News Release

For Immediate release: 06/28/12
Contact: Ingrid Wright

Mechanical Engineering Students Receive Fellowship and Scholarship

Mechanical Engineering graduate students Armando Delgado and Jorge Frias from The University of Texas at El Paso have been awarded the 2012-2013 Texas Space Grant Graduate Fellowship. 21 graduate students were selected from Texas private and public universities.

The Texas Space Grant Consortium Fellowship was established to encourage graduate studies in the fields of space science and engineering, and designed to strengthen our nation’s future workforce by attracting and retaining science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Applicants must show excellence in academics and an interest in space.

“Opportunities for success are out there for students who seek them,” Mr. Frias said. “I am grateful to be selected by NASA/Texas Space Grant Consortium as a graduate fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year. This fellowship will aid towards my education tuition” he added. Mr. Frias was also selected as a fellow last year.

Armando and Jorge also received a travel scholarship to present their papers at the Third Joint Meeting of the Space Resources Roundtable (SRR) and Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium (PTMSS) on June 4-7, 2012 in Golden, CO.

At the Third Joint Meeting in Colorado, Armando Delgado presented his paper on “Combustion of Lunar Regolith/Magnesium Mixtures.” “Participating in the SRR/PTMSS at Golden, Colorado was a great experience for me as I presented the research we are conducting at the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research at UTEP and to talk to people who are driving the space resource utilization industry” Mr. Delgado said. “My UTEP education has opened the doors to opportunities like this” Mr. Delgado added.
Jorge Frias also presented his paper on “Extraction of Volatiles from Lunar Regolith Using Solar Power,” written in co-authorship with the President of ExoTerra Resource Michael VanWoerkom and Dr. Shafirovich. “I am thankful to the Space Resource Roundtable (SRR) for the opportunity to be selected as one of the three students, this travel scholarship allowed me to interact with engineers from different places who are also interested in the same area of research” Mr. Frias said.

By: Rebecca Carrasco