

Ashley D. Baker

51 PEG B POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

California Institute of Technology
Department of Astronomy

☎ (704)-678-6831 | ✉ abaker@caltech.edu | 🏠 ashbake.github.io | 📺 ashbake | 🌐 ashbake

Education

University of Pennsylvania

PHD IN PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

Philadelphia, PA

May 2020

- Thesis Advisor: Cullen Blake
- Dissertation Title: "Pushing the Limits of Ground-Based Exoplanet Characterization Surveys"

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

B.S. IN PHYSICS, HIGHEST HONORS, GPA 3.7

Aug. 2010 - May 2014

- Research Advisor: Sheila Kannappan
- Honors Thesis Title: "Exploring the Dependence of Galaxy Properties on Group Halo Environment in the ECO Catalog"
- Minors in Math and Arabic

Fellowships & Awards

Troesh Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship	2020
51 Peg b Fellowship in Planetary Astronomy	2020
The Zaccheus Daniel Graduate Fellowship	2019
The Arnold M. Denenstien Prize - <i>for most promising experimental physics graduate student</i>	2018
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2016
Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research	2014
University Merit Scholarship	2010

Refereed Publications

The IAG Solar Flux Atlas: Telluric Correction with a Semi-Empirical Model

ApJS, 247, 1

ASHLEY D. BAKER, CULLEN H. BLAKE, ANSGAR REINERS

2020

First radial velocity results from the MINiature Exoplanet Radial Velocity Array (MINERVA)

PASP, 131, 1005

MAURICE L. WILSON, JASON EASTMAN ET AL. INCLUDING ASHLEY D. BAKER

2019

The Oxyometer: A Novel Instrument for Exoplanetary Atmospheric Characterization

PASP, 131, 1000

ASHLEY D. BAKER, CULLEN H. BLAKE, SAM HALVERSON

2019

Monitoring Telluric Absorption with CAMAL

PASP, 129, 978

ASHLEY D. BAKER, CULLEN H. BLAKE, DAVID SLISKI

2017

The Baryonic Collapse Efficiency of Galaxy Groups in the RESOLVE and ECO Surveys

ApJ, 849, 1

KATHLEEN D. ECKERT, SHEILA J. KANNAPPAN, CLAUDIA DEL P. LAGOS, ASHLEY D. BAKER, ET AL.

2017

The RESOLVE Survey: Atomic Gas Census and Environmental Influence on Galaxy Gas Reservoirs

ApJ, 849, 20

DAVID V. STARK, SHEILA J. KANNAPPAN, KATHLEEN D. ECKERT, ET AL. INCLUDING ASHLEY D. BAKER

2017

A Search for Star Formation in the Smith Cloud

MNRAS, 446, 1855

STARK, D. V., BAKER, A. D., & KANNAPPAN, S. J.

2015

Research Positions

Postdoctoral Fellow

POSTDOC ADVISORS: DIMITRI MAWET & ANDREW HOWARD

Pasadena, CA

July 2020 - Present

- Keck Planet Finder (KPF) team member; lead of KPF's Ca H&K spectrometer
- Team member of Palomar Radial Velocity Instrument (PARVI); aiding in telluric correction of NIR RV spectra and developing a PARVI-integrated stellar activity monitoring spectrograph design
- KPIC team member

Graduate Research Assistant

ADVISOR: CULLEN BLAKE

Philadelphia, PA

Dec. 2014 - May 2020

- Developed a unique telluric removal process for solar spectra in application to making a telluric-free optical solar atlas
- Designed and tested a simultaneous multi narrowband photometer in lab and on-sky tests
- Built, programmed, installed, and coded the data reduction pipeline for an automated precipitable water vapor monitoring instrument called CAMAL
- Aided in the maintenance of MINERVA telescopes and electronics at Whipple Observatory

Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics: Exoplanetary Atmospheres

Santa Cruz, CA

MENTOR: JASMINA BLECIC

Summer 2016

- Implemented a self-consistent parameterized cloud model into the exoplanet atmospheric retrieval code, Pyrat Bay

