

Jessica Schonhut-Stasik

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SUMMARY

I am commencing a postdoctoral Astrophysics position at Vanderbilt University in May 2025. I want to continue in academia, concentrating on answering unsolved questions in Galactic Archaeology through stellar observations, particularly those of low metallicity.

EDUCATION

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|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 2025 | Ph.D. (Astronomy) from Vanderbilt University | (GPA: 3.9/4.0) |
| <i>Thesis Advisor:</i> | Keivan G. Stassun | |
| <i>Thesis Topic:</i> | Things That Were, Things That Are, and Some Things That Have not yet Come to Pass: Investigations in Galactic Archaeology via Asteroseismology, Spectroscopy, and Astrometry of Evolved Stars to Unlock the Secrets of the Milky Way in the Past, Present, and Future | |
| <i>Additionally:</i> | Graduate Certificate received alongside PhD: Engineering Design for Neurodiversity | |
| 2019 | M.Sc. (Astronomy) from University of Hawai'i (at Manoa) | (GPA: 3.7/4.0) |
| <i>Additionally:</i> | IfA Outreach Award | |
| 2017 | B.Sc. from The Open University <i>summa cum laude</i> | (1st Class) |

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- President and CEO**, The Neuroverse Initiative 2023 - Present
- Founded The Neuroverse Initiative, a 501(c)(3) organization supporting the intersection of Space Science and Neurodiversity.
 - Heads a multi-disciplinary research team, producing peer-review quality research on the experience of neurodivergent (ND) space scientists.
 - Supervises the advocacy team and leads the SciComm project: taking ND scientists to non-traditional events for science communication efforts, particularly those that overlap with ND communities.
 - Develops and delivers neuroinclusion curriculum: disseminated to astronomy university programs.
 - Oversees board of directors and volunteers who assist with the day-to-day of the organization.
- Director of Communications**, Frist Center for Autism and Innovation 2021 - Present
- Runs all center communications, including website, mailing list, and social media.
 - Serves as liaison for the College Autism Network Board of Directors.
 - Plans and coordinates national and international conferences, i.e., co-chairing the InclYOUsion Summit 2023, with 40+ talks over 8 time zones with 110,000 participants.
 - Mentors undergraduate students through center-based projects; supports volunteers with projects.
 - Organizes and communicates with neurodiversity consultants; collects of resources and research; enables new ideas and initiatives for the center.
- Telescope System Specialist**, UKIRT Observatory 2019 - 2025
- Ran queue-based observations for UKIRT on Maunakea; completed >300 nights of observing.
 - Troubleshooting and basic engineering of facility, including telescope and instruments.
 - Corresponded with project PIs and reduced observed data.
 - Design and re-model of UKIRT website.
- Grant Writer** 2021 - 2024
- Offered pro-bono grant writing support for local non-profits on the Big Island of Hawai'i.
 - Most recent achievement: secured a contract with a large dog food company to supply food to the local dog shelter, saving Aloha 'ilio ≈\$25,000 per annum in dog food costs.

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| Student Researcher , Gemini Observatory, Hilo, HI | 2019 — 2020 |
| Undergraduate Student Researcher , Institute for Astronomy, Hilo, HI | 2015 — 2017 |
| Virtual Reality Engineer , BAE, Bristol, UK | Summer 2015 |
| Process Engineer , Xerox, Hertfordshire, UK | Summer 2014 |
| Observatory Operator , Bayfordbury Observatory, UK | 2013 — 2015 |

SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

H-Index = 6; Total Citations = 93 (+63 for papers under maiden name)

