

Robert Hutton is a graduate research assistant working with Dr. James Hanna at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), where he studies classical mechanics and applied geometry. Robert is an Air Force veteran from Gardnerville, Nevada and is proud to have attended Truckee Meadows Community College and the University of Nevada, Reno while earning his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Robert has designed several laboratory test machines while learning new skills like tensor analysis, differential geometry of curves and surfaces, nonlinear dynamics, and continuum mechanics. Currently, Robert is working toward his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Robert's current research project involves studying how thin, elastic sheets and shells buckle and wrinkle under various loading conditions. Through both experimental and numerical investigations into the phenomena, he is hopeful that the results of this research may lead to improved design of complex space structures such as sun shields, solar sails, and spacecraft paneling.