

## Message

From: Mickey Schoonover  
Subject: Pattonville alumnus to be part of NASA mission starting Sept. 16  
To: Mickey Schoonover  
Bcc: media-print  
Paula Schneider  
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Pattonville alumnus heading for NASA underwater mission Sept. 16

Pattonville High School graduate Robert L. Behnken will be among four NASA astronauts in training who will take part in exercises at an undersea lab off the Florida coast Sept. 16 through 22.

Behnken, an Air Force major who considers his hometown to be St. Ann, graduated from Pattonville in 1988 and earned bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and physics from Washington University in 1992. The seven-day undersea mission will take place onboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Aquarius underwater laboratory. During the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) 11, astronauts will imitate moonwalks, testing concepts for mobility using various spacesuit configurations and weights to simulate lunar gravity. Techniques for communication,

navigation, geological sample retrieval, construction and using remote-controlled robots on the moon's surface also will be tested. All four astronauts in this mission are training for possible assignment to missions to the International Space Station.

To see Behnken's biography and a NASA Web site on the mission, check out links on Pattonville High School's Web site, [phs.psd3.org](http://phs.psd3.org).

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