First-Author Publications

6. **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Tayar, J., Stassun, K. G. et al. *Tracing Planetary Plate Tectonics and Habitability with Galactic Time Using the APO-K2 Catalog* (In Prep.)
5. Arcand, K.*, **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.***, Kane, S.*, Sturdevant, G.*, et al. 2024, *A Universe of Sound: Processing NASA Data into Sonifications to Explore Participant Response*. *Frontiers in Communication*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2024.1288896> *These authors contributed equally to this work.
4. **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Zinn, J, Stassun, K. G., et al. 2024, *The APO-K2 Catalog. I. 7,673 Red Giants with Fundamental Stellar Parameters from APOGEE Spectroscopy and K2 Asteroseismology*, *The Astrophysical Journal*, <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024AJ....167...50S>
3. **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Stassun, K. G., 2023, *FluxCT: A Web Tool for Identifying Contaminating Flux in Kepler and TESS Target Pixel Files*, *Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society*, <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2023RNAAS...7...18S>
2. **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Huber, D., Baranec, C., et al. 2020, *ROBO-AO Kepler Asteroseismic Survey. II. Do Stellar Companions Inhibit Stellar Oscillations?*, *ApJ*, 888, 34. <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2020ApJ...888...34S>
1. **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Baranec, C., Huber, D., et al. 2017, *Robo-AO Kepler Asteroseismic Survey. I. Adaptive Optics Imaging of 99 Asteroseismic Kepler Dwarfs and Subgiants*, *ApJ*, 847, 97. <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2017ApJ...847...97S>

Nth-Author Publications – 2024

9. Zilin, D., **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Stassun., K. 2024, *FluxCT V2.0: Updates to a Web Tool Identifying Contaminating Flux in Space Telescope Data*, *RNAAS*, 8, 11. <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024RNAAS...8..278D>
8. Spoo, T., Thomas, K., Toguchi-Tani, E., Myers, N., Otto, J., Tayar, J., **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, et al. 2024, *Extending the [C/N]-Age Calibration: Using Globular Clusters to Explore Older and Metal-Poor Populations* (In Submission)
7. Menti, F., Caballero, J, A., Wyatt, M, C., et al. 2024; *Database of Candidate Targets for the LIFE Mission*. *RNAAS*, 8, 10. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/2515-5172/ad887e>
6. Glauser, A., et al. 2024, *The Large Interferometer for Exoplanets: A Space Mission for Mid-Infrared Nulling Interferometry*, *SPIE*, 13095. <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024SPIE13095E..1DG>
5. Warfield, J., Zinn, J., **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, et al. 2024, *The APO-K2 Catalog. II. Accurate Stellar Ages for 7,672 Red Giant Branch Stars Across the Milky Way*. *AJ*, 167, 5. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/1538-3881/ad33bb>
4. Ramos, A., **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, Stassun, K., et al. 2022, *Determining the Habitability of Earth-like Exoplanets Through an Analysis of their Eventual Destruction by Supernova* *Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society*. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.3847/2515-5172/acbaf9>
3. Miskovetz, K., Dupuy, T. J., **Schonhut-Stasik, J. S.**, et al. 2022, *Resolving the Multiplicity of Exoplanet Host Stars in Gemini/NIRI Data*, *Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society*, 6, 8. doi:10.3847/2515-5172/ac488e <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2022RNAAS...6....8M>
2. Lamman, C., Baranec, C., Berta-Thompson, Z. K., et al. 2018, *Robo-AO M Dwarf Multiplicity Survey*, *APJ* <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018AAS...23230601L>
1. Baranec, C., Ziegler, C., Law, N. M., et al. 2016, *Robo-AO Kepler Planetary Candidate Survey. II. Adaptive Optics Imaging of 969 Kepler Exoplanet Candidate Host Stars*, 152, 18. <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2016AJ....152...18B> (*Maiden name ‘Schonhut’).

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Research Talks ** indicates invited

6. **American Astronomical Society 245**, *Dissertation Talk*, National Harbor, MD 2025
5. **** Astrocoffee**, The Ohio State University, OH 2024
4. **** Sonification Workshop**, Harvard University, MA 2024
3. **American Astronomical Society 243**, New Orleans, LA 2024
2. **TASC/KASC Meeting**, Honolulu, HI 2023
1. **American Astronomical Society 242**, Albuquerque, NM 2023

Research Posters

7. **Cool Stars**, San Diego, US 2024
6. **American Astronomical Society 241**, Seattle, WA 2023
5. **TASC/KASC Meeting**, Leuven, Belgium 2022
4. **Cool Stars**, Toulouse, France 2022
3. **Sigma Xi Student Showcase**, Virtual 2022
2. **American Astronomical Society 240**, Pasadena, CA 2022
1. **Low-Mass Meeting**, Hilo, HI 2019

