
David Lamb



Advisor NASA Astrobiology Academy

NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

EMAIL: dlamb@arc.nasa.gov

Greetings all! My name is David Lamb; I'm returning to the Academy for the fourth time. My first Academy experience (as an RA) was in the summer of '99 at Ames. After taking a year off, I took up the Operations Manager position at Goddard. Last summer I was staff at my Alma Mater; this summer, I return for a more 'relaxed' role in the Academy. I feel privileged to be a part of such an amazing program that can touch and motivate the talented aspirants of tomorrow's space program. I'm still perplexed, however, about how I ever got in.

I often classify myself as an intellectual itinerant. Indeed, I have wandered to a great number of locales with a great diversity of research and administration responsibilities. Starting as a civil engineer back in '97, I decided that there was much more to life than sitting behind a CAD program for 9-10 hours per day. This 'epiphany' led me to pursue a Masters in Space Studies (specializing in planetary geology and astrobiology). Yet, my over-contemplative side won out, and this took me to commence a Ph.D. in the history and philosophy of science. Two semesters in, I decided that perhaps the life of an academic philosopher was not for me. But through it all, I was fortunate enough to be exposed to research in geology, invertebrate paleontology, geophysics, paleogeomicrobiology, and the philosophy of science (focusing on biological and religious issues). I feel that my broad exposure to the sciences and humanities has given me a special (or perhaps skewed) perspective; I carry it with me everyday as a reminder of what a wondrous thing this life is. This fall I will again to return to school to resume my Ph.D. studies. This time, the topic will be paleontology.

Beyond my intellectual pursuits, I often classify myself as an adventurer. To date, I think I've lived in about 10 different states and I've traveled throughout the U.S., to Europe, Canada, and Mexico. My extracurricular interests include hiking, skiing (snow and water), weight lifting, volleyball, running, martial arts, and, last but not least, creative writing. I'm also pretty handy with the computer (a PC man myself) and I am an ordained Universal Life Church Minister.

I look forward to becoming close friends with each and every one of the 2003 crew....