Summer Research
Juan’s List: Remember it. Use it. Love it.

http://astronomy.mnstate.edu/cabanela/research/reulist.php

NSF’s Lists:

All REUs: https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp
Physics REUs: https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=69
Astronomy REUs: https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=5045
National Labs (SULI program): https://science.energy.gov/wdts/suli/

Pathways to Science: https://www.pathwaystoscience.org/
Letters of Recommendation

Who to ask:

- With no research experience: Professors who know your work ethic/interests.
- With research experience: Your research advisor!

How to ask:

- In person is usually recommended. Email them to schedule a meeting!

When to ask:

- At least a month before the application is due, but the sooner the better
Applications

- Writing a personal statement
  - Why are you interested in this research topic?
  - What experiences do you have that relate to this?
  - What do you seek to gain from this particular experience?
  - What are your goals?
- How many programs to apply to:
  - As many as possible that you find fit your interest
- How to market your interests and experiences
- How to write a CV or resume
  - Also, what is the difference?
- Many are due in **January or February**!
Other Summer Ideas

- Summer classes- a few physics courses are now offered over the summer
- Research with a UNC faculty member- PHYS 295 or 395, or even for pay if they have funding
- Internships at Museums (Smithsonian's, Raleigh, etc.)
- Work at a summer camp or science camp
- Industry internship
- Study Abroad
- Apply to jobs- ideally a job where you could earn money and gain experience related to your future goals
- Volunteer
- Ask us for more ideas if you’re stuck! We will happily brainstorm with you
Educational Research in Radio Astronomy (ERIRA)

- Hosted by Prof. Dan Reichart
- End of August 2019
- Week long program in radio astronomy
  - Hands on research with radio telescopes
  - Chance to participate in multiple projects
- Applications open early second semester, due toward the beginning of April
- No prerequisites! Just emphasize your interest in astronomy/space
- EE Credit
- National Radio Quiet Zone in West Virginia--amazing sights!
Advice about summers

- Think of your summers in undergrad almost as gap semesters
- This can be a time to both relax and explore things that interest you
- Great time to gain experience in the workplace or in research
- Summer school can lessen your load in later semesters or help you stay on track
- Can create a large part of your resume and network for after college
- It takes a lot of planning, applying, and effort to find summer programs. Take advantage of your time during winter break to do this if possible.
- Don’t be discouraged if you don’t get accepted to any programs. Funding can be short, and a lot of people apply. Next semester we can brainstorm on summer ideas as well if these programs don’t work out!
Questions?