

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

[S0002-7537(98)06001-6]

This report covers the period September 1996 to August 1997.

1. PERSONNEL

The astrophysics faculty at Rutgers University for academic year 1996–1997 consisted of: J. P. Hughes, T. A. Matilsky, D. Merritt, C. Pryor, J. A. Sellwood, T. B. Williams, and H. S. Zeplosky. Charles L. Joseph is a research faculty member. A. Kosowsky arrives from Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in September 1997.

Gerald Quinlan and Monica Valluri were postdoctoral visitors. Victor Debattista, Vincent Jacobs, Robert O'Connell, Arend Sluis, Libarid Maljian, Ben Weiner and Bingrong Xie are graduate students. Tema Fridman graduated and has remained at Rutgers, Povilas Palunas graduated and took a post-doctoral position at NASA Goddard and Benoit Tremblay graduated and took up a position at U. Pennsylvania.

2. RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The research interests of the group at Rutgers encompass both observational and theoretical programs in galactic and extragalactic astronomy. The observational work is both ground based, principally at the National Observatories, and space based, using mainly the Hubble Space Telescope and X-ray satellites. There is also a substantial instrumentation effort, including Joseph's membership of the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph instrument team. Further details are given on our continuously updated web site: <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/ast/appendA.html>.

An up-to-date list of papers submitted, in press, and appeared (with full citation) is available at: <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/ast/RAPs.html>

3. FACILITIES

The Rutgers Imaging Fabry-Perot Spectrometer is available to the entire US astronomical community through an

agreement between Rutgers and CTIO. Rutgers provides advice on proposal preparation, observation, and data reduction. In return, Rutgers receives some support for travel to Chile and some telescope time.

At Rutgers, Joseph has a well-equipped laboratory for characterizing optical and ultraviolet astronomical detectors.

A computer controlled 20-inch instructional telescope on the roof of our building is equipped with a CCD camera and fiber-fed CCD spectrograph. This instrument is used for undergraduate and graduate training.

The astronomy group has an increasing number of high performance and image processing computer workstations and has access to many more supported by the Department.

4. GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Graduate Program has separate Physics and Astronomy options with differing course and examination requirements. The graduate curriculum in astronomy offers an introductory course plus separate advanced courses covering the major areas of astronomy. See our Department web site for further information: <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu>.

Students taking the astronomy option are expected to do research with one of the above-listed faculty members, but research opportunities relating to the interests of other members of the Department, e.g. the early universe, also exist within the physics option.

Seven students have graduated with astronomy related PhD degrees in the past five years.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details relating to the facilities and full descriptions of specific research activities at Rutgers can be found on our web page: <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/ast/group-ast.html>

J A Sellwood