


KERRIN G. HENSLEY

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EDUCATION

Boston University, Boston, MA
PhD, Astronomy, in progress
MA, Astronomy, May 2017

Williams College, Williamstown, MA
BA, Astrophysics and Chinese, June 2014

RESEARCH POSITIONS

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

Sally Ride Undergraduate Research Intern 2014
Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Dr. Bonnie Buratti

Undergraduate Research Assistant 2013 – 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

Venus Exploration and Analysis Group (VEXAG) Travel Grant	2019
Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) Grant	2019
Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship	2019
AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship	2019
AAS Media Fellowship	2018
Ewha-Luce International Seminar	2017
Clare Boothe Luce Graduate Fellowship	2016
Departmental Honors in Astrophysics	2014
Williams College Latin Honors	2014
Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship	2014

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

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

SOLAR ACTIVITY VARIATIONS OF THE IONOSPHERES OF VENUS AND MARS

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 2019

FROM SCIENCE TO SCI COMM

Boston University Student Seminar, Boston, MA, November 2019

RESPONSE OF THE VENUSIAN IONOSPHERE TO SOLAR CYCLE VARIATIONS

Boston University Student Seminar, Boston, MA, April 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

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

DEPENDENCE OF DAYSIDE ELECTRON DENSITIES AT VENUS ON SOLAR IRRADIANCE

Hensley, K., Withers, P., Girazian, Z., Paetzold, M., Tellmann, S., & Hausler, B. 2020, *JGR: Space Physics*, 125, 2. [doi:10.1029/2019JA027167](https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JA027167)

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. [doi:10.1088/0004-637X/807/2/181](https://doi.org/10.1088/0004-637X/807/2/181)

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 & SERVICE

Astronomy Department Representative

2019 – Present

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Pen Pal

2018 – Present

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

2016 – 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

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

Voice of America [[12 articles](#)]

2019

AAS Nova [[40 articles](#)]

2018 – 2019

Astrobites [[18 articles](#)]

2017 – 2018

Baen Books Free Nonfiction [[Small Stars](#); [Plasma Frequency](#)]

2018, 2019