

Work Plan

Brandon L. Day

Faculty Advisor: David Falk

Mentor: Dr. William M. Owen Jr.

The work to be done at Table Mountain Observatory on High Precision Astrometry for Occulting Asteroids will provide invaluable trajectory and position information for rocky bodies within our solar system. The data collected during this summer, is crucial for space navigation and will provide the opportunity to further observe the way light from distant objects reacts during occultation events. Because of the ongoing aspect of our project, there is no final goal that results in a “finished product.” However after each observation, the reduction of data that we have gathered is used to update an international catalogue of minor bodies.

Our progress, thus far is a bit limited due to technical setbacks involving the camera hardware. We have been required to utilize an entirely new camera, programing scripts and data reduction methods. Although there have been, and will be more slowdowns in the data gathering process, the newest 4K camera works well and will be able to provide excellent data.