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Title: The NSF Undergraduate ALFALFA Team: Partnering with Arecibo Observatory to Offer Undergraduate and Faculty Extragalactic Radio Astronomy Research Opportunities

Authors: [Ribaldo, Joseph](#) ; [Koopmann, Rebecca A.](#) ; [Haynes, Martha P.](#) ; [Balonek, Thomas J.](#) ; [Cannon, John M.](#) ; [Coble, Kimberly A.](#) ; [Craig, David W.](#) ; [Denn, Grant R.](#) ; [Durbala, Adriana](#) ; [Finn, Rose](#) ; [Hallenbeck, Gregory L.](#) ; [Hoffman, G. Lyle](#) ; [Lebron, Mayra E.](#) ; [Miller, Brendan P.](#) ; [Crone-Odekon, Mary](#) ; [O'Donoghue, Aileen A.](#) ; [Olowin, Ronald Paul](#) ; [Pantoja, Carmen](#) ; [Pisano, Daniel J.](#) ; [Rosenberg, Jessica L.](#) ; [Troischt, Parker](#) ; [Venkatesan, Aparna](#) ; [Wilcots, Eric M.](#) ; [ALFALFA Team](#)

Affiliation: AA(Utica College), AB(Union College), AC(Cornell University), AD(Colgate University), AE(Macalester College), AF(San Francisco State University), AG(West Texas A&M University), AH(Metropolitan State University of Denver), AI(University of Wisconsin Stevens Point), AJ(Siena College), AK(Union College), AL(Lafayette College), AM(University of Puerto Rico), AN(College of St. Scholastica), AO(Skidmore College), AP(St. Lawrence University), AQ(St. Mary's College of California), AR(University of Puerto Rico), AS(West Virginia University), AT(George Mason University), AU(Hartwick College), AV(University of San Francisco), AW(University of Wisconsin)

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Abstract

The NSF-sponsored Undergraduate ALFALFA (Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA) Team (UAT) is a consortium of 20 institutions across the US and Puerto Rico, founded to promote undergraduate research and faculty development within the extragalactic ALFALFA HI blind survey project and follow-up programs. The objective of the UAT is to provide opportunities for its members to develop expertise in the technical aspects of observational radio spectroscopy, its associated data analysis, and the motivating science. Partnering with Arecibo Observatory, the UAT has worked with more than 280 undergraduates and 26 faculty to date, offering 8 workshops onsite at Arecibo (148 undergraduates), observing runs at Arecibo (69 undergraduates), remote observing runs on campus, undergraduate research projects based on Arecibo science (120 academic year and 185 summer projects), and presentation of results at national meetings such as the AAS (at AAS229: Ball et al., Collova et al., Davis et al., Miazzi et al., Ruvolo et al, Singer et al., Cannon et al., Craig et al., Koopmann et al., O'Donoghue et al.). 40% of the students and 45% of the faculty participants have been women and members of underrepresented groups. More than 90% of student alumni are attending graduate school and/or pursuing a career in STEM. 42% of those pursuing graduate degrees in Physics or Astronomy are women. In this presentation, we summarize the UAT program and the current research efforts of UAT members based on Arecibo science, including multiwavelength followup observations of ALFALFA sources, the UAT Collaborative Groups Project, the Survey of HI in Extremely Low-mass Dwarfs (SHIELD), and the Arecibo Pisces-Perseus Supercluster Survey (APPSS). This work has been supported by NSF grants AST-0724918/0902211, AST-075267/0903394, AST-0725380, AST-121105, and AST-1637339.

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