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Interview with Jeffery James Brady

Jeffery James Brady
Utah State University

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Interview with: Jeffery James Brady
April 9, 2011
Riverwoods Conference Center, Logan, UT.

Interviewer:

Name: Jeffery James Brady
Date of Birth: 1984
Place of Birth: Ogden, Utah

Question: Was there an event or events that led to a space career and perhaps to USU?

As far as working with science and space related things it was probably back more into high school when I took my physics class. My teacher there convinced me to be an engineer. So that’s when I started working on that. As far as USU goes I just really liked the campus.

Question: When did you join the GAS team? Were you a GAS student or a GAS mentor?

I joined the GAS team, I think it was in 2006, maybe 2005. The way I joined I was just recruited to help build a cubeSat they were working on. They needed electrical engineers and then they offered me a fellowship that summer. I was just a GAS student, I’ve never been a mentor.

Question: When did you leave the GAS team?

I left when I graduated in 2009.

Question: In the context of the GAS program how would you describe your skill set before joining the GAS team?

My skill set would have been next to nothing at the time I joined. I was just barely finishing my sophomore year in college and so I really didn’t know many of the fundamental principles of electrical engineering. Just kind of a brief introduction. So when I was told to start building satellites I had no idea where to start or what to do. Then eventually I slowly learned what I needed to do. I did lots of research and was at least able to get a prototype working.

Question: Upon leaving the GAS team how were your skill sets changed?

I was definitely more prepared for the real work force. I had actually worked on a real project. I learned tons of stuff that I would never of learned in my classes. Such a variety. I had to learn power systems, I had to learn communications, antennas above and beyond what they teach in class.

Question: What was your USU major or degree?

I was an electrical engineer and I had minors in mathematics and physics.

Question: Which GAS projects did you work on?

I worked on the cubeSat program mainly. I also helped with MISSE, just finishing that up. Cleaning the samples before they got sent up to the space station. When I was leaving was when they started the preliminary design work for FUNBOE.
Question: Do you recall names of GAS team members working with you on these projects?
There was Ryan Schaefermeyer and Steven Berkley were some of the few. Guardio worked on the cubeSat for a while and Rob and Justin and Cody. I can’t think of any other names right now.

Question: Did you get to experience GAS road trips?
I did not.

Question: What is your most cherished recollection of your GAS days?
I don’t know if its cherished, but I definitely remember sitting down in the lab for long hours working on different projects. It was pretty exciting when you would be there for ten hours and at the end of the ten hours it would finally work. That was nice.

Question: What was your greatest frustration with the GAS program?
I think one of the biggest problems was it was so lowly funded that we had to find other means of getting our projects done. It led to either inferior designs or resulted in less than legal activities.

Question: Please describe your present day career. Especially mention to what extend it follows a projectory dating back to school and USU GAS days.
I am currently working on radar systems. The radar system I work on, I can’t go into too much detail, but it does provide launch support for all the rocket launchers that go out of Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg. It’s nice to be in a space related program still. I’m grateful for the GAS experience that has led me to understand, just get me that exposure to the aerospace program and everything before I entering this career field so I had a heads up from the other people on my team.

Thank you very much.