

Lauren Alexa Sgro

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Science Communication • Science Writing • Data Analysis • Team Leader

Researcher with experience in observational astronomy. Freelance science writer and editor with a background in teaching astronomy to various audiences. Teacher with experience creating online videos and content for virtual physics and astronomy laboratory courses. Managed teams of teaching assistants and graduate students both inside and outside of a university setting. Skills and qualifications include:

- Science Writing and Editing
- Research and Analysis
- Physics & Astronomy Instructor
- Public Outreach
- Team Leader
- Astronomical Observing

Technical Skills

- Programming: Python, MySQL, PSQL
- Software: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, iSpec, DS9, IRAF

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Physics: 2014-2022)

The University of Georgia (UGA), Athens, Georgia

Admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy: April 2018 | Defended: April 2022

- **Dissertation Title:** The Infrared Excess of Gaia DR2 M Dwarfs (Major Advisor: Dr. Inseok Song)

Search for and analysis of circumstellar disks around K and M-type stars in an effort to identify the reason for the lack of detected M dwarf debris disks.

- **Appointments**

Head Teaching Assistant – 2019-2020, 2020-2021 Academic Years

B. S. (Physics & Astronomy Majors, Mathematics Minor: 2009-2013)

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

- **Appointments**

Observatory Research Assistant – 2012-2013 Academic Year

AWARDS (UGA)

- **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** – Center for Teaching and Learning, 2019
- **Robert M. Wood Award** – Physics and Astronomy Department, 2019
- **Bill Cummings Award** – Physics and Astronomy Department, 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Compensation Consultant Analyst (January 2013 - August 2014) – ChaseCompGroup

- Small compensation consulting firm that works with community banks. Conducted surveys and analyses on employee compensation in the clients' relevant markets. Helped train 3 other analysts.

Sky & Telescope Editorial Intern (June 1, 2021 – August 10, 2021)

- Worked remotely under the Science and News Editors to produce news articles for the website and printed publication. Helped report on the 238th AAS meeting and collaborated on an infographic for the 80th anniversary issue of the magazine. Fact checked articles and copyedited diagrams.

COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

Freelance Science Writer and Editor

- Written over 30 published articles online, mostly concerning astronomy news, aimed towards the general public and/or physics and astronomy undergraduates. Served two-year terms as writer/editor for both Astrobites.org and AthensScienceObserver.com. Regularly edited other authors' articles (~40 articles in total). Authored two pieces for Astronomy.com. Authored 12 articles for SkyandTelescope.org; some will appear in the magazine in shortened form. Led a team of 15 authors and editors that recruited and assessed new writers for Astrobites.org and increased the number of applications from potential incoming authors by nearly 50%. Facilitated new author on-boarding.

Head Teaching Assistant (UGA)

- Instructed incoming graduate students on how to perform and teach physics and astronomy labs to undergraduate students. This included teaching a separate course (GRSC 7770) to new graduate students, centered around physics pedagogy. Created new online material for ~15 physics lab experiments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including videos as well as written and picture presentations. Managed ~30 teaching assistants as they transitioned to online learning.

Physics & Astronomy Laboratory Instructor (UGA)

- Taught introductory material to astronomy students as well as the proper use of telescopes. Trained 7 other graduate students on how to teach this lab course. Developed 3 new labs that utilize computer software and CCDs, as well as made improvements to previously existing exercises. Also taught introductory physics lab material to undergraduate students and instructed laboratory experiments.

ComSciCon 2018 Conference Attendance (Georgia Tech)

- Was selected to attend this conference focused on sharpening science communication skills.

Substitute Astronomy 1020 Lecturer (UGA) - April 10, 2017

- Taught one section of an introductory astronomy course ASTR 1020 (Stars and Galaxies) in the absence of the professor. Led the students in a lecture concerning the structure and evolution of galaxies.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Dale Jr., H., and **L. A. Sgro**, "A Photometric Study of the Misclassified Variable AK Ursae Minoris." Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (JAAVSO) 43 (2015): 115.

- **Sgro, L. A.**, Song, I., "The Infrared Excess Emission from Nearby Gaia DR2 M Dwarfs." Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society 508.2 (2021): 3084-3103.