

Margaret E. Verrico
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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 2022–Present
Ph.D. Candidate in Astronomy, degree in progress
M.S. in Astronomy, August 2024
CITL Graduate Teaching Certificate 2023, Graduate College Mentoring Certificate 2024

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2017–2021
B.S. – Physics, magna cum laude

Awards and Scholarships

AAS FAMOUS Grant Awardee, Summer 2025
Center for Astrophysical Surveys Graduate Fellowship, Fall 2024–Summer 2025
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, Spring 2024
NASA Illinois Space Grant Graduate Fellowship, Fall 2023–Spring 2024
NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant, Spring 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
University of Pittsburgh full tuition academic scholarship, 2017–2021

Awarded Telescope Time

GN-2025B-FT-211: *A Repeat Changing-Look AGN Caught in Real Time*, Gemini North 2025B
Fast Turnaround. **1.43 h.**
2025.1.00888.S: *Resolving molecular gas in the nuclei around changing-look AGN*, ALMA
Cycle 12. **20h.**

First & Second Author Publications

1. *Identifying Changing-Look AGN Transitions in Light Curve Data with the Zwicky Transient Facility*, Verrico, M. E.; French, K. D.; Baldassare, V. F.; et al., submitted to The Astrophysical Journal
2. *Modeling Star Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies with Prospector*, Verrico, M. E.; French, K. D.; Suess, K. A.; Agrawal, T., et al., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 989, 101
3. *Morphologies of CLAGN Host Galaxies in Galaxy Zoo*, Agrawal, T., Verrico, M. E., French, K. D., 2025, Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, 9, 245
4. *Merger Signatures are Common, but not Universal, in Massive, Recently Quenched Galaxies at $z \sim 0.7$* , Verrico, M. E., Setton, D. J., Bezanson, R., et al., 2023, The Astrophysical Journal, 949, 5

5. *The Compact Structures of Massive $z \sim 0.7$ Post-starburst Galaxies in the SQuIGGLE Sample*, Setton, D. J., Verrico, M., Bezanson, R., et al., 2022, The Astrophysical Journal, 931, 51

Co-Authored Publications

6. *FEADME: Fast Elliptical Accretion Disk Modeling Engine*, Earl, N., French, K.D., Hinkle, J.T. et al. incl. Verrico, M.E., arXiv:2512.10228
7. *The Delay Time Distribution of Tidal Disruption Events*, Shepherd, M., French, K. D., Stone, N., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., submitted to The Astrophysical Journal
8. *Selecting Post-Starburst Galaxies Based on Star Formation History*, Starecheski, S., French, K. D., Villanueva, V., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., submitted to The Astrophysical Journal
9. *SQuIGGLE: Buried star formation cannot explain the rapidly fading CO(2-1) luminosity in massive, $z \sim 0.7$ post-starburst galaxies*, Setton, D. J., Spilker, J. S., Bezanson, R., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 170, 351
10. *Meet the Neighbors: Gas Rich ``Buddy Galaxies' are Common Around Recently Quenched Massive Galaxies in the SQuIGGLE Survey*, Kumar, A., Setton, D. J., Bezanson, R., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, 9, 9
11. *Radio Variability in Recently-Quenched Galaxies: The Impact of TDE or AGN Driven Outflows*, French, K. D., Nyland, K., Patil, P., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 992, 123
12. *Unusually High Gas-to-Dust Ratios Observed in High-Redshift Quiescent Galaxies*, Spilker, J. S., Whitaker, K. E., Narayanan, D., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal Letters, 993, L40
13. *Cold gas in a post-starburst pair at $z \sim 1.4$: major mergers as a pathway to quenching in the HeavyMetal survey*, Suess, K. A., Beverage, A. G., Kriek, M., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 993, 158
14. *AT 2020nov: Evidence for Disk Reprocessing in a Rare Tidal Disruption Event*, Earl, N., French, K. D., Ramirez-Ruiz, E., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 983, 28
15. *A Large-Scale Search for Photometrically Variable AGNs in Dwarf Galaxies Using the Young Supernova Experiment*, Messick, A., Baldassare, V., Jones, D. O., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 985, 223
16. *Shocked POststarburst Galaxy Survey. IV. Outflows in Shocked Poststarburst Galaxies Are Not Responsible for Quenching*, Fodor, A., Tomko, T., Braun, M., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2025, The Astrophysical Journal, 979, 94
17. *Modeling Star Formation Histories of Post Starburst Galaxies with BAGPIPES*, Crocker, D. L., French, K. D., Tripathi, A., & Verrico, M. E., 2023, Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, 7, 183
18. *Fading AGNs in Poststarburst Galaxies*, French, K. D., Earl, N., Novack, A. B., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2023, The Astrophysical Journal, 950, 153

