Astronomy Educator Profiles

Alexis Ann Acohido is a Telescope Operator at the Canada-France-Hawai‘i Telescope. Prior to this, she has held positions as a Telescope Systems Specialist at the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope/East Asian Observatory and a Media Relations and Local Outreach Assistant at Gemini Observatory. She graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in 2015, where she obtained a Bachelor’s of Science in Mathematics. She was born and raised on O‘ahu and moved to Honoka‘a on the Big Island shortly after her college graduation. In 2013 she was part of the Akamai Workforce Initiative program and interned at the Institute for Astronomy on Maui where she worked on parallax ranging methods for point source objects. Her back catalog of video games to play and novels to read are extensive and ever growing.

Virginia Aragon-Barnes had a passion for science and a natural curiosity about how and why things worked from a very early age. After a few earthquakes and a one-day lesson on volcanoes in a junior high physical science course she was hooked on Geology. She moved to Hawai‘i to pursue and successfully obtain a Bachelor’s in Geology at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree. Since graduation, her career has taken her to workplaces such as the active lava flows of Kilauea, the beautiful summits of Mauna kea and Mauna loa and the lush native forests cared for and protected by our state. Currently, Virginia is the Environmental, Health and Safety Manager for the Canada-France-Hawai‘i Telescope. Virginia continues to pursue her personal commitment of inspiring Hawai‘i’s keiki to become future scientists through educational outreach.
**Christoph Baranec** is an assistant astronomer at the Institute for Astronomy. He designs, builds and uses adaptive optics systems — instruments that overcome the blurring effects of the Earth’s atmosphere. Baranec won an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in 2014 and the UH Board of Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research in 2017 for leading the development of the world’s first automated adaptive optic system, Robo-AO. Observations from this system appear in nearly 40 scientific publications. These include several adaptive optics surveys with the most numerous observations ever performed, including all of the several thousands of Kepler candidate exoplanet hosts and all known stars within 80 light years, observable from the northern hemisphere. Baranec currently leads the effort to deploy an upgraded version of Robo-AO to the University of Hawai‘i 2.2-meter telescope which will achieve resolutions approaching that of the Hubble Space Telescope.

**Dana Backman** is currently the Principal Investigator of NASA's Astronomy Activation Ambassadors program. He got his B.Sc. in physics from MIT, Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Hawai‘i, and was an Infrared astronomy post-doctoral researcher at Kitt Peak National Observatory and at NASA's Ames Research Center. He also had been a professor of physics and astronomy for 12 years at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was employed by the SETI Institute as director of education and public outreach for NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) at NASA-Ames from 2003 to 2016. He has taught courses on introductory astronomy at Santa Clara University and on global climate change in Stanford University's Continuing Studies Program and is a co-author with Michael Seeds of three college introductory astronomy textbooks: "Horizons", “Foundations”, and “ASTRO”.

**Tishanna Bailey Ben** is the Hawai‘i Community Outreach and Education Programs Leader for the National Solar Observatory (NSO). She graduated from the University of Hawai‘i with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in cell and molecular biology and a Master of Science (M.S.) in tropical conservation biology and environmental science. Prior to her position at NSO, she worked as a laboratory technician and graduate researcher with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH). She also taught middle and high school science courses at Ka‘u High and Pahala Elementary School on the Big Island.
**Vanshree Bhalotia** is an artist and Astrophysics Ph.D. student studying supernovae and starquakes at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is an American Physical Society Bridge fellow and an American Astronomical Society Astronomy Ambassador. Vanshree is passionate about helping everyone feel connected to the sky that we share, with over 9 years of experience in communicating astronomy to the public at schools, assisted living facilities, colleges, pubs and planetaria. Most recently, Vanshree has been mesmerized by the power of art and vulnerability in communicating the intricacies of science to audiences of every skill level. She is interested in continuing to do so by co-creating dance performances, visual art, sharing perspectives on her radio podcast, and ensuring audiences have ample opportunities to tap into their deeply infinite creative insights. When she's not looking for explosions light years away or analyzing ancient rays of light with relatively ancient chunks of computer code, Vanshree enjoys collecting tiny paper umbrellas, taking blurry pictures of her neighbourhood birds, mistaking planes for shooting stars and overanalyzing her fortune cookie predictions.

**Sharmila Bhattacharya** is the Senior Program Scientist for Space Biology in the Biological and Physical Science Division at NASA Headquarters. Prior to joining NASA headquarters, Dr. Bhattacharya served a one-year term as the Space Policy Advisor to the US Senate Committee for Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Sharmila has been a Principal Investigator and senior scientist at NASA conducting scientific research on the space shuttle, the International Space Station, and small satellites journeying beyond low Earth orbit. In addition to her research, she has helped develop and test biological habitats and managed science payloads for spaceflight missions on multiple platforms, including the shuttle, Progress, commercial rockets, and autonomous satellites since 1999. Dr. Bhattacharya has received numerous awards, such as the Top-Flight and Nova awards from Lockheed Martin, and awards for Superior Accomplishment, Honor Award, Technology Transfer, and the Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal from NASA.

Before joining NASA, Sharmila Bhattacharya conducted her post-doctoral research work in Neurobiology at Stanford University and earned her Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology at Princeton University. She received her BA degree in Biological Chemistry from Wellesley College. Her research interests at NASA have focused on the effects of altered gravity and radiation on biological systems.
Jerry Brower is the self proclaimed "Information Systems guy to the stars!" (literally the stars) He has over 30 years in the information technology field, including designing data centers, cyber security, and many industry certifications from Microsoft, Cisco, Comp TIA, SANS, and others. As a security consultant, he performed audits/penetration testing on financial institutions and performed independent security research. When not on the computer at work, he can often be found in such cyber places as Tatooine, Azeroth, or Jita in The Forge.

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Christopher Brownewell is a Technical Associate at Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO). His “day job” is keeping the large telescopes and observatories on Kitt Peak operational, in particular the 4 Meter Mayall Telescope and the 3.5 Meter WIYN Telescopes with their Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument and the NEID Spectrometer. On his days and nights off, he operates two remote control observatories at his home in New Mexico.

