


KERRIN G. HENSLEY

Boston University Department of Astronomy
725 Commonwealth Avenue Rm. 514
Boston, MA 02215

khens@bu.edu
 astrokhensley

EDUCATION

Boston University, Boston, MA
PhD, Astronomy, in progress
Passed oral PhD qualifying exam May 2018
MA, Astronomy, May 2017
Passed written PhD qualifying exam May 2016

Williams College, Williamstown, MA
Bachelor of Arts, Astrophysics and Chinese, June 2014

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Graduate Research Assistant Jan. 2016 – Present
Boston University; Dr. Paul Withers

Undergraduate Research Intern June 2014 – July 2014
Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Dr. Bonnie Buratti

Undergraduate Research Assistant June 2013 – June 2014
Williams College; Dr. Karen Kwitter

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on a layer of charged particles in the upper atmosphere of Venus called the ionosphere. In particular, I want to understand how solar activity—solar flares, the 11-year solar cycle, etc.—affects the density, extent, and composition of the ionosphere of Venus.

HONORS & AWARDS

MA Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship	May – July 2019
AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship	June – Aug. 2019
AAS Media Fellowship	Jan. 2018 – Present
Ewha-Luce International Seminar	Selected Mar. 2017
Clare Boothe Luce Graduate Fellowship	Sep. 2016 – Aug. 2018
Departmental Honors in Astrophysics	Awarded June 2014
Williams College Latin Honors	Awarded June 2014
Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship	Aug. 2014 – July 2015
Linen Grant	June – Aug. 2012

INVITED TALKS

LIVING WITH A STAR: FROM THE SUN TO PROXIMA CENTAURI

BU Center for English Language and Orientation Programs, Boston, MA, Feb. 2019

BU Center for English Language and Orientation Programs, Boston, MA, Aug. 2018

PRESENTATIONS

RESPONSE OF THE VENUSIAN IONOSPHERE TO SOLAR CYCLE VARIATIONS

Boston University Student Seminar, Boston, MA, Apr. 2019

VARIATIONS OF THE TOPSIDE VENUS IONOSPHERE

Boston University Oral PhD Qualifying Exam, Boston, MA, May 2018

VARIATIONS IN THE TOPSIDE VENUS IONOSPHERE

Mars/Venus Express Radio Science Team Meeting, Truckee, CA, October 2017

Boston University Student Seminar, Boston, MA, October 2017

RADIO OCCULTATION SCIENCE EXPERIMENT (ROSE)

Mars/Venus Express Radio Science Team Meeting, Truckee, CA, October 2017

TERRESTRIAL PLANET IONOSPHERES & EMERGING ISSUES IN ASTRONOMY

Ewha-Luce International Seminar, Seoul, South Korea, July 2017

CHARACTERIZING IONOSPHERIC VARIABILITY AT VENUS

Boston University Student Seminar, Boston, MA, March 2017

TITAN'S NORTH POLAR LAKES

NASA Summer Research Intern Final Presentation, Pasadena, CA, July 2014

PLANETARY NEBULAE AS TRACERS OF THE CHEMICAL HISTORY OF ANDROMEDA

Physics and Astronomy Honors Thesis Presentation, Williamstown, MA, May 2014

CARBON ABUNDANCES OF TEN PLANETARY NEBULAE IN THE MILKY WAY

Hensley, K. & Seeger, T., Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium Student Research Symposium, Vassar College, October 2013

SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE? SUN-LIKE STARS AS CARBON PRODUCERS

Hensley, K. & Seeger, T., Williams College Summer Science Program, Williamstown, MA, August 2013

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

THE CHEMISTRY OF PLANETARY NEBULAE IN THE OUTER REGIONS OF M31
Corradi, R.L.M., Kwitter, K.B., Balick, B., Henry, R.B.C., & **Hensley, K.** 2015, *ApJ*, 807, 181

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

RESPONSE OF VENUS'S TOPSIDE IONOSPHERE TO CHANGES IN SOLAR ACTIVITY
Hensley, K., Withers, P., Girazian, Z., Paetzold, M., Tellmann, S., & Hausler, B. 2018, DPS Meeting Abstracts, 50, 119.09

ABUNDANCES IN EIGHT M31 PLANETARY NEBULAE
Hensley, K., Kwitter, K., Corradi, R., Galera-Rosillo, R., Balick, B., & Henry, R.B.C. 2014, AAS Meeting Abstracts, 224, 121.08

USING PNE TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF M31'S EXTENDED DISK
Balick, B., Kwitter, K., Corradi, R., **Hensley, K.**, & Henry, R.B.C. 2014, AAS Meeting Abstracts, 224, 121.14

OUTREACH & MENTORING

Pen Pal Sep. 2018 - Apr. 2019
Letters to a Pre-Scientist
I exchanged letters with a sixth-grade student from Chicago. The goal of LPS is to demystify science and make scientists more accessible, especially to students in low-income areas who may have little exposure to scientists.

Graduate Mentor Oct. 2016 - Jan. 2017
Grad. Women in Science and Engineering
I served as an academic and professional development mentor for Boston University biomedical engineering student Xiaoshan Ke.

Research Mentor July 2016 - Aug. 2016
BU Research in Science & Engineering
I mentored high school student Arthur Chen on a research project that used radio occultations to map the climate of the atmosphere of Venus.

SCIENCE WRITING

AAS Nova [\[link\]](#) Jan. 2018 – Present
Astrobits [\[link\]](#) Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2018
Baen Free Nonfiction [\[link\]](#) June 2018
West Virginia Writers Annual Writing Contest June 2017
3rd Place Nonfiction, 1st Honorable Mention Emerging Writers Prose