

# Kara A. Ponder

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Pittsburgh  
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### RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Dark Energy, Supernova Cosmology, Statistical Methods.**

### Education

- 2012–2017 **Ph.D. Candidate, Physics**, *Department of Physics and Astronomy*, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.  
(expected) **Advisors:** Professors Michael Wood-Vasey and Andrew Zentner
- 2012–2014 **M.S. Physics**, *Department of Physics and Astronomy*, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- 2009–2012 **B.S. Physics and Astronomy**, *Department of Physics and Astronomy*, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 **LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration (DESC) Travel grant.**  
DESC Collaboration Meeting at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park, CA
- 2016 **University of Pittsburgh School of Arts & Sciences Fellowship**, *For Fall 2016 and Summer 2017.*  
Pitt PACC, Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Pittsburgh
- 2016 **LSST DESC Travel grant.**  
DESC Collaboration Meeting in Oxford, England, UK
- 2016 **Supernova Through the Ages: Understanding the Past to Prepare for the Future (SN2016) Conference Student Travel grant.**  
SN2016 Conference, Easter Island, Chile
- 2016 **Pittsburgh Particle physics, Astrophysics, Cosmology Center Travel Grant**, SN2016 Conference, Easter Island, Chile.  
Pitt PACC, Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Pittsburgh
- 2016 **LSST DESC Travel grant.**  
DESC Collaboration Meeting at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park, CA
- 2015 **Zaccheus Daniels Fellowship**, *For Summer 2016.*  
Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Pittsburgh
- 2014 **Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) Awardee.**  
Department of Energy, Office of Science
- 2014 **Physics and Astronomy Departmental Fellowship**, *For Spring and partial Summer 2015.*  
Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Pittsburgh
- 2012 **Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences Fellowship**, *For Spring and Summer 2013.*  
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences - University of Pittsburgh

- 2012 **Physics and Astronomy Award.**  
Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Georgia
- 2011 **Linville L. Hendren Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Proficiency in Physics.**  
Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Georgia

## COLLABORATIONS

- March 2014 - **Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Dark Energy Science Collaboration (LSST DESC).**  
Present Member of Supernova Working Group  
Member of Collaboration Council: November 2015-2017
- Feb 2014 - **Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) III and IV.**  
Present SDSS III replaced by SDSS IV in June 2014  
Officially Joined SDSS IV in March 2016

## Accepted Proposals

- Fall 2016/ Spring 2017 **VLT 8.2 m**, 45 hours in Period 98, Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer (MUSE): Optical IFS.  
All-weather MUSE Supernova Integral field Nearby Galaxies (AMUSING) survey IV  
PI: Lluís Galbany, Col: KAP
- Fall 2016 **Calar Alto 3.5 m**, Backup targets in service mode, Potsdam MultiAperture Spectrophotometer (PMAS): Optical IFS.  
PI: Lluís Galbany, Col: KAP
- Fall 2015 **WIYN 3.5 m**, 4 nights, Proposal ID: 2015B-0347, WHIRC: NIR imaging camera and HexPak: optical IFU mounted on bench spectrograph.  
SweetSpot Survey  
PI: W. Michael Wood-Vasey, Col: KAP

## Experience

- Aug 2016-Aug 2017 **Co-President of the Association of Physics and Astronomy Graduate Students.**  
Graduate Student Organization for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pittsburgh

### Observing

- Oct 2016 **Magellan 6.5 m**, 3 telescope nights, Low Dispersion Survey Spectrograph 3 (LDSS-3): Slit spectrograph in Optical and Folded-port InfraRed Echellette (FIRE): Echelle mode NIR spectrograph.
- Nov 2013 - May 2016 **WIYN 3.5 m**, 58 telescope nights, WHIRC: NIR imaging camera.  
SweetSpot survey (PI: W. Michael Wood-Vasey, Col: KAP)
- Nov 2015 **WIYN 3.5 m**, 2 telescope nights, HexPak: integral field unit mounted on bench spectrograph.  
SweetSpot survey follow up (PI: W. Michael Wood-Vasey, Col: KAP)
- May 2014 **Bok 2.3 m**, 4.5 telescope nights, 90prime: optical imaging camera.  
Reverberation Mapping project in SDSS III

### Additional Research

- Jan - June 2015 **Visiting student at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory.**  
Funded through DOE SCGSR
- June - Aug 2011 **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)**, Purdue University.  
Simulated different alignments to optimize the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS)  
**Advisors:** Professor John Finley and Dr. Glenn Sembroski

- Jan - May **Undergraduate Researcher**, University of Georgia.  
 2011 Simulations of High Velocity Cloud Mixing with the Milky Way Halo  
**Advisor:** Professor Robin Shelton  
**Publication from work:** 'Mixing between High Velocity Clouds and the Galactic Halo'  
 Gritton, Jeffrey A., Shelton, Robin L., Kwak, Kyujin, The Astrophysical Journal, Volume 795, Issue 1, article id. 99, 9 pp. (2014)
- Teaching
- Aug - Dec **Teaching Assistant**, *Department of Physics and Astronomy*, University of Pittsburgh.  
 2012 Course: Astronomy 0089