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André-Nicolas Chené is an assistant scientist at the Gemini North Observatory since early 2013. He obtained his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the Université de Montréal in 2007. He then moved across his home country ("A Mari Usque Ad Mare") to become a research associate for the National Research Council Canada at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics from 2007 to 2010. From 2010 to 2013, he held a joint postdoctoral position between the Universidad de Concepción and the Universidad de Valparaiso, in Chile, and joined the science team of the VISTA Variable in Via Lactea survey. His main scientific interests are massive stars and young stellar open clusters. His expertise covers optical and near infrared imaging and spectroscopy. Two things he enjoys a lot since he moved to Hawai‘i are long observing runs at Mauna Kea, and his daily bike ride to work up and down Puainako St.

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Devin Chu was raised in Hilo, Hawaii and graduated from Hilo High School in 2010. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College in Physics and Astronomy in 2014 and Ph.D in Astronomy and Astrophysics from UCLA in 2020. He is currently a Keck All-sky Precision Adaptive optics (KAPA) postdoctoral researcher at UCLA working with Professors Andrea Ghez and Tuan Do. His research involves studying the orbits of stars around the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way. Devin was a frequent participant in Journey Through the Universe while growing up.

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Coral Clark currently co-manages Education efforts for NASA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors, which includes flight opportunities for teachers aboard the world’s only flying observatory (SOFIA). Previously for NASA, she served as PI and manager of the Education Associates Program (EAP) at NASA Ames, which supported higher education opportunities for over 300 students annually.

Ms. Clark has over 25 years experience in education, including 10 years of middle school science instruction and 20 years in teacher professional development. She has served as Science Teacher-in-Residence at the Exploratorium's Teacher Institute and Director of Education at the Resource Area for Teaching (a hands-on education support and innovation non-profit). She also has contributed to the SETI Institute’s integrated science curriculum, Voyages Through Time, as a science writer. In 2014, Coral contracted with Questacon (Australia's National Science Center) to help launch their SmartSkills Initiative. Ms. Clark feels blessed with opportunities that allow her to continue positively impacting the future through a spectrum of contributions to the field of education.

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Kathy Cooksey is an associate professor in astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She is passionate about teaching and incorporates the best practices from science-education research in her classroom. She cares deeply about diversity and inclusion in the sciences and does what she can to increase both. She researches the large-scale gaseous structure in the universe to understand how various elements cycle in and out of galaxies, over cosmic time. As for hobbies, she enjoys running and hiking (and crocheting and watching anime, on the sedentary side).

Lars L. Christensen is the Head of Communications, Education & Engagement (CEE) at NSF’s NOIRLab. He received a Master’s degree in physics and astronomy from the University of Copenhagen, and is an award-winning astronomer and science communicator. He has 200 publications to his credit, most of them in popular science communication and its theory, and has authored and co-authored a dozen popular books. Lars directed more than ten documentaries and planetarium movies that have received critical acclaim around the world. He is a press officer for the International Astronomical Union and received the Tycho Brahe Medal for his achievements in science communication.

Brian Day is the Lead for Lunar and Planetary Mapping and Modeling at NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI). He is SSERVI’s project manager for NASA’s Solar System Treks Project (http://trek.nasa.gov), a set of online data visualization and analysis portals designed for mission planning, lunar science, and public outreach. From 2010-2014, Brian served as the Education/Public Outreach Lead for NASA’s Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) mission to the Moon, which flew through and studied the Moon’s tenuous atmosphere. From 2007-2010 he served as the E/PO Lead for NASA’s LCROSS lunar impactor mission which discovered deposits of water ice at the Moon’s South Pole. In 2007 he flew on NASA’s Aurigid MAC mission to study fragments of Comet Kiess burning up in Earth’s upper atmosphere.
Jerry Dobek is Professor of Astronomy and Head of the Sciences Department at Northwestern Michigan College. He has been involved in E/PO for more than 30 years and is the Site Co-ordinator for Project ASTRO and Project Family ASTRO in Michigan. Jerry’s research interests are in small amplitude red variable stars and dark nebulous material in the Milky Way. In 2011 he republished Edward Emerson Barnard’s treatise “A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way”. Jerry has been a Solar System Ambassador with NASA/JPL since 2002 and is a founding member of the International Dark-Sky Association.

Xinnan Du is the Outreach and Engagement Manager at the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (KIPAC) at Stanford University. She got her PhD in astronomy in 2018 from UCLA, and her research focuses on the physical properties of the interstellar and circumgalactic gas in distant star-forming galaxies. Xinnan is very enthusiastic about K-12 STEM outreach and inquiry-based teaching, and she has a long-term career goal in informal science education. Having led various in-person and virtual outreach initiatives and created numerous active-learning curricula, Xinnan hopes to inspire the younger generation in STEM through authentic, hands-on experience.

Angelica Ebbers is a Senior Software Engineer for Gemini Observatory. She is part of the Software Operations group as well as a Telescope Technical Manager. Angelic specializes in motion control systems, EPICS real-time development, and troubleshooting. Angelic earned a B.Sc. from York University in the Space and Communications Sciences stream, with Honors in Computer Science and Physics, plus a minor in Astronomy. Prior to joining Gemini, Angelic worked for The Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics as well as the University of Toronto Southern Observatory in Chile. Outside of work, Angelic can be found training/competing in Dog Agility, scuba diving, or reading a good science fiction book.
Scott Fisher is a faculty member in the University of Oregon Department of Physics where he teaches introductory-level astronomy courses, runs an astronomical observatory, and serves as the Director for Undergraduate Studies. Scott previously worked at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC where he was responsible for selecting and funding astronomy programs across the United States. Before his time in Washington, Scott was based in Hilo, Hawaii where he worked as a staff scientist of the Gemini Observatory. At Gemini, he worked as an instrument scientist and as a member of the Gemini Outreach team. Scott's main areas of research are searching for and studying planet-forming disks around young stars and more recently, the evolution of galaxy clusters at high redshift. In addition to his love of astronomy, Scott is an amateur photographer and a Geocacher. When he is not observing, he can often be found in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, or anywhere with a nightlife full of bright neon lights, poker cards, and casino chips.

