NASA I² Interns Share Their Inspiring Stories

L-R Jason Renwick and Stefan Hosein

Four Trinidadian students recently gave public talks about their experiences as interns on the NIHERST/NASA International Internship (I^2) programme. On 21st August and 22nd September 2015, Asher Williams, Inzamam Rahaman, Jason Renwick and Stefan Hosein recounted their time at the NASA Ames Research Centre in California, USA. This opportunity was made possible by a joint agreement between NIHERST and NASA.

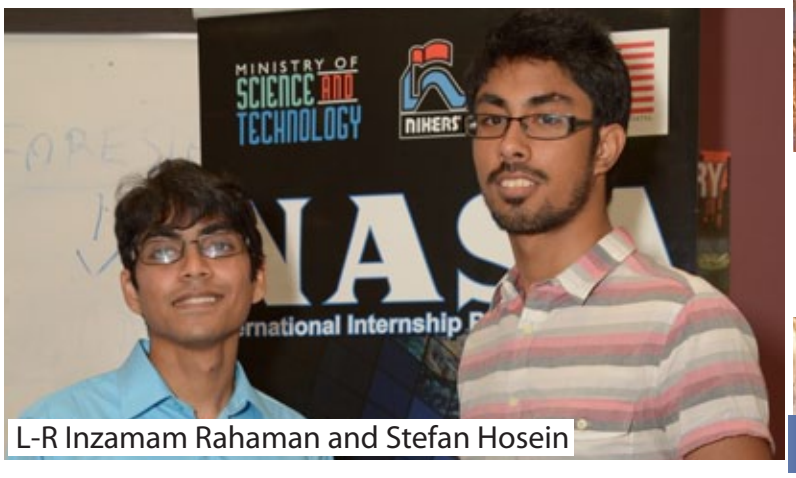
Persons attending the lectures, which took place at the UWI St. Augustine campus, gained insight into the cutting-edge research undertaken by the interns, under the mentorship of top scientists at NASA. Williams, a graduate of the Department of Chemical Engineering at New York University, had focussed on human nutrient production in space during her internship. She spoke about being a part of new investigation into human nutrient production to safeguard the health of astronauts' eyes in space. Inspired by this experience, she plans to further her research in biotechnology through her enrolment in a Chemical Engineering PhD programme at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Rahaman, a tutor in computer science at UWI, captivated the audience with his account of writing JAVA coding for geospatial applications that will benefit both the public and NASA as they are available to all. He expressed hope that his newly acquired knowledge will eventually be incorporated into the UWI curriculum. He is also encouraging greater appreciation for computer science as a


Asher Williams

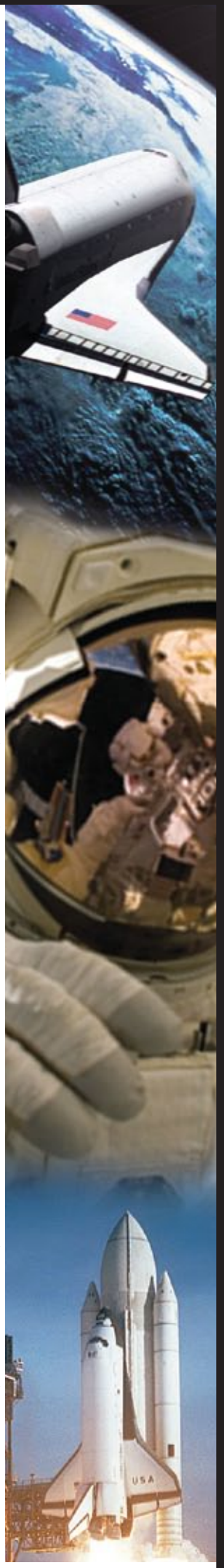
problem-solving tool for other fields, as well as an aid for interdepartmental collaboration. Renwick is currently in his second year as an undergraduate in the Department of Electrical Engineering at UWI. His presentation explored his work on electronics prognostics, looking at capacitors, electrical energy and the prediction of failure in electronic devices. He plans to integrate this knowledge into his final project at UWI. Hosein, a graduate in computer science, focussed on data mining via computer algorithms at NASA's Sustainability Base. He is currently working with the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) on projects including a web application that determines problem areas, and the forecasting of electricity usage using meters. All four interns are excited by the many possibilities that exist for them to apply their expertise and impact local industries.

Participation in the I^2 programme by more nationals will continue as NIHERST recently signed a second agreement with NASA, facilitating another cycle of internships to be taken up in 2016.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields are encouraged to apply and take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. NIHERST will be receiving applications from 1st October to December 31st, 2015. For further information, please visit http://bit.ly/NIHERSTNASA, e-mail NASAinternship@niherst.gov.tt or call 628-4398 ext 3306 or 3305.



L-R Inzamam Rahaman and Stefan Hosein



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

ngc

niherst.gov.tt