

# Zeina Benton

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## EDUCATION

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### **High School International Baccalaureate Graduate, Land O Lakes, Florida**

- 3.8/4.0 GPA (4.3 GPA Unweighted)

### **College Astrophysics Bachelor of Science and Women's Studies Bachelor of Arts, Gainesville, Florida**

- 3.6/4.0 GPA
- Relevant Coursework: Physics with Calculus 1 & 2, Electromagnetism 1 & 2, Mechanics 1 & 2, Essentials of Astrophysics, Modern Physics, Techniques of Observational Astronomy

## LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULARS

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### **Women's Student Association - Gainesville, FL**

August 2022 – May 2026

- 2024–2025 President, 2023–2024 Marketing Director, 2022–2023 Marketing Chair
- Skills: Leadership, Public Speaking, Team Management, Public Relations, Strategic Oversight, Decision Making

### **UF-Conducted Research - Gainesville, FL**

2024 – 2025

- Two Ongoing Research Projects Under Dr. Lada and Dr. Hernandez
- Investigating the Properties and Evolution of Embedded Star Clusters
- Analyzing the Politics of Feminine Aesthetics, Beauty, and Racialized Sexuality

### **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant - Gainesville, FL**

Spring 2024

- Under Dr. Neville
- Facilitated exam review sessions, led group discussions, provided constructive feedback and guidance

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

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### **NASA Europa ICONS Internship - Laurel, MD**

June 2025 – August 2025

- Under Frank Seelos at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory
- Continuing the ongoing Europa Clipper mission using the Europa Clipper Mapping Imaging Spectrometer for Europa (MISE) and Europa Imaging System (EIS) optical remote sensing instruments
- Inferred compositional and textural information about the surface of Europa to understand how likely Europa materials will react with sunlight and its reflectance

### **NASA L'SPACE Proposal and Research Writing**

Jan 2023 – April 2023

- Team 7 Member / Science Researcher and Safety Officer
- Developed QUAD charts, Safety Risk Matrix, and a written proposal for future NASA missions
- Researched potential surface microbial improvement using a cellulose-chitosan and gelatin solution

### **NASA L'SPACE Mission Concept Academy**

August 2023 – December 2023

- Team 7 Member / Astronomy Researcher
- Developed a team-written proposal for NASA and designed a conceptual travel mission around Enceladus
- Presented proposal and developed documents such as SRR and MCR

### **NASA Technology Transfer Program - Gainesville, FL**

October 2024 – November 2024

- Received NASA T2U Certificate of Completion
- Repurposed NASA patent for practical solutions
- Proposed hurricane damage mitigation concept

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Benton, Z. & Lada, E.** (*in prep.* *Journal of Undergraduate Research*). Investigating the Membership and Structure of the Subregions in NGC 2264

## ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS

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<i>University Research Scholars Program</i>	<i>Fall 2024 – Spring 2026</i>
<i>Emerging Scholars Research Program</i>	<i>Spring 2024 – Fall 2025</i>
<i>Best Research Poster, PULSAR Symposium</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>
<i>Society of Women in Physics, Founder</i>	<i>December 2024 – January 2023</i>
<i>Dean's List</i>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
<i>William G. Cross Scholarship Finalist</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>
<i>William G. Nash Dean's Scholarship</i>	<i>Fall 2025</i>