19. *Star Formation Suppression by Tidal Removal of Cold Molecular Gas from an Intermediate-redshift Massive Post-starburst Galaxy*, Spilker, J. S., Suess, K. A., Setton, D. J. incl. Verrico, M. E., et al., 2022, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 936, L11
20. *Now You See It, Now You Don't: Star Formation Truncation Precedes the Loss of Molecular Gas by 100 Myr in Massive Poststarburst Galaxies at $z \sim 0.6$* , Bezanson, R., Spilker, J. S., Suess, K. A., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2022, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 925, 153
21. *SQuIGGLE: Studying Quenching in Intermediate- z Galaxies-Gas, Angular Momentum, and Evolution*, Suess, K. A., Kriek, M., Bezanson, R., et al. incl. Verrico, M. E., 2022, *The Astrophysical Journal*, 926, 89

Talks and Poster Presentations

1. *Catching Changing-Look AGN Transitions with the Zwicky Transient Facility*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French; Talk, Center for AstroPhysical Surveys Seminar, Summer 2025, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA
2. *Modeling Star Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies with Prospector*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French, et al.; Talk, X-ray Quasi-Periodic Eruptions & Repeating Nuclear Transients, Summer 2025, European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC), Madrid, Spain
3. *Modeling Star Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies with Prospector*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French, et al.; Poster, European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting, Summer 2025, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
4. *Merger Signatures are Common, but not Universal, in Massive, Recently-Quenched Galaxies at $z \sim 0.7$* , Margaret Verrico, David J. Setton, et al., Poster, European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting, Summer 2025, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
5. *Constraining Changing-Look AGN Origins with Host Galaxy Studies*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French, et al.; Talk, 246th Meeting of the AAS, Summer 2025, Anchorage, AK
6. *Star-Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French, et. al.; Poster, Transients From Space Workshop, Spring 2025, Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD
7. *Star-Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies*, Margaret Verrico, K. Decker French; Talk, Tidal Disruption Events and Nuclear Transients: Entering the Data-Rich Era, Fall 2024, Aquila Atlantis hotel, Heraklion, Crete, Greece
8. *Star-Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN Host Galaxies*, Flash Talk, Young Astronomers on Galactic Nuclei, Fall 2023, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica, Palermo, Italy
9. *Star-Formation Histories of Changing-Look AGN*, Talk, Journal Club, Fall 2023, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, USA
10. *Merger Signatures in Post-Starburst Galaxies at $z \sim 0.7$* , Talk, Journal Club, Spring 2023, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, USA

Mentoring Experience

1. Aayan Verma, undergraduate Astrophysics major, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Fall 2025–Present.
Finding post-starburst quasars in the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument.

2. Tanay Agrawal, undergraduate Astronomy + Computer Science major, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Spring 2024–Summer 2025.
Morphologies of CLAGN Host Galaxies in Galaxy Zoo, Agrawal, T., Verrico, M. E., French, K. D., 2025, Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, 9, 245

Teaching

Counselor and Activity Lead, UIUC Girls' Astronomy Summer Camp, Summer 2023–Present
Teaching Assistant, *Solar Systems and Worlds Beyond*, Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant, *Stars and Galaxies*, Fall 2022
Science Instructor, People's Park Summer Camp, Summer 2022
Private Tutor, *Basic Physics for Science and Engineering II*, Spring 2019
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, *Basic Physics for Science and Engineering I*, Fall 2018

Proficiencies

Remote observing on DECam
Use of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications campus cluster at UIUC
Prospector stellar population synthesis software
GALFIT3 and GALFITM galaxy imaging analysis software

Service & Outreach

Research mentor for UIUC undergraduate Aayan Verma, Fall 2025–Present
[Astrobites contributor](#) and Education Committee member, Spring 2025–Present
Science Olympiad Division B Event Coordinator, Spring 2023–Present
“Stargazing in Illinois” talk, Mahomet Public Library, Fall 2025
“Galaxy Evolution: How Do Galaxies Stop Forming Stars?” talk, DASH Astronomy, Fall 2025
Research mentor for UIUC undergraduate Tanay Agrawal, Spring 2024–Summer 2025
Science Advances Co-Reviewer, Spring 2025
[“Galaxies: From Elliptical to Spiral.”](#) public talk, Martz-Kohl Observatory, Spring 2025
“When Stars Explode!” first grade classroom Q&A, Dr. Howard Elementary, Spring 2025
Girls' Astronomy Summer Camp Director, Summer 2023–Summer 2024
Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Mentor, Spring 2024
Society for Equity in Astronomy undergraduate mentor, Fall 2023–Present
Society for Equity in Astronomy Chair, Fall 2023–Summer 2024