

Careers in Science

Glenn Sheehan –

I was in the Navy aboard ship out in California both my parents were back east, both pretty badly off physically. So that I had a lot of worries about taking care of them. I would go out and get all these books, then when I wasn't on duty the ship was important, I couldn't get off the ship so I'd be reading these books. I thought what could be more "NOT this" than archeology? So I went to graduate school and I was completely naive and I thought maybe I would show up and they would say here's your shovel go out in the back and dig something up. Instead they had all kinds of very interesting classes. All of them seemed to connect to each other, they all believed in four fields and you were forced to deal with logistics ethnography, anthropology, archeology; it was great, it was wonderful. A lot of it more or less fits together especially if you're really superficial about it and I get to talk to all of these scientists and do all these zany things

Jonathan Nicholas –

Well after I stopped wanting to be a train driver, I decided I was going to be a geologist. And I went around with my hammer and my goggles I went around hitting the rocks and taking especially boring pieces of rock back to my father who encouraged me. He was a science teacher, he encouraged me to keep collections and take notes on what I collected and so he really introduced me to scientific method at a very young age. In high school I became very interested in Physics and Astro-physics and I decided to take this onto my degree and I did, Physics with space science and technology at the University of Lester. So when I decided to choose a research career I really wanted to combine the geological passion that I had as a child with my newly developed skills as a physicist and so the path was naturally planetary science.

Harry Brower –

I've taken on this position because it was something that's part of my living and growing up here in Barrow working with scientists that's how my father did before as I was growing up. I had seen him working with a scientist and interacting, helping the scientist doing their research and taking them back safely. I enjoy being out in the field and collecting specimens and taking researchers out in the boat, or snow machines, different means of transportation. I enjoy that very much and having to work with them and making sure its done in a very safe manner.

Richard Glenn –

This issue of putting our communities together with visiting researchers has deep personal meaning to me as well. And it's become my way of life; I studied Geology, I studied ice, sea ice, I studied permafrost and many of the Arctic processes related to natural science for my personal study. And then I helped many researchers in many disciplines as we started this organization called BASC. This coincided with huge upswelling of Arctic research, global change research and the rest is story.

John Cooper –

And so I was going to school sort of coming into age in elementary school of the time of the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58 and of course the launch of Sputnik in October of 1957. And that was followed of course by the manned space program, the speeches of John Kennedy, and the Apollo program to land a man on the moon which we eventually did. So I grew up in the space age and I had been very interested in that for a long time, sort of hands on getting into a project that I was really interested in and this is in the junior high, you sort of build a certain amount of confidence that you could do something and the projects didn't usually work out real as I intended sometimes. But it was just a feel of getting involved in science and having a personal connection that made the difference.

Jonathan Nicholas –

Science gives you a mechanism where you can really, really do better, push the boundaries, do something unique. The fact that it's space is really cool.