different backgrounds, different schools, different interests, and even different internship experiences, what brought us together is a shared common interest in aerospace.

Advait: NASA has provided us this opportunity to meet like-minded peers with the same interests and goals, meeting many prominent scientists and other members of the aerospace community, including a Nobel Physics Prize laureate. These amazing experiences have allowed Josh and I to explore what a career in space science would be like, as well as give us skills in analyzing data and communicating our results that will help us in our future studies and research

Josh: We decided to speak together today to emphasize the point that this program allows students the opportunity to experience a community here at NASA. This community consists of individuals with many differences in interests, lifestyles, and backgrounds, but what unites us is this love for discovery and exploration. We have a common goal in NASA, and that is “to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research”

Advait: We'd like to thank the National Space Club for funding our internships. Their dedication to fostering the aerospace industry's next engineers, scientists and computer programmers has opened our eyes to the real possibility of careers in subjects that we are passionate about. Also We'd like to thank everyone who made our experience here a success, especially our mentors, Mrs. Cockrell and Ms. Cannon. From the moment we received the phone call announcing our admittance into the program until today, has been a truly stellar experience,

Josh: Thank you for giving us this opportunity to be a part of the aerospace community. We can't think of a better way to spend our summer, Thank you, everyone!