

KINSC

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KINSC Director- Rob Fairman

This has been a difficult and busy semester for the KINSC. Along with the rest of the College, we have been working on finding ways to save money while protecting our core mission of supporting teaching and scholarship. That being said, we are pleased to be able to fund opportunities for travel for faculty and students and to fund several research internships for students this coming summer. Please talk to Natalie or me if you are interested in taking advantage of these funds. For the first time, we are also stewarding funds for MAST and MSP, two of our important outreach and diversity programs, and this has required some adjustment in our overall budget to accommodate these additions. As you have recently heard, we will be cutting back on the Keurig coffee system due to unanticipated expenses and are sorry for this loss. Annette and Kay offer other ideas for saving money in their K&A Korner; I hope that you will take their ideas to heart.

We are excited to be involved in the Tri-Center Environmental Studies Forum to be held on the evening of February 13. This will be an open forum at which a panel of three experts will discuss their perspectives on environmental

studies. We hope to take full advantage of their knowledge as we create a vigorous and thriving program in this field. We hope that many of you will be able to attend! You will be hearing much more about this forum in upcoming weeks, and we will be asking for your input throughout the planning of this event. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or comments about how this is developing.

As you will see from Kate Heston, we will be busy next semester in selecting approximately 20 student scholars, to be funded by HHMI and KINSC initiatives. We will be looking to you to advertise these scholarships to our students and to help us in selecting next summer's research scholars. Thanks for all your support in this past semester and have a refreshing winter break!

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT- BETH WILLMAN



It's been a busy and fun first semester for me in the KINSC. After arriving in August, I felt immediately welcomed by new colleagues, including Suzanne Amador Kane with her bootcamp, Judy Owen as my mentor, Josh Schrier who fed me some of Casey Londergan's CSA share, and Jenni Punt who provided me with essential mail

sorting equipment.

My course this Fall, Modern Galactic Astronomy, is a new addition to the astronomy curriculum that emphasizes a research-based approach to studying our galaxy. We spent many class sessions in H110 using IDL to study the galaxy with the same tools as academic astronomers. The class just wrapped up with a two class session workshop in the Observatory where each of my eleven students presented the results of an original research project to each other and to other members of our department.

I also spent two luxurious weeks this semester at the end of September on a research trip to Lawrence Berkeley Labs, UC Irvine, and the "Back to the Galaxy II" conference at the KITP at UCSB. During this trip, I was inspired with ideas not only for research of my own and my students, but also for teaching my class.

I have a research assistant here with me, Adi Zolotov. She is in her fourth year of a physics PhD program at NYU, and has moved here for a year so that we can continue working together on her dissertation research. She presently is finishing a paper using numerical simulations to investigate whether current surveys of the Milky Way galaxy may be able to infer the origins of stars in our Galaxy. Gail Gutowski '10 has been looking at images of the Willman 1 object from the Kitt Peak National Observatory, to see if she can

(Willman, cont. from page 1)
measure the colors and apparent brightnesses of fainter stars in the object than previously possible.

As for my own research, my recently minted PhD student, Shane Walsh spent 6 weeks at Haverford this Fall working with me as he continues searching for the least luminous galaxies in the universe. I'm slowly wrapping up a couple of other observational projects to investigate the masses and morphologies of the least luminous known galaxies, as well as working with colleagues to prepare the Milky Way science case for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. It's a very cool survey telescope that's now being planned; ask me about it sometime! You can find me in L108, and you can find Adi in L003.

HHMI UPDATE

I wanted to remind you about the funding opportunities for student summer research available this year through the KINSC, HHMI, and other programs. Please notify any students who you think might be interested in these opportunities and feel free to ask me if you have questions.

- The deadline for the HHMI Interdisciplinary Scholars program applications is February 5. This year we will fund about 12 students, including one or two rising sophomores, in the Interdisciplinary program. See the details of these programs at: <http://www.haverford.edu/KINSC/HHMI/program/interdisciplinary.html>
- The Beckman Scholars program also has a deadline of February 5, and we are able to select one Scholar this year. Beckman Scholars will complete two summers of full-time research, and also participate in research in a lab at Haverford [not abroad] for both semesters of the academic year (2009–2010). http://www.haverford.edu/KINSC/externally_funded_programs/beckman_scholars.php
- The KINSC will be able to fund about 3 positions for summer research this year. We have not worked out the application process just yet, but the application deadline will be at the same time as for the HHMI and Beckman applications. See: <http://www.haverford.edu/KINSC/programs/>
- Students who are active in the MSP program can apply for funding for summer research through Jeff Tecosky–Feldman. The deadline for applications is usually later in February. There will be an online application for these positions.
- The Kovaric fellowship is specifically for a rising sophomore. Those of you teaching freshmen in a lab course should suggest that students who show promise for the research laboratory apply. Please let Rob Fairman know which students you have asked to apply. The students will submit an application to work in a specific research lab (presumably with the endorsement of that faculty member) in mid-February, http://www.haverford.edu/KINSC/programs/brian_kovaric_fund.php.

–Kate



**ASK K and A
KORNER?**



We wanted to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season as well as update you on a few items:

1. Both of us will be out of the office next week, but Natalie Marciano will be covering it on Monday and Tuesday if you need assistance. Our office will be fully staffed on January 6th after the break.
2. We're excited to update you on the arrival of our new supervisor, Julie Sheehan. She comes from the University of Pennsylvania and will be working directly for the Provost responsible for management of oversight of the Provost's budget and managing different projects. In addition, she will be supervising the Faculty Administrative assistants.
3. We are working diligently to help the college refine our spending. To that end, we are providing new coffee (Keurig is still available to you in Zubrow Commons) and possibly reduce the number of fax machines in the office. If you have any other suggestions, please let us know!
4. In general, we may be able to save funds by being more conscious of our printing practices, by printing double sided as well as reading things electronically. This will be our last printed issue of the newsletter and we plan to post it on the KINSC website in the future.