

Mercer University
Macon, Georgia

Biomedical Engineering
Bachelor of Science in
Engineering, May 2003

**NASA Astrobiology
Academy Research Project:
Cellular effects of
hypergravity and
Mechanical Substrate
Deformation on Bone
Osteoblast Cultures**



Principal Investigator: Eduardo
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Education:

I am currently a Junior attending Mercer University's School of Engineering in Macon, Georgia. I am studying biomedical engineering with a pre-medical emphasis. I expect to graduate in May 2003. Upon receiving my degree, I hope to attend medical school.

Experience:

My experience and love for research began when I was a junior at Sentinel High School in Missoula, Montana. I was selected for an honors program that allowed students to create, develop, and run an experiment individually. This experience introduced me to the rewards of doing research in addition to stimulating my interest in medicine.

Originally, when I arrived at Mercer University, I was enrolled in the Liberal Arts School; however, I felt something was missing. During my winter break, two events helped influence my decision to switch over to the biomedical engineering curriculum. One was when I watched a Discovery channel special about NASA research opportunities and the other was when I visited the Kennedy Space Center.

This important decision to switch my focus has afforded me many unique opportunities and experiences. At Mercer, my professors and fellow students enrich my education and help me improve my skills as a scientist and communicator. Mercer's curriculum has introduced me to design, research, and more. Some of the projects I have worked on include designing and building a solar powered toy vehicle, composing a proposal to begin a student-run radio station, and designing and running a synthesis project.

Like Mercer's curriculum, my summer internship at Proxima Therapeutics in Alpharetta, Georgia afforded me invaluable experience in research and development. At Proxima I was

a research and development engineer intern. Some of the experience I gained was in prototyping, stability testing, document design, *in vitro* testing, quality assurance, and medical device design.

Extra-Curricular Interest:

I am involved and interested in numerous activities on and off campus. I have been a NCAA Division I golfer for two and a half years, a junior golf coach during the summers, a volunteer at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, and a sister in Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity. Additionally, I am a member in Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Society for Women Engineers, and the Biomedical Engineering Club. When I am not in class or at a meeting, I enjoy playing percussion and piano, drawing, playing intramural sports, exploring the outdoors, skiing, snowmobiling, and going out with my friends and sisters.