



# *The Promise of Space*

*“All of human history – all we’ve ever known – has been the product of this tiny, fragile, pale blue dot in the midst of an unimaginably vast universe. Wouldn’t it be cool to find out what’s out there?”*

Former student, **Justin Kruger (09)** was fortunate to receive a full scholarship to study at Stanford University in 2017. Since then he has worked with the Space Rendezvous Lab, researching multi-spacecraft missions and technologies (such as using a swarm of spacecraft to explore a nearby asteroid). He is currently employed as an intern with the NASA Ames Research Centre, where he is improving navigation systems for a planetary rover.

*“The opportunity to work at NASA is a literal dream come true – even if it took me a little while to get there, fulfilling that dream*

*has been an unbelievably rewarding experience.”*

Justin completed a Bachelor of Engineering and Physics at UWA, including research projects in dark matter detection and agricultural robotics, supervised by former Bunbury Grammar student **Andrew Guzzomi (99)**.

*“Despite being fascinated by space exploration I had never thought of it as a serious career option. However, an internship at the Australian National University - focusing on hardware testing for a new space telescope - basically convinced me to give space a real shot,”* said Justin.

The teachers at Bunbury Grammar had a significant impact on Justin as a student. Many of them were caring, encouraging, friendly, entertaining and consistently helped him achieve all he hoped for. The co-curricular activities outside of the classroom were also very influential for Justin,

*“Whether that was band trips, athletics events, or school camps. Outward Bound remains one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve had, despite (or perhaps because of) all the shared trauma.”*

In the future Justin hopes to do further research at Stanford while pursuing a space industry career in the United States, focusing on interplanetary exploration.

*“In addition to organisations like NASA, private companies such as SpaceX are making it easier and easier to contribute... and with the recent creation of a new Australian space agency, I would love to return home in five or ten years to aid in growing the local space industry, improving Australia’s position as a scientific leader.”* Who knows, we might even see Justin in space one day!

**Ms Georgina Ferreira :: OGA Secretary**