Invited Neurodiversity/DEI Related Talks

9. **Star Trek: Trek to San Francisco**, San Francisco, CA 2025
8. **Star Trek: Trek to Dallas**, Allen, TX 2024
7. **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA 2024
6. **Star Trek: Trek to Nashville Convention**, Mufreesboro, TN 2024
5. **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA 2024
4. **Neurowrx**, Chicago, IL 2023
3. **World Autism Summit**, Virtual 2023
2. **InclYOUsion Conference**, Virtual 2023
1. **American Astronomical Society 241**, Seattle, WA 2023

Neurodiversity/DEI Related Talks

13. **Stanford Neurodiversity Summit**, Stanford, CA 2024
12. **Astronomy Society of the Pacific**, Virtual 2024
11. **SciAccess2024**, Virtual 2024
10. **SciAccess2024**, Virtual 2024
9. **American Astronomical Society 243**, New Orleans, LA 2024
8. **International Forum on Research Excellence**, Long Beach, CA 2023
7. **Maunakea Wonders (Invited)**, Hilo, HI 2023
6. **Dyer Observatory (Invited)**, Nashville, TN 2023
5. **American Astronomical Society 242**, Albuquerque, NM 2023
4. **American Astronomical Society 241**, Seattle, WA 2023
3. **American Astronomical Society 240**, Pasadena, CA 2022
2. **Future Focus 2 (Invited)**, Honolulu, HI 2017
1. **South East Physics Network Expo**, London, UK 2014

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Most Outstanding Student Publication Award**, Vanderbilt University 2025
- Invitation to Participate in the 73rd Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting**, Lindau 2024
- Runner-Up Award: History of Physics Essay Contest**, American Physical Society 2023
- Chambliss Award Honorable Mention**, AAS Summer Meeting 2023
- FAMOUS Award**, AAS Summer Meeting 2023
- Top Prize in Physics and Astronomy Poster Presentation**, Sigma Xi Showcase 2022
- Dai Ho Chun Award**, University of Hawai'i Foundation 2018
- Top 10 Undergraduate Women of the Year Award**, Rolls Royce 2015
- University of Hertfordshire Volunteer Award**, University of Hertfordshire 2015

GRANTS AND FUNDING

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| NISE Fellowship (PhD Fellowship) Frist Center for Autism and Innovation | 2021 — 2025 |
| Frist Center (\$2,000) AAS Pre-Conference Workshop Support | 2023/24 |
| AAS Board of Directors (\$1,000) AAS Pre-Conference Workshop Support | 2023 |
| FAMOUS Travel Grant (\$1,000) American Astronomical Society | 2023 |
| Lacy-Fischer Interdisciplinary Research Grant (\$7,500) Vanderbilt University | 2023 |
| Graduate School Travel Grant (2 x \$500) Vanderbilt University | 2021/23 |
| HISTARS Award (\$500, \$1,000) University of Hawai'i | 2018/22 |
| Curb Public Scholars Grant (\$2,000) Curb Center | 2021 |
| Graduate Student Organization Award (2 x \$600) University of Hawai'i | 2017/18 |
| Outreach Grant (\$1,000) Institute of Physics | 2015 |
| Student Union Grant (2 x \$500) University of Hertfordshire | 2015 |

TEACHING & MENTORING

Teaching: * indicates courses taught from original curriculum, + indicates TA or tutor.

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| * Effective Astronomy Presentations , HISTARS Program (HS) | 2024 |
| * Galactic Archaeology , HISTARS Program (HS) | 2023 |
| + Aspie Bootcamp: Python , Frist Center (UG) Program | 2023 |
| * Python for Astronomy , HISTARS Program (HS) | 2022/23/24 |
| * Computational Physics and Astronomy * , University of Hawai'i (UG) | 2021 |
| + ASTRO101 for Student Athletes , Vanderbilt University (UG) | 2021 |
| + ASTRO101 , Honoka'a High School and Manoa Academy (HS) | 2020 |
| * Python Basics , HISTARS Program (HS) | 2018 |

Students Advised: † indicates students who published papers, or presented conference proceedings.

