

Claire Finley

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D. Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin Advisor: Dr. Brendan P. Bowler	August 2023 – Present
B.S. Astronomy and Astrophysics, Villanova University <i>Minors in Physics and Art History</i>	August 2019 – May 2023

Appointments

The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Research Assistant	August 2023 – Present <i>Austin, TX</i>
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center OSTEM Summer Intern	June 2022 – August 2022 <i>Greenbelt, MD</i>
Green Bank Observatory & National Radio Astronomy Observatory Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)	June 2021 – August 2021 <i>Green Bank, WV</i>
Villanova University Teaching Assistant	January 2021 – May 2023
Undergraduate Research Assistant	January 2020 - May 2021
Public Observatory Attendant	August 2019 - March 2020 <i>Villanova, PA</i>
Adler Planetarium Citizen Science and Space Visualization Intern	June 2018 – August 2018 <i>Chicago, IL</i>

Research Interests

- Formation and evolution of giant planets using direct imaging
- Planetary accretion processes and circumplanetary disk properties

Awards and Honors

Jason A. Cardelli Memorial Award for Undergraduate Research	April 2023
Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society	February 2023
John Mather Nobel Scholarship	July 2022
Certificate of Achievement in Ethical Leadership	November 2020

Contributed Publications

1. *Modeling the “Dark-matter Dominated” Dwarf Galaxy Segue 1 with a Supermassive Black Hole*
Nathaniel Lujan, Karl Gebhardt, Richard Anantua, Owen Chase, Maya H. Debski, **Claire Finley** et al.
2025 ApJL 992 L25

Scientific Presentations

Contributed talks

51 Pegasi b: Cool Giant Planets and Their Systems	October 2025 <i>Observatoire de Haute Provence, France</i>
Division for Planetary Sciences Meeting #54	October 2023 <i>London, Ontario</i>

Contributed posters

2025 Sagan Summer Workshop Silver Jubilee: Exoplanet Demographics	July 2025 <i>Pasadena, California</i>
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Observing Proposals

As Co-Investigator

HST Cycle 33 GO 18139, PI Jiang: “Tracing Accretion in the Planetary Regime: A Comprehensive UV/Optical Survey of the Late Stages of Planet Formation”, 60 orbits awarded

JWST Cycle 4 GO 7538, PI Cugno: “Giants in the making: the composition of circumplanetary disks with JWST MIRI-MRS”, 59.2 hours awarded

JWST Cycle 4 GO 9091, PI Morgan: “Imaging a Hidden Super-Jupiter Accelerating its Metal-rich M-dwarf Host”, 16.1 hours awarded

Leadership and Mentorship

The University of Texas at Austin

August 2023 – Present

Graduate mentor: Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship in astronoMY program

Villanova University

President: Villanova Astronomical Society

April 2022 - May 2023

Treasurer: Villanova Astronomical Society

April 2021 - April 2022

Student mentor: Astrophysics Mentorship Program

August 2020 - May 2023

Outreach

Astronomy on Tap ATX

September 2024 - Present

Host and member of leadership team

Computational Proficiency and Instrument Experience

Languages: Python, IDL, S-Lang, SigmaPlot, Swift

Observing experience: NIRSPEC and OSIRIS at W.M. Keck Observatory; NASA IRTF iSHELL on Maunakea; 30-inch telescope at McDonald Observatory

Data analysis proficiency: Hubble Space Telescope Wide Field Camera 3, James Webb Space Telescope Mid-Infrared Instrument