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- November **"Utilizing SweetSpot Host Galaxies for LSST"**, Contributed Plenary Talk.  
 2016 Preparing for SN science in the LSST era: A kick-off workshop, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- August 2016 **"SweetSpot: A Near Infrared Survey of Type Ia Supernovae in the Nearby Hubble Flow"**, Contributed Plenary Talk.  
 Supernova Through the Ages: Understanding the Past to Prepare for the Future, Easter Island, Chile
- June 2015 **"SweetSpot: Data Release 1 and IFU Spectroscopy of 32 Host Galaxies"**, K. A. Ponder, W. M. Wood-Vasey, A. Weyant, L. Allen, P. M. Garnavich, S. W. Jha, R. R. Joyce, T. Matheson, A. Rest, Poster.  
 American Astronomical Society Meeting 228, San Diego, CA
- May 2016 **"SweetSpot: NOAO Near-Infrared Survey of Type Ia Supernovae in the Nearby Hubble Flow"**.  
 NOAO FLASH talk, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Tucson, AZ
- August 2015 **"SweetSpot Data Release 1: 70 Type Ia Supernovae in the Near Infrared in the Nearby Hubble Flow"**, K. A. Ponder, W. M. Wood-Vasey, A. Weyant, L. Allen, N. T. Barton, P. M. Garnavich, N. Jahan, S. W. Jha, R. R. Joyce, T. Matheson, A. Rest, Poster.  
 The iPTF Summer School, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
- July 2015 **"Accounting for Multiple Populations of Type Ia Supernovae"**, Contributed Talk.  
 Santa Fe Cosmology Workshops, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM
- May 2015 **"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood"**, Invited Talk.  
 KIPAC Tea Talk, SLAC National Accelerator Lab, Menlo Park, CA
- March 2015 **"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood"**, Invited Talk.  
 Supernova at SLAC Meeting - SLAC National Accelerator Lab, Menlo Park, CA
- Feb 2015 **"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood"**, Contributed Talk.  
 LSST DESC Collaboration Meeting, SLAC National Accelerator Lab, Menlo Park, CA
- Jan 2015 **"SweetSpot Data Release 1: 70 Type Ia Supernovae in the Near Infrared in the Nearby Hubble Flow"**, Wood-Vasey, W. Michael; Weyant, Anja; Allen, Lori; Trevino Barton, Nathan; Garnavich, Peter M.; Farhin Jahan, Nabila; Jha, Saurabh; Kroboth, Jessica Rose; Ponder, Kara Ann; Joyce, Richard R.; Matheson, Thomas; Rest, Armin, Poster.  
 Presented by W. Michael Wood-Vasey.  
 American Astronomical Society Meeting 225, Seattle, WA
- Oct 2014 **"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood"**, Invited Talk.  
 CMU Astrostatistics meeting, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

- June 2014 **"SweetSpot Data Release 1: 70 Type Ia Supernovae in the Near Infrared in the Nearby Hubble Flow"**, Wood-Vasey, W. Michael; Weyant, Anja; Allen, Lori; Garnavich, Peter M.; Jahan, Nabila; Jha, Saurabh; Ponder, Kara A; Joyce, Richard R.; Matheson, Thomas; Rest, Armin, Poster, Presented by W. Michael Wood-Vasey.  
American Astronomical Society Meeting 224, Boston, MA
- April 2014 **"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood"**, Contributed Talk.  
Neighborhood Workshop on Astrophysics and Cosmology. Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- Aug 2011 **"VERITAS Simulations"**, Contributed Talk.  
REU Final Project Presentations - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- May 2011 **"The Mixing of High Velocity Clouds"**, Invited Talk.  
Undergraduate Award's Day Colloquium - University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Public Lectures**
- January 2017 **"Exploring Dark Energy with the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope"**.  
Allegheny Observatory Public Lecture Series, Pittsburgh, PA

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Jan 2017 (expected) **Weyant, A., Wood-Vasey, W.M., Ponder, K., et al.**, *"The First Data Release from SweetSpot: 74 Supernovae in 29 Nights on WIYN+WHIRC"*, To be submitted to the Astrophysical Journal.
- July 2016 **Ponder, K., Wood-Vasey, W.M., Zentner, A.**, *"Incorporating Astrophysical Systematics into a Generalized Likelihood for Cosmology with Type Ia Supernova"*, Astrophysical Journal, Volume 825, p. 35.
- Jan 2015 **Sloan Digital Sky Survey III- Reverberation Mapping Project (39 authors including Kara Ponder)**, *"The Sloan Digital Sky Survey Reverberation Mapping Project: Technical Overview"*, Astrophysical Journal Supplement, Volume 216, Issue 1, article id. 4.

## Published Abstracts

- June 2016 **Ponder K. A., Wood-Vasey W. M. , Weyant A., Allen L., Garnavich P. M., Jha S.W., Joyce R. R., Matheson T., Rest A.**, *"IFU Spectroscopy of 32 SweetSpot Supernova Host Galaxies"*, American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts 228.

## Electronic Records

Click for  
hyperlink: **Google Scholar, inSPIRE HEP, Research Gate, LinkedIn.**

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## REFERENCES

**Prof. Michael Wood-Vasey**, email: [wmwv@pitt.edu](mailto:wmwv@pitt.edu).  
**Prof. Andrew Zentner**, email: [zentner@pitt.edu](mailto:zentner@pitt.edu).  
**Prof. Saurabh Jha**, email: [saurabh@physics.rutgers.edu](mailto:saurabh@physics.rutgers.edu).