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| Gabriele Baraccos Undergraduate (HOD) | Present |
| Sarah Kane , Graduate (Astrophysics) | Present |
| Maya Nachega , Undergraduate (Pre-med and Bio-Engineering) | Present |
| Rahul Koul , Undergraduate (Human and Organizational Development) | 2024 |
| Briley Porter Undergraduate (HOD & Russian) | 2024 |
| Zilin Dong , Undergraduate (Physics) | 2024 |
| Alex Diefenbach , Undergraduate (Astronomy) | 2023 |
| † Elizabeth Walther , Undergraduate (Economics) | 2023 |
| † Angelu Ramos , Undergraduate (Astronomy & Mathematics) | 2022 |
| Hannah Blue , Undergraduate (Astronomy) | 2021 |
| † Kimberly Miskovetz , Undergraduate (Astronomy) | 2020 |
| † Faith Sullivan , High School | 2018 |
| † Claire Lamman , Undergraduate (Astronomy) | 2017 |
| Other HS students: Xavier Tailbit (2017), Sydney Kim (2018), Julia Cordeiro (2020) | |

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Conference Organization:

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| Planning Committee, Photographer, & Media Coordinator | |
| College Autism Summit, Nashville, TN (<i>Columbus, OH '24</i>) | 2022/23/24 |
| Exhibitor , Stanford Neurodiversity Summit, Virtual (<i>Stanford, CA '24</i>) | 2023/24 |
| Co-organizer , InclYOUsion Summit, India | 2023 |
| Breakout Room Moderator , Microsoft Autism at Work, Virtual | 2021 |
| Volunteer , Extreme Solar Systems III, Kona | 2015 |

Professional Service:

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| Frist Center Liaison to Board , College Autism Network | Present |
| Career Mentoring Fellow , American Physical Society | Present |
| Astronomy Ambassador , American Astronomical Society | Present |
| Reviewer , Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society | 2025 |
| Graduate Student Honors Council , Vanderbilt University | 2024 — 2025 |
| Reviewer , Astronomy & Astrophysics Journal | 2024 |
| Pre-Conference Workshop Organizer , AAS243, New Orleans | 2024 |
| Reviewer , Young Scientist Journal, Vanderbilt | 2024 |
| Chambliss Judge , American Astronomical Society | 2024 |
| Conference Proposal Reviewer , College Autism Summit | 2023 |
| Proposal Review Panel - Executive Secretary , NASA ADAP | 2023 |
| First Cohort of Inaugural Peer Review Workshop , AAS Journals | 2023 |
| Vanderbilt Representative , AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy in STEM, DC | 2023 |
| STEM Ambassador , Institute of Physics | 2013 — 2015 |

DEI Leadership:

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| Podcast Host , AstronomerAND | Present |
| Interviewee , Time Magazine | 2025 |
| APS-IDEAS Group , Vanderbilt University | 2022 |
| Outreach Workshop , University of Hawai'i | 2022 |
| REU and Akamai Group Mentor , Institute for Astronomy | 2018, 2019 |
| IfA Women's Lunch Leader , Institute for Astronomy | 2017 — 2019 |
| Astrophysics Ambassador , University of Hertfordshire | 2013 — 2015 |
| Physics Society Founder and Chairperson , University of Hertfordshire | 2014 |

SELECT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Ongoing

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| Student Mentor , Maunakea Scholars Program, Hilo, HI, | 2016 Onward |
| Co-Facilitator , HISTARS Summer Program, Maui, HI, | 2022 Onward |
| Stage Manager and Coordinator , Astroday, Hilo, HI, | 2020 Onward |

Science Communication

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| Podcast Guest , The Dyslexia Podcast, Virtual | 2025 |
| Science Communicator , Creation Entertainment Regional Star Trek Conventions, US | 2024 |
| Podcast Guest , The Much Much Show, Virtual | 2024 |
| Panel Speaker , Maunakea Wonders, Hilo, HI | 2023 |
| Public Lecture , Dyer Observatory, Nashville, TN | 2023 |
| Podcast Guest , Square Pegs, Virtual | 2023 |
| Podcast Guest , Starts with a Bang, Virtual | 2020 |

