

## Timothy Atkins from TriVector Services, USA: Semester 2 2019



*Tim with his host and students*

### **Where have you come from, and what do you teach?**

*I work at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. I develop avionics requirements, testing, and analyses for key components of NASA's Artemis Program; and communicate NASA's vision of space exploration to students in the US and NZ.*

### **What interested you in the Erskine Programme/why did you want to come to UC?**

*My wife and I regularly visit our daughter, who lives in Christchurch with her husband and young daughter. When I visited in early 2018, I contacted UC and offered to present information about NASA; Margaret Agnew enlisted me to present at the UC Connect forum then; afterwards, Dr. Chris Hann recommended me for an Erskine Fellowship to support the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering senior-level rocket design course.*

### **What have you been doing at UC?**

*I lectured 3 hours weekly to an excellent group of young engineering students on rocket design parameters and trade-offs; NASA Systems Engineering approaches; and publicly-available Space Launch System technical information.*

*I also provided input to the UC Rocketry safety protocols for their launches, and participated in a test launch that served to train students on processes and safety checkpoints for a future Milly launch.*

*I also investigated future collaborations with some of my US colleagues and others here at UC. Apart from UC, I communicated NASA's vision to several primary, intermediate and secondary schools in Christchurch and Dunedin; I expect many of those students will pursue studies in Math and Science, that many of those will end up at UC, and - who knows? - perhaps some will work at NASA one day.*

### **What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?**

*Time with family.*

*Beautiful New Zealand Spring weather.*

*Rugby - the local Canterbury team and the World Cup on TV.*

*Working with Dr. Hann, his brilliant students, and amazing support staff in the CoE, the UC Communications Office, and Erskine Office.*