UNC Chapel Hill Undergraduate Research Assistant

Chapel Hill, NC

ADVISOR: SHEILA KANNAPPAN

Nov. 2011 - May. 2014

- RESOLVE team member; assisted in conducting an astronomical survey of 1500 nearby galaxies; determined masses of galaxy groups and studied cluster environmental effects on galaxy properties

Condensed Matter Undergraduate Research

Chapel Hill, NC

ADVISOR: RENE LOPEZ

Jan. 2014 - May. 2014

- Designed photolithography masks to fabricate FETs in order to measure the electrical properties of PbS nanocrystals and ultimately improve quantum dot solar cell efficiencies

Select Presentations

Chesapeake Bay Area Exoplanet Conference (CHEXO)

Washington, D.C.

ORAL PRESENTATION

January 24th, 2020

- The IAG Solar Flux Atlas: Telluric Correction with a Semi-Empirical Model

Caltech Seminar

Pasadena, CA

INVITED SPEAKER

November 26th, 2019

- Pushing the Limits of Ground-Based Exoplanet Characterization Surveys

University of the Sciences Colloquium

Philadelphia, PA

INVITED SPEAKER

January 31st, 2019

- The Oxyometer: A Novel Instrument Concept for Exoplanetary Atmospheric Characterization

American Astronomical Society 233rd Meeting

Seattle, WA

ORAL PRESENTATION

January 9th, 2019

- The Oxyometer: A Novel Instrument Concept for Characterizing Exoplanet Atmospheres

Exoplanet Science with Small Telescopes: Precise Radial Velocities

Philadelphia, PA

ORAL PRESENTATION

April 25th, 2017

- The Camera for the Automatic Monitoring of Atmospheric Lines

Kavli Summer Program in Astrophysics: Exoplanetary Atmospheres

Santa Cruz, CA

ORAL PRESENTATION FOR SUMMER PROJECT

Summer 2016

- Assessing Cloud Structure Using Parametrized and Self-Consistent Models in Retrieval

Teaching and Outreach

Astronomy on Tap

Philadelphia, PA

PUBLIC TALK

August 19th, 2019

- Gave a discussion based talk titled 'Searching for the Signatures of Life' to a public audience

UPenn Physics & Astronomy Outreach Coordinator

Philadelphia, PA

LED AND ORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

May 2015 - Dec 2018

- Organized monthly outreach meetings where we planned our involvement in upcoming community events
- Applied for and acquired \$5,000 of funding from the University of Pennsylvania over two years for the purchase of outreach expenses
- Led the involvement in the Philadelphia Science Festival, a Total Eclipse 2017 event at the Franklin Institute, and multiple career days and high school visits
- Led the development of multiple new science demonstrations, activities, and handouts
- Organized the outreach group's online presence and recruited new participants

Upward Bound Tutor

Philadelphia, PA

WEEKLY MATH TUTORING FOR VETERANS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

May 2015 - May 2019

- Helped veterans from a variety of backgrounds relearn math so they can pass entrance exams to attend local colleges

Physics TA

UPenn

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Aug. 2014 - May 2019

- Worked with lab coordinators to develop and test-run a new research-style format for calculus-based physics lab sections. (6 semesters)
- Helped with the first edition of a computational physics course for majors. (1 semester)

Observing Experience

Tillinghast 1.5m Reflector Telescope

Whipple Observatory

TRES

Fall 2017

- Two nights observing with the TRES instrument at Whipple Observatory.

Camera for the Automatic Monitoring of Atmospheric Lines

Philadelphia, PA

CAMAL

Jun 2015 - Present

- Over 15 nights of observing to test filters, CCD capabilities, and optimize the instrument setup
- Wrote code to automate telescope slewing, CCD operation, target selection, and data reduction

SOAR Telescope (Goodman Spectrograph)

UNC Chapel Hill

FOR THE RESOLVE SURVEY

March 2012 - May 2014

- Over 15 full nights of remote observing requiring real-time analysis and target selection

Green Bank Telescope

UNC Chapel Hill

FOR THE RESOLVE SURVEY

2013

- On site and remote observing and data reduction of GBT galaxy spectra