

Mira Littmann

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Education

University of Chicago, Physics *B.S. Expected 2026*

GPA: 3.79 / 4.00

Relevant coursework: quantum field theory (graduate courses), particle physics (graduate course), mathematical methods in physics (graduate courses), quantum mechanics, statistical mechanics, electricity & magnetism

Bachelor's thesis: Benchmarking Detection of Long-lived Particles at a Future 10 TeV Muon Collider, under supervision of Prof. Karri DiPetrillo.

Awards and Honors

- **Student Marshal, University of Chicago**
One of the highest honors awarded to undergraduates, given to less than 2% of graduating seniors. For students who demonstrate academic excellence, evidence of leadership commitment to public service, and ambassadorial potential.
 - **Nathan Sugarman Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research (May 2025)**
Awarded to 1-2 students per year by the Enrico Fermi Institute. Nominated by Karri DiPetrillo and David Miller for “contributions to the development of intelligent pixel detectors for future high energy physics experiments” and “outstanding contributions to the GigaBREAD experiment”.
 - Wentzel Prize Selection Committee Member (2025)
 - Straetz International Undergraduate Research Scholar (Summer 2025)
 - Quad Summer Undergraduate Research Scholar (Summer 2024)
 - Quad Undergraduate Research Scholar (Academic Year 2023-24)

Research Experience

Karri DiPetrillo Lab at University of Chicago

Aug 2024 - Present

Muon Collider Simulation Studies: Studying efficiency of long-lived particles at a 10 TeV muon collider using simulation and reconstruction software. Determining the effects of tracker timing windows on reducing background and optimizing signal.

Development of on-chip machine learning for colliders: Developing and testing of on-chip neural networks for pixel detectors, for application in future particle colliders in order to increase detection ability and reduce data volume. Responsible for test-stand creation and operation.

ATLAS Experiment: At CERN, shifted on Inner Detector control room desk. Learned from summer student lectures and software tutorials, ATLAS Week collaboration meeting, and theory group colloquia while working on muon collider simulation studies.

Theoretical particle and quantum physics research

Mar 2024 - June 2025

Studied the intersection of particle physics and quantum information with Profs. Carlos Wagner, Marcela Carena, Ian Low, and their graduate students. Examined symmetries and maximal entanglement conditions in scatterings of the Two Higgs Doublet Model.

The Miller Lab at University of Chicago, BREAD Collaboration

Apr 2023 - Aug 2024

Worked on the Broadband Reflector Experiment for Axion Detection (BREAD) in collaboration with Prof. David Miller and Fermilab.

- Supported all aspects of BREAD’s data-taking and operations, including running noise-temperature and reflectivity measurements, troubleshooting the full experimental chain, and organizing the analysis pipeline from spectral averaging to final statistical limits.
 - Designed and built mechanical and electronic subsystems for the experiment (reflector supports, motor mounts, PCB and amplifier chain configuration), and independently explored future detector concepts

through RF simulations and readout-technology studies.

Publications and Presentations

Enabling Searches for Heavy Meta-Stable Charged Particles at a Future 10 TeV Muon Collider	<i>In progress</i>
Karri DiPetrillo, Tate Flicker, Kane Huang, Mark Larson, Mira Littmann , Benjamin Rosser, Leo Rozanov	
In-pixel integration of signal processing and AI/ML based data filtering for particle tracking detectors	Oct 2025
Benjamin Parpillon, Anthony Badea, <i>et al.</i> , including Mira Littmann	
arXiv Preprint ↗	
Poster Presentation at United States Muon Collider Collaboration Meeting: Benchmarking Direct Detection of Long-lived Particles at a Future Muon Collider	Aug 2025
Poster ↗	
Entanglement Maximization and Mirror Symmetry in Two-Higgs-Doublet Models	May 2025
Marcela Carena, Guglielmo Coloretti, Wanqiang Liu, Mira Littmann , Ian Low, Carlos E.M. Wagner	
J. High Energ. Phys. 2025, 16 (2025) ↗	
United States Muon Collider Community White Paper for the European Strategy for Particle Physics Update	May 2025
United States Muon Collider Collaboration, including Mira Littmann	
arXiv Preprint ↗	
First Axion-Like Particle Results from a Broadband Search for Wave-Like Dark Matter in the 44 to 52 μeV Range with a Coaxial Dish Antenna	Jan 2025
Gabe Hoshino, Stefan Knirck, Mohamed H. Awida, Gustavo I. Cancelo, Simon Corrodi, Martin Di Federico, Benjamin Knepper, Alex Lapuente, Mira Littmann , David W. Miller, et al.	
Phys. Rev. Lett. 134.171002 ↗	
First Results from a Broadband Search for Dark Photon Dark Matter in the 44 to 52 μeV Range with a Coaxial Dish Antenna	Mar 2024
Stefan Knirck, Gabe Hoshino, Mohamed H. Awida, Gustavo I. Cancelo, Martin Di Federico, Benjamin Knepper, Alex Lapuente, Mira Littmann , David W. Miller, et al.	
Phys. Rev. Lett. 132.131004 ↗	
Poster Presentation at Quad Undergraduate Research Symposium: Searching for Dark Matter with BREAD	Apr 2024
Poster ↗	
Poster Presentation at Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics: BREAD Ongoing Results and Progress	Jan 2024
Poster ↗	
Slides Presentation at BREAD Collaboration Meeting: Dish Antenna Details: Focal Point, Resonances, and Noise Temperature	Oct 2024
Slides ↗	

Teaching, Leadership, Outreach, and Mentoring Experience

President of Society of Women in Physics

President since 2024

Served on board since 2022, became President in 2024. Create, plan, and organize speaker events, workshops, journal clubs, mentorship programs, socials and study breaks, and panels with helpful advice. Average attendance at events of ~30 students, feature ~10 speakers per year from both within and outside the university, manage a board of 10 people, and oversee a budget of \$3000.

Muon Collider Social Media Strategist and Creator

Aug 2025 – present

Developed strategic plan for muon collider social media presence and carry out communication and outreach through the platforms of Instagram and TikTok (@muoncollider.us). Design content with the intention of making particle physics accessible and exciting to the general public.

Learning Assistant for Phys 131-132-133

Sept 2023 - Sept 2024

Provided support for students in the introductory physics sequence laboratory sections. Worked with a graduate student teaching assistant to provide support such as answering questions about theory underlying the week's experiment, lab equipment operation, data analysis, and lab report writing.

Mentor for Girls Invent: Building Young Girls' Identities in STEM

Sept 2023 - Jan 2024

Assisted UChicago Ph.D. Candidate Juliet Crowell in her program to support female middle school students in the Southern Chicago area to feel comfortable and excited about science. Guided the girls through weekly invention projects, taught them about modern physics research (including my own) at an appropriate level, and helped to foster a welcoming learning environment.

Skills

- **Programming, software development, and data analysis:** Python, C++, Linux, statistical methods, PyLCIO analysis, bash scripting, GitHub, HTCondor and OSG submission, ATLAS DAQ and alarm screen monitoring, track reconstruction software development (ACTS, Marlin, Gaudi), Mathematica
- **Hardware and Electronics:** FPGA programming, ASIC testing, embedded systems, RF simulation, Spacely, Vivado, Peary
- **Engineering and Design:** Computer-aided Design (AutoCAD, KiCad, FreeCAD, Fusion360), machine shop operation