Miriam (Mimi) Fuchs was a Telescope Systems Specialist for East Asian Observatory's James Clerk Maxwell Telescope on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. She received her B.S. in Astrophysics from Haverford College in 2013. Mimi has worked in both telescope operations and public outreach for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Submillimeter Array, as well as in informal science education at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and the North Carolina Museum of Science. She received her dual MS in Systems and Environmental Engineering from Drexel University and currently works at a renewable energy start up. In her free time, she likes to spend her time singing karaoke with friends and weaving palm fronds.

Abhimat Gautam is a Keck All-sky Precision Adaptive optics (KAPA) postdoctoral researcher working at the UCLA Galactic Center Group. His research studies the stars living at the center of the Galaxy and the dynamical environment around the supermassive black hole at its center.
**Tom Geballe** obtained a PhD in physics in 1974 under Prof. Charles Townes at U.C. Berkeley. Following postdoctoral fellowships at Berkeley and Leiden, and a Carnegie Fellowship at Hale Observatories in Pasadena, he became a staff astronomer at the United Kingdom Infrared Telescope in 1981. He was Astronomer-in-charge, Associate Director, and Head of Operations at UKIRT from 1987 until 1998, when he joined Gemini. Among his research interests are the Galactic center, the late stages of stellar evolution, H3+ as a probe of interstellar gas, the composition of interstellar dust, the surfaces, atmospheres, and aurorae of planets and moons, and brown dwarfs.

**Jeff Goldstein** is a nationally recognized science educator and planetary scientist who has dedicated his career to the public understanding of science and the joys of learning. As Center Director for the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, Jeff oversees the creation and delivery of programs that engage entire communities, train 3,000 teachers annually, and emphasize family learning. He led the inter-organization team that permanently installed the Voyage model Solar System on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in front of the Smithsonian. The Voyage National Program is permanently installing low-cost replicas in 100 communities world-wide. Jeff also oversees the Student Spacelight Experiments Program (SSEP) that provides real research opportunities for pre-college students on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. Jeff was the Keynote Speakers for the NSTA National Conference in San Francisco, California, in March 2011. Jeff was at the National Air and Space Museum for 8 years, departing in 1996 as acting Chair of the Lab for Astrophysics. He was on the senior staff at Challenger Center from 1996-2005. In 2005 he created the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education. Visit Jeff’s website at [http://blogontheuniverse.org](http://blogontheuniverse.org).

**Olivier Guyon** is an astronomer at the Subaru Telescope. He started looking at stars from the age of 10, and he is now both an avid amateur astronomer and a professional astronomer. Olivier graduated from University of Paris 6 in 2002 (Ph.D. research topic: wide field interferometry), and now works with other scientists to directly observe exoplanets. Olivier has been developing new techniques for imaging exoplanets (planets around other stars) from telescopes on Earth and also future telescopes in space. With these new techniques, astronomers will soon be able to observe planets like ours and start to find out if there is life elsewhere in the Universe. In 2007, Olivier received a Presidential Early Career for Scientists and Engineers award from President Bush at the White House. Olivier received in 2012 the MacArthur fellowship (nicknamed the "Genius grant") for his innovative work in astronomical optics. In his spare time, he builds telescopes which
Janice Harvey retired after being the NOIRLab Education and Engagement Manager in Hawai‘i and serving as the director of the nationally recognized Journey through the Universe Program on the Big Island for 18 years. Janice was the National Team Site Leader for the Family Astro/Project Astro program in Hawai‘i and served as the StarLab Portable Planetarium instructor and trainer. In 2010 she was awarded the Outstanding Individual in Business award by the Rotary Club of Hilo. She was a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the International Planetarium Society, and the National Science Teachers Association. Janice has a BS in mathematics and went back for her associate degree in astronomy in 2000 at UHH. She has lived on the Big Island for 50 years and prior to joining Gemini Observatory worked as the Mayor’s Executive Assistant, owned and operated Sylvan Learning Centers and three travel agencies in Hawaii. Janice's passion is bringing science and astronomy into the local classrooms and assisting with the Journey through the Universe program for years to come!

Saeko S. Hayashi is an associate professor with the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, having been working mostly outside of Japan. She grew up in a rural part of Japan. Then boldly went on to attend the University of Tokyo as one of the few women in STEM majors. After receiving her doctorate in astronomy, she worked at the 15-m James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawai‘i and then joined the 8.3-m Subaru Telescope project. She dealt with the large optics fabrication, shaping, and coating. Other efforts involved connecting different groups, such as the day crews and engineers, or the observatory and broader community. She hopes to find the Earth-like exoplanets that have oceans and vegetation, practically Hilo 2.0. She says, “Subaru Telescope is blessed with people from the local community as well as from all over the world who are working together side by side, as the ancient Japanese word Subaru stands for, namely, come together or gather. After being in Hilo for almost two decades, Saeko joined yet another mirror fabrication work and is currently based in Pasadena, California. [Photo: Saeko measuring the reflectivity of the primary mirror of the Subaru Telescope]
Stephanie W. Henry serves as a Communications Strategist with Media Fusion at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. Stephanie’s duties include external communications for the Planetary Missions Program at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. Stephanie assists in developing communication products and materials for the programs. She visits schools, museums, and community organizations to excite students and teachers about NASA’s mission and encourages the students to study science, technology, engineering, and math. Stephanie is a graduate of the University of North Alabama where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish/Political Science and a Master of Arts in Community Counseling. Stephanie also attended Belmont University in Nashville, TN where she earned her teacher certification for kindergarten through eighth grade. Stephanie has been at NASA for the past 15 years. Stephanie is a native of Tupelo, MS and has lived in the Huntsville, AL area for the past 17 years. She is married and has a new grandchild. Stephanie enjoys traveling, shopping, and spending time with her family in her spare time.

Ardis Herrold is the Education Specialist for Vera C. Rubin Observatory. She designs and tests classroom investigations and teacher support materials that will make use of Rubin data once it becomes available. Ardis has a Geology degree from the University of Michigan and still enjoys collecting rocks. Prior to joining Rubin Observatory, Ardis taught physical, Earth and space sciences, worked in various planetariums, and managed night labs and observing nights at the high school and college level. A lifelong amateur astronomer, Ardis has a personal observatory near Tucson, AZ, where she images deep sky objects, comets and supernovae. She also loves hiking, biking, and playing drums and guitar.

