KAYLEE E. GRACE

Department of Physics and Astronomy

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EDUCATION

2022 - Present University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Ph.D. in Physics, expected in 2028. MSc in Physics, conferred in 2025.

Advisor: Dr. Judith L. Provencal

2018 – 2022 University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT.

Bachelors of Science in Physics (Honors) and Bachelors of Arts in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Astrophysics.

Thesis: Electromagnetic Detectability of Binary Supermassive

Black Holes

Advisors: Dr. Jonathan Trump and Dr. Megan Davis

Research Positions

2022 - Present Graduate Research Assistant

University of Delaware with Dr. J. Provencal

- Utilizes ground-based, Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, and Hubble Space Telescope observational data and TLUSTY modeling software to investigate the internal structure of helium atmosphere white dwarfs (DBs) and determine the location of the blue edge of the DB instability strip
- Observes 60 nights per year using Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy remotely operated telescopes

2020 – 2022 Undergraduate Research Assistant in Binary Supermassive Black Hole

Simulations for Rubin/LSST (UConn)

2021 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Summer Researcher in

Neutrino Astrophysics (UWRF)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 AAS FAMOUS Travel Grant

2024 Student Travel Grant to attend Current Challenges in the Physics of

White Dwarf Stars

2020, 2021 Jacqueline Brown-Dickstein Award

2018 Academic Excellence Scholarship

SELECTED CONFERENCES

January 2025 245th American Astronomical Society Meeting, poster.

July 2024 EUROWD24: 23rd European Workshop on White Dwarfs, poster.

April 2024 InnovatHER: Research Showcase, talk.

March 2024 Current Challenges in the Physics of White Dwarf Stars, poster.

January 2024 243rd American Astronomical Society Meeting, poster.

November 2023 American Physical Society Mid-Atlantic Meeting, poster.

April 2022 UConn Frontiers Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition.

Jan. 2022 Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, poster.

TEACHING AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

2023 – Present Mount Cuba Scholars Mentor

• Acts as a mentor for a high school student, helping brainstorm, plan, and execute a research project over their senior year

2022 - Present Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Delaware

- PHYS 133 (two semesters): Co-req lab for Introduction to Astronomy
- PHYS 221 (five semesters): Co-req lab for algebra-based mechanics lecture

2025 - Present Technical Associate

Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory

- Lead 12+ Public and Children's Programs for audiences of 28 each vear
- Use the 1.3-m and 0.6-m telescopes to research the DB instability strip

2022 - Present Academic and Research Mentor of Undergraduate Students

2022 - Present Millie Dill (UDel Physics '25)

2022 - 2025 Educational Associate (Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory)

Publication List

[1] Davis, Megan C., **Grace, Kaylee E.** et al. "Reliable Identification of Binary Supermassive Black Holes from Rubin Observatory Time-Domain Monitoring". In: *ApJ* 965.1 (2024), p. 34.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2024 – Pres. Gender Minorities in Physics and Astronomy

2024 – Pres General Board Member, Founding Member

2023 – Pres. Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Society

2024 - 2025 Secretary

2023 – 2024 General Board Member