

Brandon Lynn Barker

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EDUCATION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

PH.D., ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

College of Natural Sciences

Exp. 2025 | East Lansing, MI

Advisor: Sean Couch

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

B.S., PHYSICS, WITH HONORS

May 2019 | Knoxville, TN

Secondary Major in Mathematics

College of Arts and Sciences

Advisors: Anthony Mezzacappa and Eirik

Endeve

TECHNICAL SKILLS

LANGUAGES

Python • FORTRAN • C/C++

LaTeX • Linux

SOFTWARE

FLASH • thornado • git/svn

• yt • LaPack

LANGUAGES

Intermediate Proficiency in Japanese

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Core-Collapse Supernovae, Stellar Nucleosynthesis, Nuclear Astrophysics, Gravitational Wave Astrophysics, High-Performance Computing.

PUBLICATIONS

- “**thornado**-hydro: Generalizing discontinuous galerkin methods for a nuclear equation of state for supernova hydrodynamics.” **B. Barker**, E. Endeve, A. Mezzacappa. 2019. (in prep).
- “Equation of State Dependence of the Observable Properties of Turbulence-aided Neutrino-driven Core-collapse Supernovae.” M. Warren, **B. Barker**, T. Cooper, S. Couch, J. Ranta, M. Pajkos, E. O'Connor. 2019. (in prep).
- “**thornado**-hydro: towards discontinuous galerkin methods for supernova hydrodynamics.” E. Endeve, J. Buffaloe, S. Dunham, N. Roberts, K. Andrew, **B. Barker**, D. Pochik, J. Pulsinelli, A. Mezzacappa. 2018.

RECENT AWARDS

- 2019 Michigan State University Enrichment Fellowship
- 2019 FORD Foundation Fredoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2018 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention
- 2018 Society of Physics Students National Organization Leadership Award
- 2018 Chancellor's Citation Award, UTK
for Extraordinary Academic Achievement
- 2018 Chancellor's Citation Award, UTK
for Extraordinary Professional Promise
- 2018 James W. McConnell Award for Academic Excellence, UTK
from the Department of Physics and Astronomy
- 2018 Office of Research and Engagement Silver Award, UTK
for the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement
- 2018 Arts and Sciences Award, UTK
for the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement
- 2018 Cooper D. Schmitt Memorial Scholarship, UTK
from the Department of Mathematics for academic merit
- 2018 Katherine M. Frierson Memorial Scholarship, UTK
for outstanding academic achievement
- 2018 Inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society
- 2017 Katherine M. Frierson Memorial Scholarship, UTK
- 2017 Dr. Glenn R. and Elise I. Young Scholarship, UTK
Department of Mathematics for academic merit
- 2017 Cooper D. Schmitt Memorial Scholarship, UTK
Department of Mathematics for academic merit
- 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, UTK
Department of Physics and Astronomy
- 2016 Robert W. Lide Citation, UTK
Department of Physics and Astronomy for contributions to physics labs

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ADVANCED COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS | SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW

May 2018 – August 2018 | East Lansing, MI

Worked under **Sean Couch** and **MacKenzie Warren** exploring the sensitivity of core-collapse supernovae to variations in input nuclear physics.

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE (INFN) | SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW

June 2017 – August 2017 | Pisa, Italy

Received a competitive scholarship under the DOE-INFN Student Exchange Program to work under **Barbara Patricelli**.

Investigated possible joint detection rates for gravitational wave signals from binary neutron star mergers and short gamma ray bursts.

JOINT INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES, ORNL | UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

August 2016 – Present | Knoxville, TN

Developed algorithms for supernova hydrodynamics utilizing discontinuous Galerkin methods under and **Eirik Endeve Anthony Mezzacappa**.

JOINT INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS, ORNL | RESEARCH ASSISTANT

May 2016 – August 2016 | Knoxville, TN

Developed a vacuum suitcase for use in the lab, and helped commission an X-ray photoelectron spectrometer under **Norman Mannella** and **Paolo Vilmercati**.

JOINT INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES, ORNL | UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

May 2015 – May 2016 | Knoxville, TN

Studied the impact of turbulent flows on the evolution of the supernova explosion under **Anthony Mezzacappa** and **Eirik Endeve**.

OUTREACH

ANNOOR ACADEMY SCIENCE CLUB | COORDINATOR

August 2018 - December 2018

Created lesson plans and assisted with demonstrations for an after school science club at Annoor Academy, a private Islamic school in Knoxville.

