

**Department of Physics
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 2, 2009

The Department of Physics is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2009. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

THE FORMATION AND EVOLUTION OF SOLAR SYSTEMS

**Professor Michael L. Sitko
Department of Physics
446 Geology-Physics Building
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0011
Tel: (513) 556-0642
Fax: (513) 556-3425
Email: Michael.sitko@uc.edu**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dr. Mike Sitko's current research program includes the study of the planetary systems, our own solar system and those forming around other stars, using imaging and spectroscopic techniques. In particular, the light that is scattered and thermally emitted by cosmic dust grains in these systems provides valuable information about how they form and evolve. Throughout 2009 Dr. Sitko will be observing the light given off by "baby" solar systems using NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on the summit of Mauna Kea (Hawaii). The student will have the opportunity to learn the use of astronomical electronic detectors, observation planning, and to become involved with the processing and interpretation of the data obtained.