

## **Society of Astronomy Sciences Conference Report**

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I attended the Society of Astronomical Sciences (SAS) annual meeting on 06/15/2017 – 06/17/2017. This conference brings together amateur and professional astronomers specializing in science projects using small telescopes. Based on the paper presentations and discussions with the conference participants, I designed several new observation projects suitable for the UHMC astronomy lab class and independent student projects. Some of the new observation ideas include:

- Using the UHMC observatory telescopes to contribute to continuous observations of double stars and asteroids. These observations are suitable for independent student research projects, and may lead to student publications in scientific journals.
- Observing stars that change brightness on a few-hour time scale. Such observation may be completed within lab sessions and allow students to study the variability of stars while also applying the image processing skills acquired in labs.
- Observing asteroids that moves rapidly relative to other stars. Students may practice determine the orbital speed of these asteroids using data collected in lab.

I have also met with colleagues who run the Astronomy Research Seminar in several community colleges on the mainland. Through the connections I made during this meeting, I will be able to access the data collected and the methodology used for this seminar. My goal is to adapt the Astronomy Research Seminar in UHMC, so that students on Maui will be able to join a research community and gain real-world research experience that will be highly valuable in furthering their careers.