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Benjamin Naeve Velguth

Education

2020-2024

Bachelor of Science, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI, Cumulative GPA: 3.47/4.0

Major: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Major GPA: 3.70/4.0

Major: Interdisciplinary Physics, Major GPA: 3.51/4.0

Honors and Awards

Building a Team for EXtragalactic ASTrophysics (TEXAS) Bridge Fellow, 2024 - Present

Graduating with the Highest Honors: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Winter 2024

University Honors, Winter 2023

Member of the Douglas Houghton Scholars Program

Publications

2024

The End of Star Formation in the Extended Structures of M82 and NGC 3077

Velguth, B., Bell, E. F., Smercina, A. (in prep)

The Resolved Star Formation History of the Nearby Ultra-Diffuse Galaxy, F8D1

Smercina, A., Bell, E. F., Williams, B., Velguth, B., 13 others (in prep)

Presentations

2024

Understanding the Outskirts of M82 and NGC 3077: A Timeline of the M81 Group

Velguth, B., Smercina, A., Bell, E. F.

Student Astronomical Society Weekly Colloquium

Constraining the Star Formation History in the Nearest UDG, F8D1

Velguth, B., Smercina, A., Bell, E. F.

243rd Meeting of the AAS

2023

[Spatially Resolving the Quenching Time in F8D1 with Luminous AGB Stars](#)

Velguth, B., Bell, E. F., Smercina, A.

Student Astronomical Society Weekly Colloquium

[Comparing the Stellar Mass Fractions of AGN and Non-AGN Spiral Galaxies](#)

Velguth, B., Klein, M.

U. of Michigan Astro 461 Poster Symposium at KPNO

[Tails from the Great Beyond: Constraining the Star Formation History within the Tidal Tail of F8D1](#)

Velguth, B., Bell, E. F., Smercina, A.

U. of Michigan Department of Astronomy Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium

2022

[Investigating Tidal Processing in M81's Ultra-Diffuse Galaxy, F8D1](#)

Velguth, B., Bell, E. F., Smercina, A.

U. of Michigan Department of Astronomy Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium

Research Experience

Research Interests: Galaxy formation and evolution, stellar populations, star formation and quenching, feedback processes, galactic evolutionary timescales

2024 - Present

TEXAS Bridge Fellow *University of Northern Texas, TX*

2022-Present

Research Assistant *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

Understanding the Star-Formation Histories of Tidal Streams and Stellar Halos in the M81 Group. Working with Dr. Eric F. Bell.

- Determined the star-formation cutoff time for both the tidal stream and core of F8D1, the nearest Ultra-Diffuse Galaxy to Earth, to uncover details about its interaction history with other M81 group members.
- Created age maps for the stellar halo of M82 and tidal streams of NGC 3077, furthering the understanding of these galaxies' rich interaction history with each other as well as M81.

May 2023

Observational Astronomy Research *University of Michigan, Kitt Peak National Observatory, AZ, Ground-Based Observations as a part of ASTRO 461*

- Wrote a proposal for telescope time and collected photometric and spectroscopic data using the McGraw-Hill and Hiltner telescopes at the MDM Observatory
- Learned to operate large, ground-based telescopes and reduce raw data

- Presented a poster to the staff of Kitt Peak National Observatory, with an emphasis on communicating high-level science to the general public
- Presented a 15-minute talk with Q and A

Observing Experience

2023

MDM Observatory, McGraw-Hill 1.3m, 4 hrs (PI)

Velguth, B., Klein, M., *Comparing the Stellar Mass Fractions of AGN and Non-AGN Spiral Galaxies*

- Operated and maintained the McGraw-Hill telescope

MDM Observatory, Hiltner 2.4m, 4 hrs (PI)

Velguth, B., Klein, M., *Comparing the Stellar Mass Fractions of AGN and Non-AGN Spiral Galaxies*

- Operated and maintained the Hiltner telescope

Computational Skills

- High Proficiency: Python, spectroscopic and photometric data reduction, LaTeX
- Intermediate Proficiency: DS9, MS Excel/Google Sheets
- Basic Familiarity: MATLAB, C++, HTML/CSS

Service and Leadership

2024 - Present

- AAS Certified Reviewer

2023-Present

- Secretary of the Not Rich @ UMich student advocacy group
- Outreach Chair of the University of Michigan Entomology Club
- Undergraduate representative for the 2023-2024 Astronomy & Astrophysics curriculum committee

Volunteering and Outreach

2023-Present

- Initiated collaborations with organizations willing to fund and support pay-as-you-can meals for underprivileged students through Not Rich @ UMich
- Organized a ride-share service to transport Not Rich @ UMich members to grocery stores and plasma donation centers
- One of three mentors in the Student Astronomical Society Grad-Undergrad Mentorship Program for students interested in Ultra-Faint Dwarf galaxy research
- Organized social events for bug club members. Included documentary screenings and weekly "bug walks"
- Coordinated City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Stewardship Workdays with the Entomology Club
- Participated in multiple Natural Area Preservation Stewardship Workdays as an independent citizen