

Nicholas Saunders

✉ nks1994@uw.edu

☎ (509) 341-9008

🏠 4249 9th Ave NE Apt. 4
Seattle, WA 98105

EDUCATION	<p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA Sept 2013 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — B.S. Astronomy and Comprehensive Physics – <i>Honors in Astronomy</i> — B.A. Comparative Literature: Cinema Studies — Astronomy GPA: 3.7/4.0 — Comparative Literature GPA: 3.9/4.0
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	<p>LSST Citizen Science, Student Researcher June 2017 –</p> <p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA – <i>advisor: Andrew Connelly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Creating online project interface to identify and characterize transient objects in LSST data using Zooniverse citizen science web portal <p>Detection of Transiting Exoplanets, Student Researcher Jan 2016 –</p> <p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA – <i>advisors: Rory Barnes, Rodrigo Luger</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Developing python algorithms to reduce instrumental noise for <i>Kepler/K2</i> photometry and exoplanet transit detection <p>Planetary Science Intern Apr 2011 – June 2013</p> <p>The Bear Fight Institute, Winthrop, WA – <i>advisors: Tom McCord, Bernard Nordmann</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Generated mosaicked satellite-imagery maps for surface of Mars and the Moon; — Analyzed composition of the Moon's surface using reflectance spectroscopy
ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT	<p>Teaching Assistant, Astronomy Department Mar 2018 –</p> <p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lead multiple weekly in-class sections, teach introductory astronomy material, collaborate with team of T.A.s and professor, assist students in lab assignments <p>Student Assistant, Astronomy Department Jan 2017 – Mar 2018</p> <p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Graded assignments for upper-division astronomy course, led planetarium presentations for students
OBSERVING EXPERIENCE	<p>Manastash Ridge Observatory, Ellensburg, WA July 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Observed 10 full nights on 0.75m telescope, completed multi-band optical photometry and imaging, reduction and analysis with IRAF and python
AWARDS	<p>UW Astronomy Department “Kudos of the Quarter” Feb 2018</p> <p>Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Oct 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 1st Place: Best Video — 1st Place: Best Online Photo Essay <p>Washington NASA Space Grant Scholarship Sept 2013</p> <p>Irving and Louise Donnergaard Endowment Sept 2013</p> <p>National Merit Scholarship Program, Commended Student Sept 2012</p>
PUBLICATIONS	<p>N. Saunders, R. Luger, R. Barnes, (2018, in progress) <i>Pushing the Limits of De-Trending with PLD</i>.</p> <p>R. Luger, E. Kruse, D. Foreman-Mackey, E. Agol, N. Saunders (2017) <i>An Update to the EVEREST K2 Pipeline: Short Cadence, Saturated Stars, and Kepler-like Photometry down to $K_p = 15$</i>. arXiv:1702.05488</p>

TALKS	Astronomy on Tap , Seattle, WA	25 Apr 2018
	— N. Saunders, “Putting the Science in Science Fiction”	
	231st American Astronomical Society Meeting , Washington DC	12 Jan 2018
	— N. Saunders, R. Luger, “De-Trending <i>K2</i> Exoplanet Targets for High Spacecraft Motion”	
	Astrobiology Mini Talks, Museum of Flight , Seattle, WA	14 Oct 2017
	— N. Saunders, “The Search for Habitable Worlds”	
	Kepler/K2 Guest Observing Office , Mountain View, CA	12 Oct 2017
	— N. Saunders, R. Luger, “Sputtering Effects on <i>K2</i> Systematics Removal”	
	UW Undergraduate Research Symposium , Seattle, WA	19 May 2017
	— N. Saunders, “Effects of Pixel Sensitivity Variation on <i>K2</i> Exoplanet Detection”	
	Washington NASA Space Grant Orientation , Seattle, WA	Apr 2015 – Apr 2017
	— Presented research and led planetarium shows for prospective UW students	
SERVICE & OUTREACH	World Space Week , 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, Total Solar Eclipse NASA Outreach Event	Aug 2017
	— Organized educational outreach activities at a middle school on the Warm Springs Reservation, OR, assembled and managed telescopes for solar and planetary observation	
	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 – June 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	Barista – Tea Republik, Seattle, WA	May 2015 – Mar 2017
	Busser – Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, WA	Sept 2012 – Aug 2013
	Swim Instructor and Lifeguard – Wagner Pool, Twisp, WA	Jun 2010 – Aug 2012

References available upon request.