LEGO ROBOTICS LEAGUE, INSKIP ELEMENTARY | ACTIVITY LEADER

August 2018 - December 2018

Assist with an after school LEGO robotics club at Inskip Elementary, a local community school.

SATURDAY SCIENCE CLUB | ACTIVITY LEADER

August 2018 - December 2018

Pond Gap Elementary School, a Title I community school in Knoxville, is visited monthly on Saturdays, and volunteers conduct science experiments and demonstrations with grade-school students with lesson plans written by volunteers.

LEADERSHIP

DEAN'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL | MEMBER

August 2018 - May 2019

Representative for the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Advise Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on issues of student concern.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION | EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

January 2018 - May 2019

Organize an annual undergraduate research symposium and promote undergraduate research across campus.

PHYSICS JOURNAL CLUB | CO-FOUNDER

January 2017 - May 2019

Weekly meetings with faculty advisor to discuss a paper in physics or astronomy.

PURSUIT - THE JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH | RESEARCH EDITOR FOR THE SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

August 2016 - May 2019

Pursuit is a university wide, cross-discipline undergraduate research journal at UTK. Delegate submissions to referees and communicate with authors. Led a team of reviewers.

August 2014 - May 2019

Host numerous public outreach activities at local schools and other areas. Organize panels, trips to conferences, and host an undergraduate conference roughly once every other academic year.

PRESENTATIONS

APS APRIL MEETING

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2019 - DENVER, CO

“Equation of State Dependence of the Observable Properties of Turbulence-aided Neutrino-driven Core-collapse Supernovae”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2019 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“Equation of State Dependence of the Observable Properties of Turbulence-aided Neutrino-driven Core-collapse Supernovae”

EXHIBITION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2019 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“Equation of State Dependence of the Observable Properties of Turbulence-aided Neutrino-driven Core-collapse Supernovae”

FIFTH JOINT MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR PHYSICS DIVISIONS OF THE APS AND JPS

STUDENT PRESENTER | OCTOBER 2018 - WAIKOLOA, HI

“Effects of Input Nuclear Physics on Core Collapse Supernova Simulations”

MID-MICHIGAN SYMPOSIUM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

STUDENT PRESENTER | JULY 2018 - EAST LANSING, MI

“Effects of Input Nuclear Physics on Core Collapse Supernova Simulations”

EXHIBITION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2018 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“Prospects for High Energy Follow-up Studies of Gravitational Wave Transients”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2018 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“Prospects for High Energy Follow-up Studies of Gravitational Wave Transients”

231ST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

STUDENT PRESENTER | JANUARY 2018 - NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

“High Energy Follow-up Study of Gravitational Wave Transients”

EXHIBITION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2017 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“Discontinuous Galerkin Methods in Nuclear Astrophysics Simulations”

SIGMA PI SIGMA QUADRENNIAL PHYSICS CONFERENCE

STUDENT PRESENTER | NOVEMBER 2016 - SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“Discontinuous Galerkin Methods in Nuclear Astrophysics Simulations”

EXHIBITION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2016 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“A Singular Value Decomposition of $15M_{\odot}$ Progenitor CHIMERA Data”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

STUDENT PRESENTER | APRIL 2016 - KNOXVILLE, TN

“A Singular Value Decomposition of $15M_{\odot}$ Progenitor CHIMERA Data”

SOUTHEAST SECTION OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

STUDENT PRESENTER | NOVEMBER 2015 - MOBILE, AL

“A Singular Value Decomposition of $15M_{\odot}$ Progenitor CHIMERA Entropy Data”

PRESS

ASK A SCIENTIST: HOW BIG IS A QUASAR Brandon Barker AND SCOTT SATINOVER

Scicomm article in UTK's campus newspaper addressing a submitted question about the size of quasars as part of Ask A Scientist's column.

WORK EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY, UTK | UNDERGRADUATE TA

January 2018 - May 2019

Tutored students in an introductory astronomy class, helped with in-class activities, and graded for the instructor.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UTK | GRADER

January 2018 - May 2018

Graded written and computer assignments for a numerical algorithms class.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY, UTK | TUTOR

August 2016 - May 2019

Tutored students in introductory physics and astronomy.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY, UTK | LABORATORY SETUP ASSISTANT

October 2014 - December 2018

Worked under the Director of Undergraduate Laboratories. Oversaw the setup of all 100-200 level introductory Physics lab sections. Worked with graduate TA's to coordinate setup, lesson plans, and makeup labs.