

Erik J. Wasleske, Ph.D.

Contact Information	Department of Astronomy University of Illinois 125 Astronomy Building 1002 W Green St Urbana, IL 61801	wasleske@illinois.edu orcid.org/0000-0003-3986-9427
		<i>Last Updated:</i> December 15, 2025
Research Interests	Active galactic nuclei, dwarf galaxies, galaxy evolution, time-domain astronomy	
Education	PhD in Physics Department of Physics and Astronomy, Washington State University Thesis: <i>Construction and Analysis of an Active Dwarf Galaxies Database</i> Advisor: Vivienne Baldassare	April 2025
	MS in Physics Department of Physics and Astronomy, Washington State University Advisor: Vivienne Baldassare	Dec. 2021
	BS in Physics - Professional Studies School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota Minor in Mathematics	May 2019
	BS in Astrophysics School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota Thesis: <i>Lensed Supernova Polarimetry</i> Advisor: Patrick Kelly	May 2019
Professional Experience	Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois Postdoctoral Research Associate Supervisor: Xin Liu	2025–present
	Department of Physics and Astronomy, Washington State University Graduate Research Assistant Supervisor: Vivienne Baldassare	2021–2025
	Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics, University of Minnesota Undergraduate Teaching Assistant	2018–2019
Awards	NASA Space Grant Fellowship in Physics, Washington State University, \$2,500	2023
	NASA Space Grant Fellowship in Physics, Washington State University, \$2,500	2022
	Ralph F. Simmons, Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Physics, Washington State University, \$1,500	2020
First-Author Publications	4. Wasleske, Erik J. , Baldassare, Vivienne F., Carroll, Christopher M. 2025, ApJ, 995, 160. “Active Dwarf Galaxy Database II: Investigating the	

Connection between Host Galaxy Parameters and Black Hole Accretion Signatures”.

3. **Wasleske, Erik J.** and Baldassare, Vivienne F. 2024, ApJ, 971, 68. “Active Dwarf Galaxy Database I: Overlap between active galactic nuclei selected by different techniques”.
2. **Wasleske, Erik J.** and Baldassare, Vivienne F. 2023, AJ, 166, 64. “X-ray Emissions of Ultraviolet Variable Active Galactic Nucleus Candidates”.
1. **Wasleske, Erik J.**, Baldassare, Vivienne F., Carroll, Christopher M. 2022, ApJ, 933, 37. “Variable Active Galactic Nuclei in the Galaxy Evolution Explorer Time Domain Survey”.

Co-Author Publications

3. Danieli, Shany et al. *including Wasleske, Erik J.* 2025, ApJ, 993, 110. “First Data Release of the Merian Survey: A Wide-Field Imaging Survey of Dwarf Galaxies at $z \sim 0.06 - 0.1$ ”.
2. Luo, Yei, et al. *including Wasleske, Erik J.* 2024, MNRAS 530, 4. “The Merian Survey: Design, Construction, and Characterization of a Filter Set Optimized to Find Dwarf Galaxies and Measure their Dark Matter Halo Properties with Weak Lensing”.
1. Kehoe, Emily, Baldassare, Vivienne F., Geha, Marla, **Wasleske, Erik J.**, Reines, Amy E., Hainline, Kevin 2022, ApJ submitted. “Active galactic nuclei in two star-forming dwarf galaxies with persistent broad lines”.

Presentations

Contributed Talks

The Formation and Early Evolution of Supermassive Black Holes

November 2024, Baltimore, MD, USA

Northwest Section of the APS 24th Annual Meeting

June 2024, Bothell, WA, USA

Massive Black Holes in the First Billion Years

April 2024, Kinsale, Ireland

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)[®] Competition

March 2024, Pullman, WA, USA

Northwest Section of the APS 23th Annual Meeting

October 2023, Nampa, ID, USA

Origin, Growth, and Feedback of Black Holes in Dwarf Galaxies

September 2022, San Sebastian, Spain

Intermediate-Mass Black Holes: New Science from Stellar Evolution to Cosmology

April 2022, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Posters

- Graduate and Professional Student Association Academic Showcase
March 2024, Washington State University
- Graduate and Professional Student Association Research Exposition
March 2023, Washington State University
- Graduate and Professional Student Association Academic Showcase
March 2022, Washington State University

Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Graduate Student Mentor

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) — Washington State University
Summer 2021, Summer 2022
Served as the first contact point for advising the summer research project of two students.

Teaching Assistant

AST 2001, Introduction to Astrophysics — University of Minnesota
2018–19
Tutoring and grading for undergraduate students.

Observing Experience

Observer

Merian Survey - Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, Blanco 4-m Telescope
Part of a remote team collecting imaging data using custom medium band filters.

Service & Outreach

Volunteer - Astronomy Conversations, Adler Planetarium Fall 2025 - present
Reviewer - The Astrophysical Journal 2025 - present
Session Chair - Astronomy I June 2024
Northwest Section of the APS 24th Annual Meeting
Member of Graduate Recruitment Committee Fall 2023 - Fall 2024
Physics & Astronomy Department
Washington State University
Treasurer Fall 2020 - Fall 2022
Optica - Washington State University Student Chapter
SPIE - Washington State University Student Chapter

Professional Development

LINCC Frameworks Workshop and Hackathon July 2025
LSST Discovery Alliance
University of Arizona
Summer School in Astroinformatics II June 2022
Center for Astrostatistics
Penn State University

Summer School in Statistics for Astronomers XVII
Center for Astrostatistics
Penn State University

June 2022

Arecibo Observatory Single Dish Summer School
Arecibo Observatory
Arecibo, Puerto Rico

May 2022

Professional Membership

AAS - American Astronomical Society
APS - American Physical Society
LSST AGN Science Collaboration - Large Synoptic Survey Telescope

References

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