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Office of University
Communications

June 10, 2017

Seaver Wait '17 Has Goal of Working for NASA

Seaver Wait '17 stepped out of his comfort zone several times while working on his exercise science degree at Gardner-Webb University. Each situation was a chance for Wait to strengthen his critical-thinking skills.

photo of Seaver Wait

“My professors, Dr. Jeff Hartman and Dr. David Granniss, taught me how to think at a high level,” observed Wait of Candler, N.C. “Whether it was tests, lectures, labs, reports, or practical experiences, I used every scrap of knowledge to develop a comprehensive thought. I also value the professional experience the program provided. I learned how to get comfortable with being uncomfortable, and it helped me flourish into a skillful graduate. My professional presence in front of an audience improved astronomically, along with my interview skills and competence to work with other people in a clinical setting.”

Confident in his education and academic abilities, Wait applied for and has been accepted into a civilian specialty position with the Navy in the aerospace and operational physiology division. “My studies— particularly my Exercise Physiology and Exercise Prescription classes—have provided me with the in-depth knowledge base required to work as an aerospace physiologist.” Wait affirmed. “These classes required extensive preparation, self-assessment, and adjustment throughout—all of which are commonly found in any workplace environment. Not only was preparation and practice of the material vital throughout the courses, but also self-reflection as to where to adjust and improve as a student.”

The Navy position requires Aeromedical Officer training in Newport, R.I., and Pensacola, Fla., over the course of seven

Seaver Wait giving a presentation

months. Wait will study altitude physiology, human systems integration and research, and aviation life support systems engineering. After the training program, he will gain an additional two years of experience completing assignments related to naval aviation while pursuing his master’s degree in bioastronautics. In five years, he hopes to realize his dream of working at NASA. “I’ve had an interest in space exploration my entire life, but that interest peaked my junior year of college,” Wait related. “I read books about space and space theory and became interested in relating the knowledge and experience I gained

within the exercise science major to those concepts. I did more research and found that NASA and other various sectors had already started exploring the topics, so that became my goal.”