

University at Stony Brook
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Stony Brook, New York 11794-3800

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This report covers the interval 1 October 1996 to 30 September 1997.

On 1 July 1997 the Astronomy program merged with the Department of Physics to form the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The Department of Earth and Space Sciences ceased to exist. The Astronomy program remains in the Earth and Space Sciences Building.

1. PERSONNEL

The faculty and research associates in the Astronomy Program are: J. Barrett, G.E. Brown, M. Bucher, C. Cardall, M. Forman (adjunct), R.F. Knacke (adjunct), K. Lanzetta, J.M. Lattimer, J. Lissauer (adjunct), T. Mooney, M. Murzina, S. Pascarelle, D.M. Peterson, M. Prakash, M. Simon, P.M. Solomon, F.M. Walter, A. Yahil, and S. Zoonematkermani.

Dr. James E. Neff, a visiting assistant professor during the spring 1997 semester, has moved to the College of Charleston. The department is recruiting to fill the vacant faculty position.

There are 16 graduate students associated with the Astronomy Program in the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy.

J.M. Lattimer completed service as Associate Chair of the Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences on 30 June 1997, and became Associate Chair of the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy.

2. DEGREES AWARDED

Julia Espresate Eibenschutz, who did her thesis research at Stony Brook under the direction of J. Lissauer, defended her thesis, "Linear Torque on a Particulate Annulus Centered at a First Order Resonance," at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

3. RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

Astronomers in the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy pursue research programs in the areas of extragalactic and galactic astronomy, stellar physics, star formation and subsequent evolution, supernovae and nuclear astrophysics, and origins of Solar Systems.

Most of the Astronomy Group's observing is conducted at the national centers, foreign observatories, and with space observatories. Details may be found through our World Wide Web listing (see below). At Stony Brook, the department's 14-inch Celestron, which is equipped with a CCD camera and auto-guider, is used by graduate students, undergraduate astronomy majors, and local high school students for research projects. Plans are in progress to relocate the 24-inch telescope, presently being refurbished, at a dark site in eastern Long Island.

The Astronomy Group maintains a well-equipped cluster of computers. It now includes 18 workstations and PCs, several X-windows terminals, and a variety of I/O devices.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Detailed information concerning the Astronomy Program, particularly including graduate study and research activities, is available over the World Wide Web. Our URL home page address is:

<http://sbast3.ess.sunysb.edu/astro/home.html>

F.M. Walter