

# RACHEL R. LEE

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## EDUCATION

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### Purdue University

Bachelors of Science, Physics Honors  
Minors in Astronomy and Mathematics  
College of Science, Honors College

August 2017 - May 2021

Overall GPA: 3.67/4.00

Physics Honors GPA: 3.63/4.00

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Observational and Time Domain Astronomy:** Supernovae, Supernova Remnant Morphology and Energetics, Progenitor System Analysis, Stellar Evolution, Stellar Formation, Spectroscopy

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant**, Purdue University; Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jan. 2018–Present

*Advisor: Professor Dan Milisavljevic*

- Obtain and analyze data from Gaia Space Observatory to create documentation of stellar source candidates for spectroscopic analysis in order to determine locations of stars relative to the neighborhood of a supernova remnant.
- Create and collaborate on observational proposals for usage of Gemini telescopes and GMOS for multi-slit spectroscopy as well as the newly commissioned NEID instrument on the WIYN 3.5m telescope.
- Assist in developing a platform to coordinate ground-based facilities and follow up transients discovered by the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) and provide resources to determine probable observational capabilities.
- Compile information about possible galactic supernova candidates.
- Present research findings at laboratory meetings and to astrophysics students.

**Research Assistant**, University of Notre Dame; Department of Psychology

Sep. 2016–Present

*Advisor: Professor Julie Braungart-Reiker*

- Conduct research in psychology-based experiments, Families and Babies Student (FABS; NIH-R01 grant, 2016) with community families.
- Record, manage, and organize video data collection and video inventory for research activities.
- Complete behavioral coding of observational data.
- Organize, manage, and enter data using SPSS.
- Train new staff and research assistants on video recording equipment, control room, and procedural tasks.
- Assist in the adaptation of experimental procedure to virtual format.

## TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

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- Astronomical Data Processing Packages: DS9 SAOImage, Astropy, PYRAF
- Programming Languages: Python, Latex, MATLAB, Python, SPSS
- Computer Platforms: Mac OS, Microsoft Windows, Unix

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Physics Course Tutor**, Purdue University

Jan. 2021–Present

- Tutor 300+ polytechnic students in introductory mechanical physics.

**Polytechnic Physics and Math Tutoring Supervisor**, Purdue University

Aug. 2021–Present

- Manage and supervise all tutors in the Polytechnic Department Physics and Math Tutoring Program.

**Individual Physics Tutor**, Purdue University

Jan. 2021 – Present

- Tutor 10 students individually in entry level physics classes (i.e. mechanics, electricity and magnetism, optics, and waves).

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**OUTREACH**


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**REFITT Education and Outreach Liaison**

Summer 2021–Present

- Coordinate professional and amateur astronomers on a global scale as a method of performing time-sensitive observations of astronomical transients.
- Analyze and compare REFITT data to actual photometric observations in a mission to make REFITT as efficient and accurate as possible.
- Create and maintain a list of possible galactic supernova candidates as important targets for REFITT observing.
- Create and maintain an exhaustive list of observatories and amateur astronomers worldwide as our method of outreach.
- Contact and follow up with observatories and astronomers who present interest in this project.
- Provide an analysis of weather and climate patterns in high priority locations.

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**HONORS AND AWARDS**


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|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| · Margie and Don Bottorff Undergraduate Physics Scholarship | Aug. 2019–May 2021 |
| · David G. Seiler Physics Scholarship                       | Aug. 2019–May 2020 |
| · Lijuan Wang Memorial Award                                | Aug. 2019–May 2020 |
| · Ascarelli Fellowship Recipient                            | Aug. 2017–May 2018 |
| · Honors College                                            | Aug. 2017–May 2021 |
| · Semester Honors Recipient                                 | Jan. 2019–May 2021 |
| · Purdue University Dean's List                             | Jan. 2020–May 2021 |
| · Purdue Promise Scholarship Recipient                      | Aug. 2017–May 2021 |
| · 21st Century Scholar Recipient                            | Aug. 2017–May 2021 |

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**MEMBERSHIPS**


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| · Purdue Undergraduate Physics Student Council, Co-Founder and Treasurer | Jan. 2019–May 2021 |
| · Women in Physics, Member                                               | Aug. 2017–May 2021 |
| · Purdue University Astronomy Club, Member                               | Aug. 2018–May 2021 |
| · Society of Physics Students, Member                                    | Aug. 2018–May 2021 |

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**ACTIVITIES**


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**Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics***University of Chicago, Jan. 2020*

- Attended professional conference to enrich my knowledge in the fields of physics, learn about opportunities as a woman in physics, and receive information about graduate school and physics based professions.
- Engaged in event activities designed to allow networking opportunities.
- Collaborate with other women in physics as a way to share experiences and ideas.

**Purdue Undergraduate Physics Student Council***Co-Founder, Treasurer (Jan. 2019–May 2021)*

- Co-founded and created the Undergraduate Physics Student Council; a council based around the goal of increasing retention within the Department of Physics and Astronomy by communicating and planning with the department head and other faculty members.
- Plan and led fundraisers and events designed the spread awareness of the club.
- Created a petition with six peers to reopen the Purdue Physics Library and make space for physics students to collaborate. After gaining over 700 signatures from students and faculty, we presented the petition to the Dean of the College of Science. Our efforts were successful and the library reopened.

**Purdue Student Government***Strategic Planning and Assessment Director (Aug. 2017–May 2018)*

- Assisted in the creation of Qualtrics surveys designed to optimize the experience students have at Purdue University.
- Collaborated with team members to create initiatives that promote long-term sustainability and development of Purdue Student Government.
- Helped construct and implement Purdue Student Government's two year strategic plan.

#### NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

8. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Rupert, J., et al. and 17 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classification of SN 2021nxq (ZTF21abcpsjy)," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 182 (2021)
7. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 30 (2021)
6. Weil, K. E., Subrayan, B. M., Milisavljevic, D., et al. and 17 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 266 (2020)
5. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT Discovery and Classification of SN2020abog (ZTF20acpgjac) using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 243 (2020)
4. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 242 (2020)
3. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 232 (2020)
2. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT Discovery and Classification of SN 2020zct (ZTF20acezhcf) using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 227 (2020)
1. Weil, K. E., Milisavljevic, D., Andrews, M., et al. and 18 other authors incl. **Lee, R.** "REFITT classifications of optical transients using SOAR," Transient Name Server AstroNote, 225 (2020)

#### OBSERVING PROPOSALS

5. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2022A. Time: 4 Nights (2021B, Pending). *"Spectroscopic Follow-up of Faint Transients from the ZTF Public Survey using REFITT."*
4. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021B. Time: 4 Nights (2021A, Accepted). *"Spectroscopic Follow-up of Faint Transients from the ZTF Public Survey using REFITT."*
3. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021B. Time: 3 Nights (2021A, Accepted). *"Enhancing the ZTF Public Survey for Science Inferencing with REFITT."*
2. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021A. Time: 0.5 Nights (2020B, Accepted). *"Precise Distance Estimates to Nearby Supernova Remnants."*
1. National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Observatory Proposal, **Co-I**, 2021A. Time: 40 Hours (2020B, Accepted). *"An ORACLE for Antares."*