

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
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	Wasleske, Erik J. , Baldassare, Vivienne F., Carroll, Christopher M., arXiv:2510.26716., “Active Dwarf Galaxy Database II: Investigating the	

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

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”.

Wasleske, Erik J. and Baldassare, Vivienne F. 2023, AJ, 166, 64. “X-ray Emissions of Ultraviolet Variable Active Galactic Nucleus Candidates”.

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

Danieli, Shany et al. *including Wasleske, Erik J.* 2024, arXiv:2410.01884. “Merian: A Wide-Field Imaging Survey of Dwarf Galaxies at $z \sim 0.06 - 0.1$ ”.

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”.

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

“Investigating the Diverse Signatures of Active Dwarf Galaxies”

Northwest Section of the APS 24th Annual Meeting June 2024

Bothell, WA, USA

“Inspecting Selection Techniques of Active Dwarf Galaxies”

Massive Black Holes in the First Billion Years April 2024

Kinsale, Ireland

“Investigating Selection Techniques of Active Dwarf Galaxies”

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)[®] Competition March 2024

Pullman, WA, USA

“Hunting Tiny Monsters: Constructing a Database of Black Holes in Dwarf Galaxies”

Northwest Section of the APS 23th Annual Meeting October 2023

Nampa, ID, USA

“X-ray Emission of Variable Active Galaxy Candidates from the GALEX Time-Domain Survey”

Origin, Growth, and Feedback of Black Holes in Dwarf Galaxies September 2022

San Sebastian, Spain

“Variable Low-Mass AGN in the GALEX Time-Domain Survey”

Intermediate-Mass Black Holes:

April 2022

New Science from Stellar Evolution to Cosmology San Juan, Puerto Rico

“Variable Low-Mass AGN in the GALEX Time-Domain Survey”

Posters

Graduate and Professional Student Association Academic Showcase March 2024

Washington State University

“Constructing a Database of Dwarf Galaxies with Active Black Holes”

Graduate and Professional Student Association Research Exposition March 2023

Washington State University

“X-ray Properties of Ultraviolet Variable Active Galaxies”

Graduate and Professional Student Association Academic Showcase March 2022

Washington State University

“Variable Active Galaxies in the GALEX Time-Domain Survey”

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

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 Physics Astronomy Department Washington State University	Fall 2023 - Fall 2024
	Treasurer Optica - Washington State University Student Chapter SPIE - Washington State University Student Chapter	Fall 2020 - Fall 2022
Professional Development	LINCC Frameworks Workshop and Hackathon LSST Discovery Alliance University of Arizona	July 2025
	Summer School in Astroinformatics II Center for Astrostatistics Penn State University	June 2022
	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	Vivienne Baldassare Assistant Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy Washington State University 1245 Webster Hall Pullman, WA 99164	vivienne.baldassare@wsu.edu +1 (509) 335-9179
	Christopher Carroll Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Physics and Astronomy Washington State University 1245 Webster Hall Pullman, WA 99164	christopher.carroll@wsu.edu +1 (509) 335-1698
	Guy Worthey Associate Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy Washington State University 1245 Webster Hall Pullman, WA 99164	gworthey@wsu.edu +1 (509) 335-7816