

Faith Jensen

Missoula, MT | faithcjensen@gmail.com

Education

University of Montana, BA in Physics, Concentration in Astronomy

Aug 2020 – May 2024

Relevant Coursework

- Stellar Astronomy & Astrophysics I
- Stellar Astronomy & Astrophysics II
- Observational Astronomy
- Planetary Science
- Galactic Astrophysics
- Computational Physics (Python)
- Quantum Mechanics I
- Electricity & Magnetism I
- Communicating Physics

Research Experience

Astronomy Researcher, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Montana

Aug 2023 – Present

- Conduct research using HARPS-N Solar Data to quantify the impact of observing cadence on the recovery of low-mass planet parameters
- Use PyORBIT to perform injection and recovery simulations with quasi-periodic Gaussian process models, quantifying how stellar activity biases low-mass planet parameter estimates
- Presented preliminary results to faculty and peers in a departmental seminar; manuscript in preparation

Publications

Testing Strategies to Fit Exoplanet and Stellar Activity Signals with Solar Radial Velocities

In Prep

Faith Jensen, Chantanelle Nava

Teaching & Outreach

Teaching Assistant, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Montana

Aug 2023 - May 2024

- Attended weekly meetings with the course lecturer to coordinate lab instruction
- Hosted office hours and assisted students during lab sessions to answer questions and support learning
- Graded lab assignments and provided constructive feedback
- Facilitated all pre-lab tutorials to prepare students for class
- Courses Taught: Planetary Astronomy Lab (ASTR 134N), Stars, Galaxies, and the Universe Lab (ASTR 135N)

Planetarium Presenter, Stargazing Room, University of Montana

May 2022 - Aug 2024

- Delivered live astronomy shows and demonstrations to audiences, ranging from K–12 to general public
- Developed and adapted content to explain complex astronomical concepts clearly and engagingly
- Assisted in maintaining and operating planetarium equipment and software
- Software Used: Digistar

Telescope Operator & Presenter, Blue Mountain Observatory

May 2022 - June 2023

- Operated the telescope and observational equipment for public outreach
- Delivered live presentations and guided observing sessions for visitors, explaining astronomical concepts clearly and engagingly
- Telescope Used: 16" Boller and Chivens f/18 Cassegrain

Conferences & Workshops

International Planetarium Society , Jena & Berlin, Germany	July 2024
Women in Physics , Bozeman, MT	Jan 2024

Awards, Scholarships, & Media Features

Great Western Observer (Page 13), Autumn 2024 Issue	Sept 2024
Germany bound: UM students and faculty to go abroad for planetarium conference (NonStop LOCAL)	June 2024
RMPA Scholarship for Stars All 20234 IPS Conference	June 2024
Dean's List	Autumn 2023
Shallenberger/ Alumni Association Scholarship in Physics , University of Montana	2020-2021

Work Experience

Administrative Associate , Office of Clinical Experiences & Educator Licensure, University of Montana	Oct 2024 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage and file confidential documents, including background checks and student records, ensuring compliance with privacy policies• Coordinate clinical and student teaching placements for 120+ candidates per semester	
Sales Associate , Batteries Plus, Missoula, MT	Oct 2023 - May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educated customers on the usage, storage, and maintenance of their batteries• Delivered excellent customer service by assessing a customer's needs and making tailored recommendations	
Beertender , Cranky Sam Public House, Missoula, MT	May 2021 - Oct 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided excellent customer service through personalized recommendations• Maintained cleanliness of the pub and glassware	

Affiliations

Senator , Staff Senate, University of Montana	June 2025 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected Senator on the University of Montana Staff Senate, representing staff in shared governance with faculty, students, and administration• Serve on the Data & Research Committee, conducting surveys and analyzing staff concerns to inform Senate resolutions and initiatives	
Vice President , Society of Physics Students, University of Montana	Aug 2023 - May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as Vice President of the Society of Physics Students, coordinating monthly meetings and overseeing club activities• Organized a successful fundraiser that helped finance a group trip to the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in April 2024• Hosted resume workshops to prepare students for internships, graduate school, and research opportunities, as well as alumni panels• Coordinated community-building events including study groups and movie nights to strengthen engagement within the physics department	
Member , Women & Gender Minorities in Physics, University of Montana	Aug 2022 - May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participated in peer-led study groups to strengthen problem-solving and collaboration skills in physics coursework• Engaged in monthly discussions and events focused on supporting women in physics and promoting inclusivity in STEM• Fostered community through academic and social events	