

UWSP PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. in A106 SCI

Refreshments will be served beginning at 1:45 p.m.

This past summer, UWSP students Sarah Parker and Logan Hess participated in Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Please join us as Sarah and Logan discuss their REU projects and experiences at Texas A&M and Cornell University, respectively.

Sarah Parker: "Researching the Light Curves of Type Ia Supernovae"



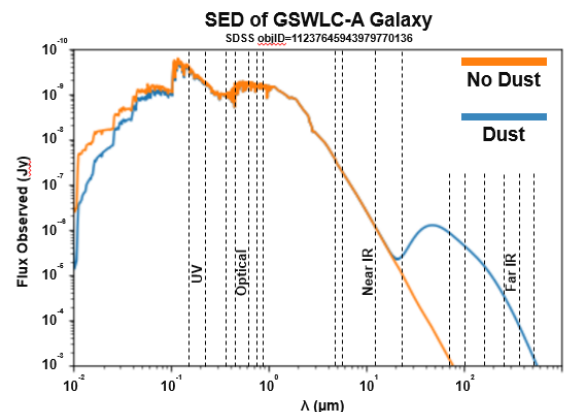
Texas A&M hosts a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in observational astronomy and instrumentation every summer. I was chosen, along with seven other students from around the country, to participate in this program. During the 10-week REU, I worked with Dr. Peter Brown on a project entitled "Comparison of Light Curves for Type Ia Supernovae in the Optical and Ultraviolet." For this project, I wrote a code in Python that allowed me to analyze data from the Swift space telescope and make a template of the light curves of many supernovae in six filters. Additionally, we had daily paper reading sessions, had a week long observing run at McDonald Observatory, went to an Astros vs. Rangers baseball game, and visited the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Sarah Parker is a senior majoring in Physics and minoring in Math.

Logan Hess: "Deriving Stellar Masses for the ALFALFA $\alpha.100$ Sample"



Every summer, the Department of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Cornell University conducts a REU program for several undergrads looking to further their experience. I had the opportunity to participate in this year's REU, working with Dr. Riechers and Dr. Haynes. The goal of my project was to access potential methods of deriving stellar masses to be used on a recently completed sample of HI-rich galaxies. During the duration of the 10-week program, I also participated in weekly lectures and workshops given by the Astronomy Department on a wide range on cutting-edge research that is conducted at Cornell.



Logan Hess is a senior majoring in Physics and minoring in Applied Math.