The Utah gamma-ray astronomy group is looking for 2-3 undergraduate students would be interested in a summer research experience in observational astronomy and astrophysics. We seek individuals who are interested in a hands-on summer research experience of 40 hours per week for May-August 2008. Undergraduate Physics Majors at any level (freshman through senior) are encouraged to apply.

The research experience will encompass training in the Physics Department machine shop, electronics and hardware associated with optical astronomy, help with construction and observations using new optical telescopes near Grantsville, Utah, and analysis of data from the VERITAS gamma ray observatory in Tucson. Students will be given the opportunity to visit the VERITAS gamma ray observatory in Tucson during July/August to help out with telescope maintenance and upgrades, as well as to visit telescope facilities at the Whipple Observatory and Kitt Peak National Observatory.

Students will also be expected to pursue an independent scientific investigation during the summer involving library research and analysis of data, and will present a scientific paper on their results by the end of the summer. Prior experience in experimental physics, electronics, mechanical systems, and/or computer programming is desirable, but not required.

In order to apply for a summer position, please send your name, a brief statement of your interest and availability, a short description of any previous work experience or skills, and a copy of your transcript to Prof. Dave Kieda (kieda@physics.utah.edu) by April 15 2008. Late applications may be considered if openings are still available.

Information on the Utah gamma ray astrophysics group can be found at www.physics.utah.edu/~gammaray
Information about the VERITAS Observatory can be found at http://veritas.sao.arizona.edu
Please feel free to contact Dave Kieda with any questions (email works best).