Matt Hosek is a Postdoctoral Scholar at UCLA, where he works with the Galactic Center Group to study the supermassive black hole and surrounding stellar populations at the center of our galaxy. He received his PhD in 2018 at the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he studied the properties of star clusters near the Galactic Center. His current research examines how these clusters formed and how their stellar populations have been impacted by the Galactic Center environment. He also works on measuring the precise motion of stars near the Galactic Center in order to understand their orbits and interactions with the supermassive black hole. Interested in astronomy from a young age, he is excited for the opportunity to share his enthusiasm through education and outreach. Outside of astronomy, he is a huge football fan and enjoys hiking and playing board games.
Solveig Irvine is a Mission Manager for the Planetary Missions Program Office at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. She is responsible for the OSIRIS-REx Mission, the OSIRIS-APEX Mission, and the Near-Earth Object (NEO) Surveyor Mission. As a Mission Manager, she oversees her missions to ensure that the science goals, schedules, and budgets of each mission are fully met. Prior to her role as a Mission Manager with NASA, Ms. Irvine worked as a lead engineer on the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS) and the Exploration Upper Stage (EUS) for the NASA Space Launch System (SLS). She has previously worked as a Senior Chemical Engineer and Subject Matter Expert for aviation, aerospace, and marine fuels, including being one of the country’s leading hydrocarbon fuel sulfur research experts. She has helped create several aviation and space vehicle fuel and emission specifications, has authored or co-authored numerous technical papers, and has been a technical reviewer for the Journal of Propulsion and Power. She also was a leading engineer on the US Air Force Alternative Fuel Initiative, and has designed, built, and evaluated several rocket engine cooling channel and injector test rigs.

Ms. Irvine is active in Scouts BSA and the Huntsville Ballet. She and her family enjoy spending their time together by hiking, cooking, and playing with their cats.

Paul Jeffers is a Mechanical Engineer by education / training and experience. He started his career in the UK, after graduating college, training with a gas company before moving into Naval Defense. His first endeavor into the telescope world was as the Telescope work Package Manager for the VISTA project managed by ROE and installed at ESO’s Paranal Observatory. After completion of VISTA he moved to the US as part of the DKIST project team in charge of the Telescope Mount Assembly. Paul has stayed on with DKIST in Maui as the IT&C execution Manager and now as the Deputy Tech Ops Manager.
Russell Kackley holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. He worked for 16 years on spacecraft design and analysis at Lockheed-Martin before moving to Hawai‘i. Here in Hilo, he worked for 11 years at the Joint Astronomy Centre and was responsible for the Telescope Control System software. Since April 2011, he has been working at the Subaru Telescope in the Observation Control Software group. He has mentored several school robotics teams and serves as a judge at robotics competitions.

Carolyn Kaichi is the Education/Outreach Specialist for IfA-Hilo. She has always been fascinated by astronomy, and with a background in news media, it was a perfect fit for her to pursue a career in communicating her love of astronomy and space science. Carolyn was born and educated in Hawai‘i and enjoys working with students and the public. "It is incredibly exciting to see peoples’ eyes light up with wonder when you share the excitement of the Universe with them", she says. Prior positions include: Imaginarium Manager for the Center for Aerospace Studies at Windward Community College, Hawaii State Science Fair Director and Planetarium Manager for Bishop Museum. Carolyn enjoys astronomical observing, travel and has practiced yoga for many years.

Yuko Kakazu joined the Subaru Telescope as an outreach specialist in 2013. She is now the Senior Specialist for TMT - Japan. A native Okinawan, she began her journey into astronomy when she attended the NASA U.S. Space Camp program at age 13. Yuko graduated from Tohoku University in Japan and then obtained her Ph.D. at the Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. Since then she has worked as a researcher in Paris, France (Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris), California (California Institute of Technology), and Chicago (University of Chicago). Her research focuses on metal poor galaxies and distant galaxies with the aim of improving our understanding of galaxy formation and chemical enrichment history of the Universe. At Subaru, Yuko arranges and conducts public outreach events and lectures for the local and the international communities, including Japanese audiences. She is hoping to help fill the gap between scientists and the public and wants to encourage young people, especially women and minorities, to engage in science and technology. When Yuko is not talking about astronomy or playing with her baby galaxies, she enjoys dancing Argentine tango, cooking (as well as eating), listening to piano jazz and classical music, and taking yoga or Zumba class at the gym. She is a certified Zumba fitness instructor.
Scot Kleinman was the Associate Director of Development at Gemini North. He helps developing and bringing to fruition the next generation of Gemini instruments. He joined Gemini from the Subaru Telescope where he served as the Instrument Division Chief. Prior, he served as the Site Science Manager/Deputy Head of Survey Operations for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. He has been the Associate Director of the Whole Earth Telescope and still sits on its board. Scot received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1995. He studies various aspects of white dwarf stars, the longest lived (and final) stage of most stars in the Universe. Scot also works with data from large astronomical surveys which are ushering in a new era of observational astronomy. When not working (when is that?), Scot likes surfing, live music, and maintaining/modifying his car.

Kelly Kosmo O'Neil is a PhD candidate in Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCLA working with Professors Andrea Ghez and Tuan Do. Her research focuses on the orbits of stars around the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. She is interested in what these orbits can tell us about how the Galaxy in which we live has formed and evolved, and about how gravity works around supermassive black holes. Kelly is extremely passionate about teaching, education research, and curriculum development. For several years, she has also served as a coordinator for UCLA’s graduate-student-run early education outreach program, Astronomy Live!. Outside of academia, she enjoys any activity that allows her to appreciate the outdoors, especially ocean swimming, biking, running, and hiking.

Preethi Krishnamoorthy completed her PhD in Astrophysics from India and had worked on the topic 'Interstellar Medium' for her thesis. She is now employed as a postdoctoral scholar at the Subaru Telescope. Her current research is in Project PANOPTES, which is a citizen science project to build and operate robotic telescopes to find transiting exoplanets.
Mary Beth Laychak is the Director of Strategic Communications at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope on the Big Island of Hawaii. She also runs the Maunakea Scholars program, an innovative astronomy outreach program for Hawaii public high school students. Mary Beth has an undergraduate degree in astronomy and astrophysics from Penn State University and a masters degree in educational technology from San Diego State. Her passions include astronomy, sharing astronomy with the public, astronomy based crafts, and running. She lives in Waimea, Hawaii with her husband.

