



Greg Hoppa (1994) – Senior Principal Systems Engineer at Raytheon

Astronomy major Physics minor

Undergraduate lab research within Astronomy Department; Annual trip to NRO in Greenbank WV; IM sports; Society of Physics Students

Grad school first, PhD in Planetary Science at Univ. of Arizona. Planetary Science offered multi-scientific disciplines (Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Geosciences). No significant changes were made during my program of study, but I tried to obtain experiences and skills that would round my development (e.g. combination of engineering/ HW/ SW skills with theoretical scientific models) Post Graduate Employment: Post Doc position (~2 years) Raytheon (Systems Engineering), the position was obtained through networking with other former graduate students from Arizona Systems engineering, the development of a system architecture, requirements, design, integration & test, verification, and validation. Each phase of development requires the utilization of core fundamentals of physics (e.g. the ability to model and simulate a system and the natural env. that it is expected to operate in, also the ability to design tests, collect data and perform analysis to demonstrate that the system meets the intended requirements) Other: I also currently serve on the school board for my town.

My physics education has provided me with the core fundamentals of problem solving which enables me to apply them to dynamically changing engineering needs.

Development of both oral and written communication skills is essential for a successful career. Be open to taking courses and job assignments in adjacent areas. Work to develop your business acumen.

Note: Greg was elected to the Hampstead (MA) School Board in 2009