Public Outreach - Post-2015

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| Educator , Skype a Scientist, Virtual, | 2020/21 |
| Film Maker and Educator , Manoa Academy & MKO@Home, Virtual, | 2020 |
| Activity Supervisor , He'e Fair, Hilo, HI, | 2019 |
| Activity Supervisor , IfA Open House, Manoa, HI, | 2019 |
| Activity Supervisor , IfA School Visits, Hilo, HI, | 2018/19 |
| Student Mentor , HISTARS Summer Program, Maui, HI, | 2018 |
| Activity Supervisor , Astrobash, Waimea, HI, | 2018 |
| Activity Supervisor , Solar System Walk, Waimea, HI, | 2018/19/20 |
| Judge , Science Fair, Hilo, HI, | 2015/16 |
| Workshop Leader , Onizuka Day, Hilo, HI, | 2015 |
| Activity Supervisor , Astroday, Hilo and Kona, HI, | 2015 — 2020 |

MEMBERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Professional Society Memberships: († Indicates current memberships)

Graduate Student Member: American Astronomical Society †, American Physical Society †, International Society for Autism Research †

Other Members: Sigma Xi † (Full), Royal Astronomical Society (Fellow), Institute of Physics (Student).

Science/Research/Missions Collaborations:

- ND in Space Research Group (PI) †
- APOKASC (APOGEE-Kepler) Group †
- Mount Wilson Red Giants Group †
- Missions: LIFE, UVEX †
- ROMAN RGS-PIT Microlensing †
- Robo-AO Instrument

Communications/DEI Collaborations:

- ND in STEM Research Group (PI) †
- Sonification World Chat †
- Maunakea Scholars Working Group †
- WriteNOW! Vanderbilt Writing Group

SKILLS

Packages Created:

Webtool, FluxCT, 2023. Determines potentially contaminating stars in Kepler/TESS target pixel files.

Web Tool Access: <https://www.jessicastasik.com/flux-contamination-tool>

GitHub repository: <https://github.com/Jesstella/FluxCT>

Telescope Survey Expertise:

- SDSS (APOGEE), Apache Point Obs, NM
- Kepler + K2 (Space)
- TESS (Space)
- Gaia (DR2/DR3) (Space)

Languages and Software:

- Python (vim, emacs, git, GitHub, ReplIt)
- SQL
- Blender, Unreal Engine, Gephi
- Wordpress, GoDaddy, and Wix
- iMovie, Sibalius, Audacity, Adobe Suite et al.
- Intermediate French

Telescope Observation and Reduction:

1. **Gemini, Maunakea:** Reduction software written for stellar data observed on my behalf.
2. **Keck, Maunakea:** ~10 nights using NIRC2 supporting PIs, script written for reduction of data.
3. **UKIRT, Maunakea:** ~300 nights independant observing on sky as Telescope Systems Specialist. Analysis software written for UKIDDS survey for my own work.
4. **Subaru, Maunakea:** Reduction software written for stellar data observed on my behalf by a collaborator, 2 nights on sky observing with HCS supporting PI.
5. **UH88 (Robo-AO), Maunakea:** Analysis scripts written for robotic instrument data.
6. **IRTF, Maunakea:** Reduction written for iSHELL spectroscopic data observed on my behalf.

Skill-Enhancement Workshops (Post-2022):

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| Toast Masters by Speechcrafters , International | Present |
| Equity in Mentoring Workshop , APS & AAS | 2025 |
| Writing Courses , Future Faculty | 2022/23 |
| An Introduction to Network Analysis , Vanderbilt University | 2023 |
| Ground and Space Telescopes in the Big Surveys Era , AAS 242 | 2023 |
| Sigma Xience , Sigma Xi | 2023 |
| Blender Course , Vanderbilt University | 2023 |
| Supporting Your Introductory Astronomy Courses , AAS 241 | 2023 |
| American Physical Society Science Trust Workshop , APS | 2022 |
| How to Give Effective Presentations , AAS 240 | 2022 |
| Effective Astronomy Visualizations , AAS 240 | 2022 |
| ComSciCon ATL , Vitual | 2022 |
| AAS Astronomy Ambassadors Workshop , Virtual | 2022 |
| INSAR Institute Series: Autism and Intersectionality , Virtual | 2021 |
| NISE Seminar: Affective Computing , Frist Center for Autism and Innovation | 2021 |