

# Nicholas Saunders

✉ nks1994@uw.edu  
☎ (509) 341-9008

🏠 4249 9<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Apt. #4  
Seattle, WA 98105

EDUCATION	<b>University of Washington</b> , Seattle, WA — <b>B.S.</b> Astronomy and Comprehensive Physics – <i>Honors in Astronomy</i> — <b>B.A.</b> Comparative Literature: Cinema Studies — Astronomy GPA: 3.7/4.0   Comparative Literature GPA: 3.9/4.0 Sept 2013 –
RELEVANT SKILLS	Data reduction and photometric analysis using IRAF and PyRAF; programming with python, java, Mathematica, LaTeX; public presentation of astronomy and physics
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<b>LSST Citizen Science, Student Researcher</b> June 2017 – University of Washington, Seattle, WA – <i>advisor: Andrew Connelly</i> — Creating online project interface to identify and characterize transient objects in LSST data using Zooniverse citizen science web portal  <b>Detection of Transiting Exoplanets, Student Researcher</b> Jan 2016 – University of Washington, Seattle, WA – <i>advisors: Rory Barnes, Rodrigo Luger</i> — Developing python algorithms to reduce instrumental noise for Kepler photometry and exoplanet transit detection  <b>Planetary Science Intern</b> Apr 2011 – June 2013 The Bear Fight Institute, Winthrop, WA – <i>advisors: Tom McCord, Bernard Nordmann</i> — Generated mosaicked satellite-imagery maps for surface of Mars and the Moon — Analyzed composition of the Moon's surface using reflectance spectroscopy
ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT	<b>Student Assistant, Astronomy Department</b> Jan 2017 – University of Washington, Seattle, WA — Grade assignments for upper-division astronomy course, lead planetarium presentations for students
OBSERVING EXPERIENCE	<b>Manastash Ridge Observatory</b> , Ellensburg, WA July 2016 — Observed 10 full nights on 0.75m telescope, completed multi-band optical photometry and imaging, reduction and analysis with IRAF and python
AWARDS	Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Oct 2016 — 1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Best Video   1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Best Online Photo Essay Washington NASA Space Grant Scholarship Sept 2013 Irving and Louise Donnergaard Endowment Sept 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program, Commended Student Sept 2012
PUBLICATIONS	<b>N. Saunders</b> , R. Luger (2017, in progress) <i>Pushing the Limits of De-Trending with PLD</i> .  R. Luger, E. Kruse, D. Foreman-Mackey, E. Agol, <b>N. Saunders</b> (2017) <i>An Update to the EVEREST K2 Pipeline: Short Cadence, Saturated Stars, and Kepler-like Photometry down to <math>K_p = 15</math></i> . arXiv:1702.05488

PRESENTATIONS	<b>231<sup>st</sup> American Astronomical Society Meeting</b> , Washington DC	12 Jan 2018
	— N. Saunders, “De-Trending <i>K2</i> Exoplanet Targets for High Spacecraft Motion”	
	<b>Astrobiology Mini Talks, Museum of Flight</b> , Seattle, WA	14 Oct 2017
	— N. Saunders, “The Search for Habitable Worlds”	
	<b>Kepler/K2 Guest Observing Office</b> , Mountain View, CA	12 Oct 2017
	— N. Saunders, “Sputtering Effects on <i>K2</i> Systematics Removal”	
	<b>UW Undergraduate Research Symposium</b> , Seattle, WA	19 May 2017
	— N. Saunders, “Effects of Pixel Sensitivity Variation on <i>K2</i> Exoplanet Detection”	
	<b>Washington NASA Space Grant Orientation</b> , Seattle, WA	Apr 2015 – Apr 2017
SERVICE & OUTREACH	— Presented research and led planetarium shows for prospective UW students	
	<b>World Space Week</b> , Seattle, WA	June 2016
	— Multiple public planetarium shows	
	Undergraduate Liaison, UW Astronomy Faculty Board	Sept 2017 –
	— Attend faculty meetings, report undergraduate concerns, communicate with both faculty and students	
	Volunteer Organizer, Astronomy on Tap Seattle	Jan 2017 –
	— Assist with setup and organization of astronomy outreach event	
	Volunteer Presenter, UW Planetarium	Nov 2015 –
	— Perform multiple shows each month for public and private audiences	
GROUPS	Pulsar Kicks, UW Intramural Soccer	Mar 2017 –
	UW League of Astronomers	Jan 2017 –
	SPACE (Students Pursuing Academic and Celestial Exploration)	Nov 2016 –
	Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium	Sept 2013 –
OTHER EMPLOYMENT	<b>Barista</b> – Tea Republik, Seattle, WA	May 2015 – Mar 2017
	<b>Busser</b> – Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, WA	Sept 2012 – Aug 2013
	<b>Swim Instructor and Lifeguard</b> – Wagner Pool, Twisp, WA	Jun 2010 – Aug 2012

*References available upon request.*