

MICHAEL RIZZO SMITH

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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University

Ph.D Astrophysics

Advisor: Kelly Holley-Bockleemann

Nashville, TN

Aug 2023 - Exp. 2029

Stony Brook University

Bachelor of Science, Physics and Astronomy & Planetary Science

Magna Cum Laude with Honors in Physics

Stony Brook, NY

Aug 2017 - May 2021

AWARDS AND HONORS

Honorable Mention , NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Program	April 2025
Award Recipient , Vanderbilt Graduate School Travel Grant	July 2024
Award Recipient , McMinn Research Award	May 2024
Award Recipient , Vanderbilt Robert T. Lagemann Award	Apr 2024
Departmental Honors , Dept. of Physics	May 2021
Award Recipient , Stony Brook Campus Scholarship	Aug 2017 - May 2021

PROFESSIONAL WORK AND TEACHING

Teaching Assistant , ASTR 1010L: Intro to Astronomy Lab	Fall 2023 - Spring 2025
Co-Coordinator , Vanderbilt's Graduate Student Astrophysics Journal Club	Aug 2024 - present
Code Captain , LISA, Disc-IMRI Astrophysics Working Group	Dec 2023 - present
Member , Establishing Multimessenger astronomy Inclusive Training (EMIT)	Sep 2023 - present
Data Analyst , The Ohio State University	Jun 2021 - July 2023

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker , EMIT Outreach	Jan 2025
<i>Presented to a local public high school on computational astrophysics, use of simulations in science, and different pathways to academia.</i>	
Talk , Vanderbilt's Astrophysics Journal Research Club	Jan 2025
<i>The dynamics and electromagnetic signatures of accretion in unequal mass binary black hole inspirals</i>	
Talk , The 15th International LISA Symposium	July 2024
<i>Presenting on behalf of the Disc-IMRI Code Comparison LISA Astrophysics Working Group</i>	
Invited Speaker , Valor Collegiate Academy	Mar 2024
<i>Invited to speak to first-year class of a local public high school on a career in Astrophysics and my personal path.</i>	
Talk , Vanderbilt's Astrophysics Journal Research Club	Feb 2024
<i>Astrophysical Disk Modeling With Hydrodynamic Simulations</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

Accepted or submitted to peer-reviewed scientific journals

(1 first-author, 3 co-author, 92 citations)

1. J. M. M. Neustadt, C. S. Kochanek, and **Rizzo Smith, M.** *Constraints on pre-SN outbursts from the progenitor of SN 2023ixf using the large binocular telescope*. In: MNRAS 527.3 (Jan. 2024), pp. 5366–5373. arXiv: 2306.06162 [astro-ph.HE]
2. Matthew Kenworthy, [20 authors], and **Rizzo Smith, Michael**. *A planetary collision afterglow and transit of the resultant debris cloud*. In: Nature 622.7982 (Oct. 2023), pp. 251–254. arXiv: 2310.08360 [astro-ph.EP]
3. **Rizzo Smith, M.**, C. S. Kochanek, and J. M. M. Neustadt. *The late time optical evolution of twelve core-collapse supernovae: detection of normal stellar winds*. In: MNRAS 523.1 (July 2023), pp. 1474–1495. arXiv: 2212.09763 [astro-ph.HE]
4. A. Kawash, [11 authors], **Rizzo Smith, M.**, T. W. -S. Holoien, J. L. Prieto, and T. A. Thompson. *The Galactic Nova Rate: Estimates from the ASAS-SN and Gaia Surveys*. In: The Astrophysical Journal 937.2, 64 (Oct. 2022), p. 64. arXiv: 2206.14132

Non-Referred Publications

1. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *An Update on ASASSN-21qj: A Rapidly Fading, Sun-Like Star; Back With a Vengeance*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 15531 (July 2022), p. 1
2. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *ASASSN-22el: A Deep Eclipse Event*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 15308 (Apr. 2022), p. 1
3. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *ASASSN-21sa: A Deep Dimming Event*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 14937 (Sept. 2021), p. 1
4. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *ASASSN-21qj: A Rapidly Fading, Sun-Like Star*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 14879 (Aug. 2021), p. 1
5. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *ASASSN-21nn: An Unusual Dimming Event in a Red Giant Star*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 14803 (July 2021), p. 1
6. M. Rizzo Smith and ASASSN-Team. *ASASSN-21ml: Discovery of an Extreme ($\Delta g > 10$ mag) L-Dwarf Flare*. In: The Astronomer's Telegram 14778 (July 2021), p. 1