

Diego Garcia

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SAG Grant Reflection Piece

For this spring term, I participated in undergraduate research with Professor Christopher Lee in the field of origami engineering. More specifically in origami structures and mechanism applications to a self-deploying origami glider. This was a particularly interesting project to me because I had actually done research in self-folding origami at the University of Pennsylvania. I saw this as an opportunity to further my understanding and apply what I had learn from the previous summer to a new project with a different goal. This research expanded on the work done by Olin students in the previous summer. They designed the initial glider prototype we started with. Having the SAG grant was very useful since much of the expenses we projected on having were on thermoplastic filaments for fused deposition modeling 3D printing, which would end up being quite expensive with the amount of prototyping expected.

I would like to thank the SAG committee for funding our project. The research done this semester was very useful for me and my academic development. I was able to gain a different perspective on how to do research, particularly since I've only ever done research at the University of Pennsylvania. Though I did have support from Professor Lee, I didn't have the same level of support I would have at another institution with more graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Many questions we had over the project were over materials science, of which we had limited experience. But it was satisfying to be responsible for a project and its development, and though I didn't make as much progress as I would have liked, it was still taught me a lot about the work and discipline it takes to do research.