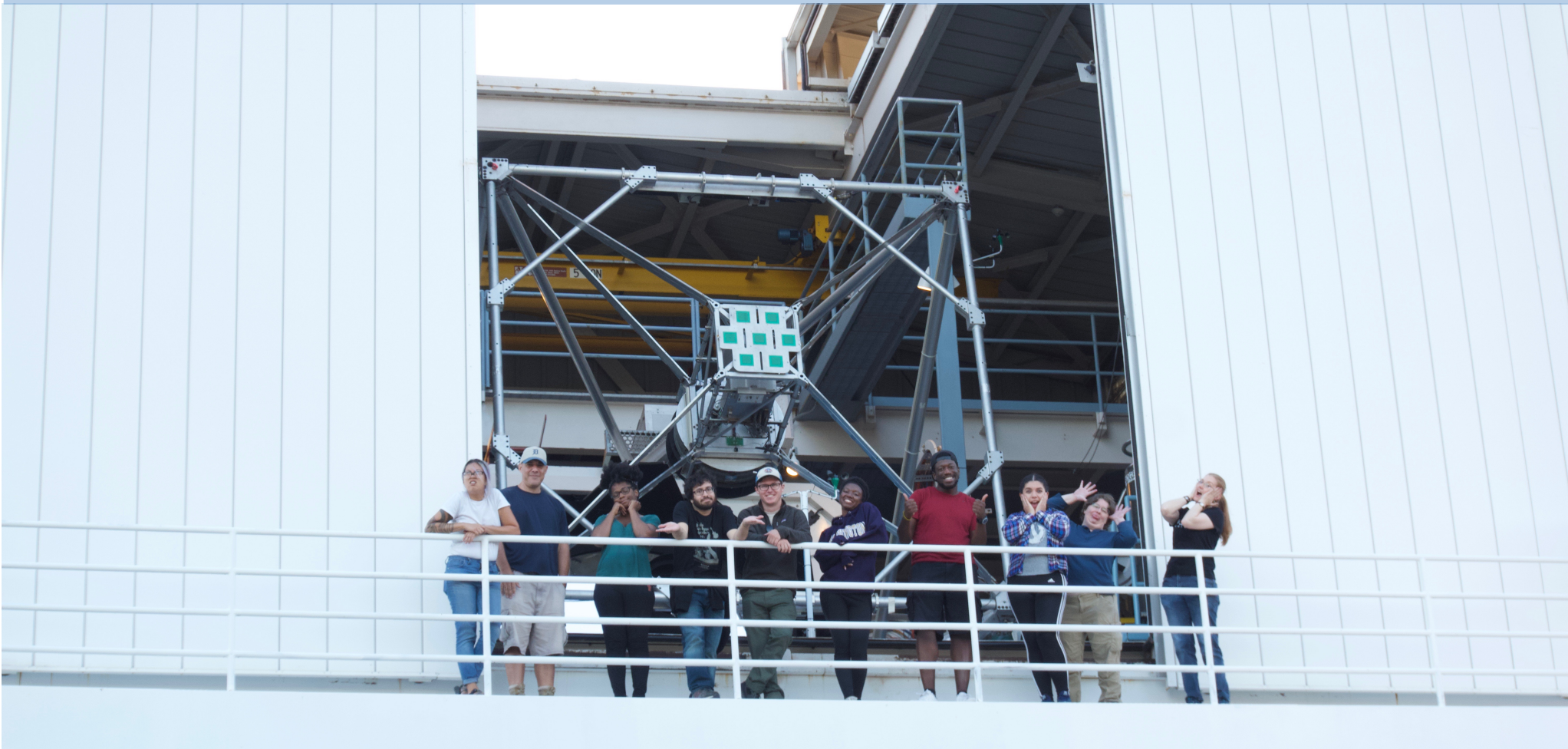


Training in the Time of Covid

Candace Gray

The time of Covid has been difficult for everyone. Where once everything could be done in person, we are now having to adapt to living in a virtual world. Training a group of excited students on telescope operations and observing can be trying even in the best of times, to say nothing of these virtual times! However, APO has worked hard to revolutionize our training system in order to accommodate all of our users. Here, we present a summary of our new virtual training process, with discussion on our failures, successes, and lessons learned in order to build an excellent training program for all of our new observers!

In-Person Training



- Afternoon dome tour and introduction to TUI
- Three nights observing on sky
- Everyone works together with rotating roles
- Everyone works all night
- Eyepiece tour at the end!

Lessons learned along the way

- Work with trainees in conference room
- Use the projector
- Apply Socratic method of teaching
- Have students work as a unified group
- Assign observing roles and rotate roles throughout the night

The experience of observing last weekend with APO will inevitably go down as one of my favorite undergraduate memories



Remote Training	Feb 2020 - Oct 2020	Nov 2020 - July 2021
Participating Consortium members	7	8
Groups Trained	12	9
Total People Trained	107	72

The team at APO was simply terrific.

Our training and tour days left me feeling prepared, excited, and ready to tackle the B-halves!

Virtual Training



- Two 2hr afternoon introductory sessions
 - Dome tour
 - introduction to TUI
- Three nights on sky
- Students are broken into teams
 - One person drives all tasks
 - Driver rotates through the team
- Eyepiece tour with slitviewer, ARCTIC, or DIS

Lessons learned along the way

- Interactive dome tour is a must!
- Introduce TUI days in advance
- Do not assign observing roles!
- Have one person drive everything and change out drivers
- Break students up into groups so they do not need to stay on video all night.
- Apply even more Socratic method of teaching!
- When applicable, start with eyepiece tour to get students excited