

**Department of Physics
MCMICKEN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 3, 2008

The Department of Physics is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2008. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

SIMULATIONS RELATED TO THE LSST (LARGE SYNOPTIC SURVEY TELESCOPE)

Professor Brian Meadows
Department of Physics
Room 448 Geology/Physics
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0011
Tel: (513) 556-0531
Fax: (513) 556-3425
Email: brian@slac.stanford.edu

Professor Mike Sokoloff
Department of Physics
Room 411 Geology/Physics
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0011
Tel: (513) 556-0533
Fax: (513) 556-3425
Email: mike.sokoloff@uc.edu

Project Description

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) is a proposed ground-based 8.4-meter, 10 square-degree-field telescope that will provide digital imaging of faint astronomical objects across the entire sky, night after night. In a relentless campaign of 15 second exposures, LSST will cover the available sky every three nights, opening a movie-like window on objects that change or move on rapid timescales: exploding supernovae, potentially hazardous near-Earth asteroids, and distant Kuiper Belt Objects. The superb images from the LSST will also be used to trace billions of remote galaxies and measure the distortions in their shapes produced by lumps of Dark Matter, providing multiple tests of the mysterious Dark Energy. The UC group working on the LSST is helping develop simulations of the calibration pipeline. The student will participate in the simulations project, running codes and analyzing the results. The student will learn how data is analyzed, and will also learn elements of astrophysics and cosmology.