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Brian C. Lemaux is a scientist at the Gemini North International Observatory. He is part of the science operations staff, a position that includes helping to prepare and support astronomical observations for scientists from all over the world, observing on the telescope, helping to maintain and upgrade instruments, and conducting astronomical research. His research focuses on finding and characterizing some of the first galaxies formed in the universe and understanding the relationship between the evolution of galaxies and their environment. Prior to arriving at Gemini in 2021, Brian was a researcher at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille in the south of France and at the University of California, Davis working with observations from many large ground- and space-based telescopes. Among other outreach activities, Brian is involved with Shadow the Scientists, a University of California, Santa Cruz based initiative focused on bringing anyone with curiosity and an Internet connection inside the observing room of large telescopes to watch and interact with world class scientists as they are performing astronomical observations. When he is not doing astronomy things, Brian spends most of his time watching or playing baseball, hiking, backpacking, brewing, reading, traveling, swimming, or trying to get in a nap before his two-month-old wakes up.

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Dr. Fengchuan Liu is the project manager of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), where he leads the observatory design and development. He was the deputy project manager from 2015 to 2020. He is currently based in Hilo on Hawaii Island.

Dr. Liu has played an integral role in managing the international partnership’s design and production of TMT’s many parts, systems and instruments that will allow astronomers to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity. In recent months, Dr. Liu has also focused on TMT’s renewed effort to meaningfully connect with the Hawaii community through one-on-one conversations and other outreach.

Dr. Liu completed his bachelor’s degree in China, and received his master’s and doctorate degrees, both in Physics, from the Univ. of Washington. After conducting post-doc research at the UC Santa Barbara, he had a 20-year career at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, managing development of space missions including space telescope, space radar, and science instruments on the Space shuttle and on the International Space Station. He has received numerous awards, including the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, and JPL Magellan Award.

Dr. Lotz received her PhD in astrophysics from Johns Hopkins University in 2003. Prior to her appointment at Gemini, she held a tenured associate astronomer position at STScI and a joint appointment as a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University. Previously, she was a Leo Goldberg Fellow at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, and a postdoctoral fellow at U.C. Santa Cruz. She is a leading expert in the field of galaxy mergers, and makes use of both ground-based and space telescopes to track the growth of galaxies over cosmic time.
**Dr. Julien Lozi** is a senior optical scientist at Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. Born in France in 1985, he was introduced to astronomy at the age of 10 and has been avidly pursuing this subject ever since. A 6-month internship at Subaru Telescope in 2008 first introduced him to Hawai‘i, before he went back to France to study for his PhD in instrumentation for Astronomy. After earning his doctorate from Université Paris-Sud XI in 2012, Lozi worked in Silicon Valley for two years at the NASA Ames Research Center, to work on space telescopes that can look at extrasolar environments. In 2014, he returned to Hilo to accept his “dream job” at Subaru Telescope, where he is currently working on SCEXAO, a first generation high contrast imaging instrument dedicated to the direct observation and characterization of exoplanets.

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As of 2022, **Leinani Lozi** is the Hawai‘i Community Outreach Specialist for the Thirty Meter Telescope Project, Outreach Coordinator for ‘Ohana Kilo Hōkū, and cultural advisor to the International Lunar Observatory Association Hawai‘i. She was born and raised on the island of O‘ahu and has lived in Hilo since 2013 where she graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. She leads educational and cultural programs for various audiences and venues including ‘Ohana Stargazing and Journey Through the Universe. Lozi incorporates Hawaiian language and culture in all of her engagement materials. She has worked in astronomy outreach since 2015 at the international Gemini Observatory, ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i, and the Maunakea Visitor Information Station where she’s gained insight into the mo‘olelo and ecosystem of Maunakea. Lozi is a part of Hālau Leimanu under the direction of Leilehua Yuen and volunteers regularly on Hawai‘i Island including planting trees on Maunakea, removing invasive plant species from the Volcanoes National Park and caring for Lili‘uokalani Park and Gardens.

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**Nadine Manset** has been a resident astronomer at CFHT since 1999, right after finishing her PhD thesis at Universite de Montreal. Over the years, she has helped astronomers observe in classical mode at CFHT, with spectrographs and imagers. Now in charge of the Queued Service Observing mode, she prepares observations for CFHT’s spectropolarimeter and oversees the nightly observations taken with the various instruments. In addition to chairing the Maunakea Astronomy Outreach Committee, Nadine participates to public outreach events a few times every year.

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**Clara Martínez-Vázquez** is a Science Fellow at Gemini International Observatory in Hawai‘i since 2021 where she is part of the science operation team helping with user support, night observing, and optical & infrared instrument check-outs. She obtained her Ph.D. in 2016 at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and Universidad de La Laguna (Tenerife, Spain). Afterwards, she held a postdoctoral fellowship at INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna (Italy) to study the potential of multi-conjugate adaptive optics. She then moved to Chile until 2021 where she was a Science Fellow at Cerro Tololo Observatory (CTIO) and a member of the Dark Energy Camera scientific support team. While in Chile, she also participated in the Spanish version of Journey through the Universe (Viaje al Universo). Clara’s research focuses on the study of the resolved stellar population in nearby galaxies, mainly using pulsating variable stars, in different environments, and on the study of very faint systems to understand the formation and evolution of our Galaxy and other smaller galaxies in the Local Group. She enjoys the peaceful landscapes of the Big Island and its astonishing skies.

**Callie Matulonis** is currently the Telescope System and Outreach Program Specialist at the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope. Callie graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa in the Spring of 2012 with a Master’s degree in Educational Technology. For her undergraduate studies, she double majored in Communications and Natural Science while also completing a minor in Astronomy at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. Callie has worked for several Maunakea observatories over the past 17 years fulfilling a variety of positions including public outreach, laser operations, and telescope operations.

