

## David Smithbauer

Bethany College  
Bethany, WV

Computer Science with Minors in Mathematics  
and Physics  
Bachelor of Science, May 2004

**NASA Academy Research Project:  
Simulation Testbed for Robotic Exploration  
of a Martian Surface**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jeffery Smith



### **Education:**

I will be completing my undergraduate degree this May, and I am looking forward to pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science or computer engineering. Upon graduation from Bethany, I will have completed the requirements for two minors in the areas of Mathematics and Physics. I love the sciences and really enjoy problem solving and puzzles. Most of my undergraduate education has focused on the underlying theory of computer programming with a few ventures into the application of software theory to real-world solutions. I am very anxious to gain more experience via research into and application of the theoretical principles related to my studies.

I am currently finishing my senior project entitled "*Exploration in Controlling and Mapping Robotic Units via Wireless Communication*" in partial fulfillment of my degree requirements. This project has been funded by the West Virginia Space Grant Consortium for two consecutive years and has been a pleasure to research. I have an intense love of robotics and the application of computer software algorithms for the solution of autonomous robotics or hardware control. The opportunity to exercise my devotion to the field of robotics is highly anticipated, and I am anxious to begin my specialization in graduate school.

### **Experience:**

While attending Bethany I accepted a part-time internship with United States Steel as a computer programmer. This two year endeavor in their co-op program provided excellent experience with areas such as team work, goal completion, application of academic knowledge, and introduction to a large-scale corporate infrastructure. During my time with US Steel, my responsibilities included report creation, maintenance, and

scheduling with their current mainframe system and the inception of a database system for version migration and report planning statistics.

**Extra-curricular Activities:**

I am very passionate about my hobbies. Music is, by far, my greatest passion. I love to sing, play violin and trumpet, or just listen to music. I have been actively involved with the college wind ensemble, choir, and even ventured into performing in a musical this year with the theatrical department. I also enjoy jogging and engaging in fierce racquetball competition with my friends here at school and home. This last winter I attempted skiing for the very first time, and I am hooked. I love skiing and look forward to my next opportunity to tumble down a hill!