Hello – thanks for looking at this document, wherein I'll try to suggest my research direction and provide ideas about how to survive in astronomy – despite the always uncertain future. My research goals include, near-term:

**After lengthy studies of the interacting binary epsilon Aurigae, my interest has moved to generic questions about circumstellar disks. This has resulted in a series of papers, including:

- MESA models of the evolutionary state of the interacting binary epsilon Aurigae [http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018MNRAS.476.5026G];
- Structure in the Disk of epsilon Aurigae: Analysis of the ARCES and TripleSpec data obtained during the 2010 eclipse” – [http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2016arXiv161205287G];

Next steps could involve creating observational experiments to advance the discovery – using JWST, ALMA, Gemini or other world-class facilities.


**Additionally, I've pursued redevelopment of Denver observatories old and new – our 1984 vintage large refractor at Chamberlin Observatory [http://mysite.du.edu/~rstencel/Chamberlin/] and our high altitude Mount Evans Observatory [14,148 ft elev.](http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2017AAS...22915501S]. However, local levels of light pollution threaten the continued existence of these facilities, so I'm embarking on research into light pollution solutions.

**What's in it for you? If you are energetic and have interests in hardware or observation joined with theory, opportunities may exist for you at Denver, especially if you have prior experience and publications along any/all of these lines. Include a statement of your current interests and relevant publications when you apply at website: [https://www.du.edu/nsm/departments/physicsandastonomy/admissionsandfinancialaid/graduateprogram.html](https://www.du.edu/nsm/departments/physicsandastonomy/admissionsandfinancialaid/graduateprogram.html)

The future of astronomy: a big subject, of course, and highly dependent on the smarts of those involved and the funding prospects. Hiring has long been cyclical – dominated by federal funding variations over the past several decades. For more about that, you might want to read Neil Tyson's recent book: “Accessory to War: The Unspoken Alliance Between Astrophysics and the Military.” As political fashions change, those students who acquire some degree of instrumentation skills often have a better than average chance of finding those first post-graduate job opportunities. Meanwhile, if you consider Denver for grad work in astrophysics, my colleagues and I will be happy to talk with you – if you've done your homework. --Dr.Bob Stencel