**Natalia McCarthy**
International Gemini Observatory/NSF’s NOIRLab
Peter D. Michaud, NOIRLab’s Education and Engagement Manager, has pursued a career that has provided a broad set of experiences in education, media relations and photography. These have ranged from the initiation and management of many informal science education programs to the authoring of a monthly newspaper column on astronomy. Prior to moving to Honolulu in 1989 to manage the Bishop Museum Planetarium, Peter obtained his Bachelor’s Degree in Atmospheric Physics and certification in Physical Science Education in 1985. This led to his selection for the highly competitive annual planetarium education internship at the Strasenburg Planetarium in Rochester N.Y. in 1985 - 86. During almost a decade at the Bishop Museum Planetarium, Peter worked closely with local educators as well as the Maunakea astronomical community and initiated many new projects that included a NASA-funded project to produce a nationally distributed planetarium program about Maunakea. In June 1998, Peter accepted his current position at the Gemini Observatory in Hilo. Since arriving here, Peter has been involved in a variety of projects that have included the management of multiple outreach, education and media relations initiatives. An example of the innovative products produced by his office is the Gemini Observatory Virtual Tour CD-ROM/Kiosk which is currently being translated into multiple languages and has been installed in a variety of public facilities around the world.

At the NASA Ames Research Center, Joseph Minafra serves as Lead of Technical Systems and Collaborative Technology Specialist for the NASA Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI). Joe has an extremely diverse background that ranges from Meteoritic studies, biology, project management, software development including web design, collaborative technology development to Scientific Illustration and graphic design, even a few years as a professional Chef. With his varied background, Joe has been responsible for a broad set of technical tasks for the NASA Ames Center Director as well as the Space and BioSciences Divisions, Astro and Synthetic Biology workshops just to name a few. Currently, his work is to oversee technology innovation and Robotics education initiatives in order to enable collaboration and communication between competitively selected science and research teams across not only the United States but internationally as well. Joe has a long history of integrating government work with commercial enterprises and bringing that message to the public through the education and public outreach sectors. He is excited to share his NASA experiences with the Journey through the Universe communities! Ad Astra!
Junichi Noumaru is the Associate Professor, Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. He was born in Japan, graduated from Kyoto University, Japan and earned Ph.D in Astronomy. Junichi studied optical property of young stellar objects such as emission nebulæ and Herbig-Haro objects. He also joined instrumentation such as prototyping fiber-fed multi-object spectrograph and control system of the telescope. At National Astronomical Observatory of Japan in Tokyo, he joined the team to design control system and instrument interface of Subaru Telescope. He moved to Hilo in 1996 for Subaru Telescope Project and oversaw progress of construction of Subaru Telescope. After the first light of the telescope, he was in charge of operator’s group and Instrument Division. Currently he is the division chief of Computer and Data Management Division and the Safety Officer of Subaru Telescope.

Brialyn Onodera was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai‘i where she graduated from Kamehameha Schools Kea‘au campus, and her proximity to the telescopes on Maunakea throughout her childhood inspired her to pursue engineering. Brialyn received her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, holds an FE certification, and is currently pursuing her EMBA from the Shidler College of Business. Brialyn works for the Daniel K. Inouye Solar telescope, where she collaborates with her peers to execute various engineering projects and analyzes data in support of telescope operations. One of Brialyn’s greatest passions is supporting the visibility and presence of kama‘āina within STEM projects in Hawai‘i. In her free time she enjoys traveling, yoga, and concerts.

Harriet Parsons is the Senior Support Astronomer for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT). Her day-to-day job varies widely. She assists visiting astronomers obtain high quality astronomical data. She assists in monitoring instrument performance, and is the acting head of operations. When she has time, her research focuses on cold dense clouds (made of gas and dust) within our own Milky Way galaxy looking at where massive stars may be forming. These stars are more than eight times the mass of our sun and end violently in supernovae; however the way they form is shrouded in mystery (well, OK, dust!). Using the JCMT astronomers can “see” through the dust helping to unlock the secrets of these clouds. Away from astronomy she enjoys paddling with Puna Canoe Club, hiking and spending time with her hanai nieces and nephews.
**Emily Peavy** is an astronomy educator and the Senior Planetarium Educator and Technician at ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center. A UH Hilo Astronomy program Alum, Emily completed a Master’s in Education focusing on the presentation of astronomy concepts in the planetarium. She could talk all day everyday about the fascinating universe that we all live in.

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‘Imiloa Astronomy Center  
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**Shelly Pelfrey** is the Outreach Coordinator for W. M. Keck Observatory and provides administrative support to multiple departments at Keck. She also manages the Observatory’s Kalihiao Program, which offers Keck employees resources for learning about Hawaii’s culture, history, and place. During the pandemic, she has become a proficient Zoom administrator, running international meetings of up to 500 participants. Shelly has a degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from UH Hilo and is a proud alum of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Campus. In her free time, crafts shell jewelry exclusively collected from Waiakea Bay, and is the chief cook and dishwasher for her husband and two cats in Waikoloa.

Shelly Pelfrey  
W.M. Keck Observatory

**Andreea Petric** is the Institute for Astronomy's, UH resident astronomer at CFHT. She has received her PhD from Columbia University with a thesis on X-ray scattering halos and was a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech working on IR and millimeter observations of interacting galaxies and galaxies hosting growing supermassive black holes. Her current research focuses on optical and near-IR observations of the impact growing black holes have on the interstellar medium of their host galaxies and the fate of molecular gas in merging galaxies. She has been a mentor for the Maunakea scholars program since its inception. A. Petric taught Galaxies and Cosmology, Quantum Mechanics at UH Hilo, and is currently teaching a seminar on the Co-evolution of Supermassive Black Holes and Host Galaxies at UH Manoa. She also makes regular classroom visits both on the Big Island and Oahu.

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Christopher Phillips is the Engagement and Education Manager in Hawai‘i, for NSF’s NOIRLab. Christopher has an extensive background in science communication, and astronomical research. Previous to his appointment at NOIRLab, Christopher was a research scientist at the University of Washington, where he supported the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), the Bright Transient Survey (BTS), and the DECam Deep Drilling Survey. Christopher’s research interests lie in the time domain, and he can often be found using different meter class telescopes around the world to find things that go bump in the night, such as extragalactic supernovae, cataclysmic variable stars, and transiting exoplanets. When he is not staying awake all night observing, Christopher likes to revisit his restaurant industry days by cooking French Bistro fare, and brewing dark beers with an astronomical theme. He also enjoys hiking, painting, and his vast library of video games.

