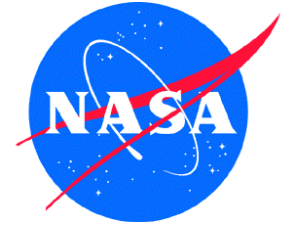


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FLORIDA RESIDENT COMPLETES NASA INTERNSHIP

HOUSTON -- Tampa local and New Orleans native Marie Chenowith recently completed an internship at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, where she helped develop new technologies for the next-generation Space Exploration Vehicle (SEV), a multipurpose vehicle astronauts could one day use to explore the moon, asteroids and even Mars. Chenowith, a student at the University of South Florida, landed a NASA internship through the Undergraduate Student Research Program.

Chenowith interned with the Software, Simulation and Robotics Division within the Engineering Directorate, the organization responsible for providing engineering design, development and testing for spaceflight programs assigned to Johnson. Chenowith's work included development contributions to the thermal fluid loop in the SEV.

"Working at Johnson Space Center has been a life-changing experience for me," Chenowith said. "Meeting astronauts, watching Apollo 13 with Gene Kranz in the actual mission control room where it happened, and working on rovers designed to travel through space are just a few of the many experiences I will never forget. Interning at NASA has helped me develop skills that I will carry with me throughout my engineering career. NASA helped me realize that I enjoy working in the space industry and that mechanical design is my future."

Chenowith expects to graduate in May 2012. At the University of South Florida, she is pursuing a major in mechanical engineering. She hopes to work in the space industry and possibly with the Department of Defense on innovative new technologies in the future.

The Undergraduate Student Research Program offers research and development opportunities in engineering, science and mathematics. Designed to give students the ultimate preparatory workforce experience, the program is one of the most highly comprehensive internship programs for undergraduate students, who work to solve practical problems in aerospace or future NASA missions. The program is NASA's largest nationwide undergraduate internship program and is offered year-round at 12 NASA centers and facilities.

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