Joy Pollard is a Multimedia Graphic Designer, Photographer, and Tour Guide/Coordinator at NOIRLab’s international Gemini Observatory. She started at Gemini in November of 2008, where she grew from an entry level/internship position to a full time graphic designer. Joy graduated with a BA in Natural Sciences from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in 1999. Before finding her home in Astronomy, she toured the US as the technical director and sound engineer for two different Children’s theatre musicals (an adaptation of “Sleeping Beauty” and “Addy, An American Girl Story”). In 2006 Joy was the first planetarium technician and presenter at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, bridging her love of the arts and science. Now she uses her skills as a graphic designer to share the wonders of the universe with her local community and beyond.

Tae-Soo Pyo is an Assistant Professor at the Subaru Telescope. His research focuses on star and planet formation, especially outflows and jets from young stellar objects. He has been working at Subaru Telescope since 2000 December. He was a Support Astronomer engaging in management and night support of InfraRed Camera and Spectrograph (IRCS) and Adaptive optics system (AO188) and other instruments. He got Bachelor and Master degrees in Astronomy from Seoul National University at Seoul in South Korea in 1992 and a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Tokyo at Tokyo in Japan in 2003. Tae-Soo loves Ukulele and various music including heavy metal and reading books.
Bo Reipurth graduated from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. After spending some years as a postdoc there, he took up a position as staff astronomer with the European Southern Observatory in Chile for 11 years. Subsequently, he worked at CASA in Colorado as a Research Professor, and later joined the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii in Manoa in order to pursue studies of star and planet formation. "One of my first astronomical experiences as a small kid was to see the craters of the Moon and the rings of Saturn through the telescope at the public observatory on top of the Round Tower in Copenhagen. After that I was never in doubt that I had to become an astronomer. Conditions in Copenhagen were already in those days not ideal for looking at the night sky, but instead I spent innumerable hours with my small telescope drawing sunspots as they crossed the Sun. I took out a subscription to Sky and Telescope, which I then painstakingly read through with the help of a dictionary. One day I read an article about small mysterious blobs called Herbig-Haro objects which might be signposts of stars in the making. I was completely captivated by the possibility that we might actually be able to see stars in the process of being born, and I have spent most of my professional career trying to learn about how stars are formed."

Laurie Rousseau-Nepton obtained her PhD in Astronomy in 2017. She received the FRQNT fellowship the same year to conduct research at the University of Hawaii in Hilo. Originally from Quebec, she is the first Woman from the First Nation of Canada to get a PhD in Astronomy. She is currently a support Astronomer at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and Instrument Scientist for the SITELLE, a Fourier Transform integral field Spectrograph. Her research focuses on newly formed stars in nearby galaxies, especially young and massive stars. Aside from work, she likes hunting, paddling, hiking, and running!

Julien Rousselle is an instrument engineer at the Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. He earned a Master degree in Astrophysics and space sciences and later a Ph.D in Astrophysics and instrumentation from the University of Toulouse, France. He went on to work for 6 years in the Very-High Energy Astrophysics lab at UCLA in California to develop a new kind of Cherenkov telescope, and build a first prototype at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory in Arizona. In 2017 Julien Rousselle moved to Hawaii with his family to work on Subaru's new major instrument; the Prime Focus Spectrograph, which is currently being installed on the telescope.
Tom Schad is an Associate Astronomer at the National Solar Observatory (NSO) and Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) located on Maui. Tom earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 2007. From there, he moved to Tucson, Arizona, where he completed his PhD at the University of Arizona on advanced methods to measure the magnetic field properties of the solar chromosphere and corona. In 2013, Tom moved to Maui to be the instrument scientist for one of the DKIST first light instruments being built by the University of Hawaii, and in 2015, he joined the NSO and DKIST as a scientist focused on DKIST instrumentation, operations, and coronal physics. When not working on the Sun, he enjoys spending time with his wife Molly and chasing around their two kids, Daniel and Heidi.

Justine Schaen is the astronomy education specialist for NSF’s NOIRLab. Her background is in earth science and education. Justine earned her Masters of Science in Science Education from Montana State University in 2016. She has been a middle school science teacher for 10 years and served as a practicum teacher for college students interested in science education. She has many years of experience coaching high school athletics along with leading Science Olympiad and Destination Imagination teams.

Doug Simons received his Bachelor of Science degree in astronomy at the California Institute of Technology in 1985, and his Ph.D. in astronomy at the University of Hawai‘i Institute for Astronomy in 1990, before working as a staff astronomer at the Canada-France-Hawai‘i Telescope (CFHT) for 4 years. Doug joined the Gemini 8 m Telescope Project in 1994 as the Systems Scientist, then as the Associate Director for Development managed Gemini’s instrumentation program for many years before becoming Gemini Observatory’s Director from 2006-2011. Doug returned to CFHT in 2012 where he served as Executive Director for nearly 10 years. In 2021 he returned to his alma mater where he now serves as Director of the UH Institute for Astronomy. Doug has served on numerous community boards. Currently he is on the Board of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce and is President of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce. He is an avid supporter of education and community outreach and has helped develop a
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number of programs including EnVision Maunakea, Maunakea Fund, Maunakea Scholars, and A Hua He Inoa.

Rob Sparks is in the Communications, Education and Engagement group at NSF’s NOIRLab. He earned his B.A. in Physics from Grinnell College and M.S. in Physics from Michigan State University. He has a long career in education which includes teaching at the Good Hope School on St. Croix, Saint Stepehen’s Episcopal School in Bradenton, Florida, Manatee Community College in Bradent, Florida and the Prairie School in Racine, Wisconsin. He received the Fermilab Teacher Fellowship where he spent a year working on the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. He spent a summer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory as part of the Research Experience For Teachers program. At night he is frequently onstage at Unscrewed Theater in Tucson and performing cabaret style musical revues with One Rehearsal Short. He can frequently be found running on the trails of Tucson.

Marianne Takamiya is a professor of Astronomy at UH Hilo where she teaches General Physics, General Astronomy, and Stellar Astronomy. Dr. Takamiya obtained her B.Sc. in Physics and M.Sc. in Astronomy from the Universidad de Chile and her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from The University of Chicago. Her research explores the star-forming regions in nearby and distant galaxies to tease out one aspect in the evolution of galaxies.

Ichi Tanaka is a Japanese astronomer working at Subaru Telescope. He was born and raised in Niigata Prefecture, Japan. The beautiful night sky in his hometown has made him a big fan of stars and constellations since his elementary school days. But the TV series "COSMOS" by Carl Sagan, as well as the astronomy books by Akira Fujii, has fixed Ichi’s strong interest in Science and Astronomy. After getting his Bachelor’s degree from the Niigata University, Ichi enjoyed teaching at a public high school as a full-time Science teacher. Then his passion for astronomy led him to move to the graduate school of science, Tohoku University, where he got his PhD in Astronomy in 2000. He moved to Hawaii in 2005 as a support astronomer. Ichi’s scientific interest is in the beauty of galaxies in the universe. His current field of study is in how galaxies grow in their surrounding environments, such as groups and clusters of galaxies, in the young universe. In Hawaii, Ichi lives in Hilo with his wife and 3 kids. In his off-time he enjoys classical music as well as the great nature of Hawaii.
**Alex Tetarenko**
Texas Tech University

Alex Tetarenko is currently a NASA Einstein Fellow at Texas Tech University. Previously, Alex worked as an EAO postdoctoral fellow at the East Asian Observatory’s James Clerk Maxwell Telescope. She completed her MSc and PhD at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Her research focuses on studying relativistic jets launched from black hole systems in our Galaxy. When she is not doing science, Alex is an avid runner and like all good Canadians loves hockey.

**Kumiko Usuda-Sato**
National Optical Astronomy Observatory of Japan

Kumiko Usuda-Sato is a Japanese astronomer. From 1998 to 2013, she had lived in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai‘i and had had extensive outreach activities at Subaru Telescope. She also volunteered at ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i from 2011 to 2013. After working at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) in Tokyo, Japan, for eight years, she returned to Hilo in late August 2021 to work at Subaru Telescope as a public outreach specialist. She is a project coordinator of GALAXY CRUISE, NAOJ’s citizen science project, and engages the general public to classify many galaxies captured by the Subaru Telescope. She also enjoys “touching” the Universe with blind and visually impaired (BVI) people using tactile models of the Subaru Telescope and celestial bodies created with a 3D printer.

**Tomo Usuda**
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Tomo Usuda earned his PhD in Astronomy at the University of Tokyo in 1997. He is an Optical-Infrared astronomer at NAOJ (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan) currently leading NAOJ TMT (Thirty Meter Telescope) project as the Project Manager since 2014. Previously, he was the associate director of Subaru Telescope from 2006 to 2013. He has moved back to Hilo from 2021. His research interests are telescope & science instruments and spectroscopic studies of interstellar medium and star/planet formations.
John Vierra was born and raised in Hilo and graduated from Hilo High School. He joined the United States Air Force after graduation and spent the next 10 years in the US Air Force as a firefighter, earning a degree in Fire Science. He left the Airforce in 1992 to move back home and be close to his family. Upon returning to Hilo he was hired as a firefighter at Pohakuloa Federal Fire Department. He spent 22 years with the Federal Fire Department retiring as an Assistant Fire Chief. During his time at the Fire Department he also worked as a Flight Medic/Rescue Specialist with Priority 1 Air Rescue simultaneously teaching Emergency Medical Responder classes around the island. He has been a CPR instructor since 1989. Since 2008 he has worked with Gemini as a Safety Trainer. In November 2014 he starting working full-time as Gemini’s Safety Manager and ensures the Safety of all Gemini employees at the telescope and base facilities in Hawaii and Chile.

Sebastien Vievard is a French post doctoral fellow working at the Subaru Telescope since March 2018, in the SCExAO team. He returned to the group after his productive visit as an undergraduate student in 2013. As a member of the SCExAO team, his activities revolve around Interferometry, Wavefront Sensing and Hardware maintenance/operation.

Connie Walker has been a Scientist at NOIRLab, for 21 years, creating (with the education team) innovative programs on dark skies education, as well as optics and astronomy programs through inquiry and research to excite teachers and students in STEM, and then sharing these programs via workshops, talks and events all over the globe. She has also been heavily involved with light pollution issues on the ground and now in space (satellite constellations). A cool thing is that the discoverers Levy and Shoemaker named Asteroid 29292 ConnieWalker, for her efforts in education outreach. Inspired from an early age by astronauts landing on the Moon and the original Star Trek series, her curiosity for anything astronomy propelled her to be the first in her family to go to college and earn a Ph.D.
Lisa Wells is a remote observer working for the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT). Lisa has been working here in Hawaii for over 23 years. She has a Master's degree in Astronomy from the University of Arizona. Previous to obtaining her masters, Lisa was a Data Reduction Specialist for 5 years at the Cerro-Tololo-Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) in Chile, and several years for Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) also as a summit assistant. Her field of expertise is in Supernovae which is the end of the life of a star, and observational astronomy.

Tom Winegar works as the archive administrator for the pictures of the Subaru Telescope in Hilo, Hawaii. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1982, Tom has worked as a database programmer and administrator for 30 years - the last 17 at the Subaru developing web-based query and archive software used by astronomers to retrieve observation data from an international-mirrored 100TB archive. In his spare time, he submerges himself in the ocean and mows.

Cam is a 2013 graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo (BSc. Astronomy). He grew up on the west coast of Canada, and has lived on the Big Island for the past 10 years. Since 2015, Cam has worked at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT); first, as a Remote Observer conducting the nightly science operations of the observatory. Starting in June 2021, Cam has served as the Astronomy Technical Specialist at CFHT, supporting the science operations, managing the fault reporting system, and overseeing a revamp of the Queued Service Observing software and infrastructure. On weekends, Cam enjoys hiking, camping, and off-roading — anything to get outside and enjoy this beautiful island.

Siyi Xu joined Gemini Observatory in 2017 as an assistant astronomer. She is mostly interested in the end stage of planetary systems. Siyi grew up in Kunshan, a beautiful town of one million people in the east coast of China. She received a bachelor's degree in Astronomy from Nanjing University before moving across the pond to pursue a PhD in astronomy at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). After that, she worked for the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Germany for three years, before
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<th>Siyi Xu</th>
<th>joining the Gemini family. Siyi enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities when she is not looking at the stars.</th>
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