

## Journey Through the Universe Educator Profiles

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**Alexis Ann Acohido**  
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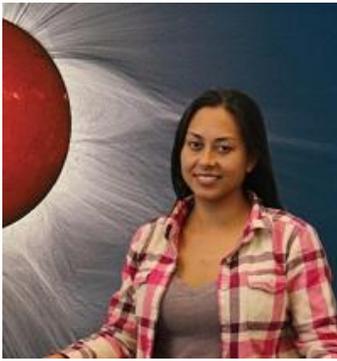
**Alexis Ann Acohido** is a Remote Operator at Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope. Prior to this, she was a Telescope Systems Specialist at the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope/East Asian Observatory and before that a Media Relations and Local Outreach Assistant at Gemini Observatory. She graduated from the 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**  
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope  
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**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-Hawaii Telescope. Virginia continues to pursue her personal commitment of inspiring Hawai'i's keiki to become future scientists through educational outreach.

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**Tishanna Ben**  
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**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.



**Jerry Brower**  
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**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 Tatoonine, Azeroth, or Jita in The Forge.



**André-Nicholas Chené**  
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**André-Nicholas 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 Valparaíso, 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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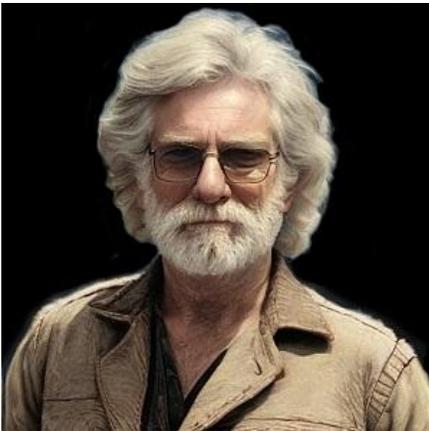
**Devin Chu**  
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**Devin Chu** was raised in Hilo, Hawaii and graduated from Hilo High School in 2010. He received his Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in Physics and Astronomy in 2014 and Ph.D in Astronomy and Astrophysics from UCLA in 2020. 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.



**Lars L. Christensen**  
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**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**  
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**Brian Day** currently serves as Acting Staff Scientist at NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI). He is also SSERVI's Lead for Lunar and Planetary Mapping and Modeling. In this role, he serves as program office level project manager and science lead for NASA's Solar System Treks Project (<https://trek.nasa.gov>). Brian has participated in various lunar and Mars analog field studies in extreme environments here in Earth. He previously served as Education and Public Outreach Lead for the LCROSS and LADEE robotic missions to the Moon. In 2007 he flew on NASA's Aurigid MAC mission to record debris from Comet Kieass entering Earth's upper atmosphere.

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**Jerry Dobek**  
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**Jerry Dobek** is Professor of Astronomy and Head of the Astronomy 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.



**Angelic Ebbers**  
Thirty Meter Telescope

**Angelic Ebbers** serves as the Lead Controls Software Engineer at the Thirty Meter Telescope, bringing her extensive expertise in telescope and instrumentation to the forefront of designing and building astronomy's next-generation observatory. With a focus on motion control systems, real-time development, and adept troubleshooting skills, Angelic plays a pivotal role in advancing the capabilities of the telescope. She holds a B.Sc. from York University in the Space and Communications Sciences stream, achieving Honors in both Computer Science and Physics, along with a minor in Astronomy. Prior to her role at TMT, Angelic garnered valuable experience at Gemini/NOIRLab, the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, and the University of Toronto Southern Observatory in Chile.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Angelic leads a dynamic lifestyle. When not immersed in the world of engineering and astronomy, she can be found engaging in Dog Agility training and competitions, exploring the depths of the ocean through scuba diving, or delving into the realms of captivating science fiction literature.



**Jocelyn Ferrara**  
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**Jocelyn Ferrara** is a Systems Engineer at Caltech Optical Observatories supporting optical and near-IR instrumentation development, with her current focus on upcoming instruments for the Keck Telescopes. She holds a B.A. in Physics & Astronomy from Barnard College of Columbia University and an M.S. in Space Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering. She previously spent 5 incredible years at Gemini Observatory as a Science Operations Specialist, working night shifts running the telescope, supporting the scientists and engineers, and volunteering for outreach while on island. Before that she worked for the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes in Baltimore, MD. Jocelyn enjoys taking care of her dog, singing, and attempting all kinds of arts and crafts in her free time.

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**Charlie Figura**  
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**Charlie Figura** is a Science Operations Specialist at the International Gemini Observatory on Maunakea. Charlie received their PhD in Physics from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in May 1999, and was Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Wartburg College until 2021, where they researched massive star formation using radio and sub-millimetre telescopes. Their research has focused on triggered star formation as well as using massive protostars to better understand the structure of the Milky Way. Charlie has been an operator and observer at Gemini North since 2021, where they spend significant amounts of time working on software tools used by their fellow operators and observers. Charlie's second passion is geology, particularly volcanology as well as photography, and they spend silly amounts of time hiking around the island with their camera when they're not on-sky.



**Scott Fisher**  
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**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.



**Tom Geballe**  
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**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.

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**Anniek Gloudemans**  
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**Anniek Gloudemans** is an astronomer at Gemini North Observatory working on understanding the formation and evolution of the most massive supermassive black holes in the early Universe. She received her masters degree from the University of Amsterdam in 2019, including an internship at the European Space Agency in 2018. Following this, she obtained her PhD at Leiden Observatory in The Netherlands in 2023, where she studied the low-frequency radio emission of early supermassive black holes. Besides her research, Anniek has a passion for teaching and organising outreach activities for all ages with a focus on connecting the world through astronomy and raising awareness for climate change.



**Jeff Goldstein**  
National Center for Earth and  
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**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>.

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**Olivier Guyon**  
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**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 he then uses to observe from the clear skies of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.



**Janice Harvey**  
Retired from International Gemini  
Observatory/NSF's NOIRLab

**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!

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**Saeko Hayashi**  
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**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**  
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**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.

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**Daniel Horton**  
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**Daniel Horton** works in Communications and Outreach with the Planetary Missions Program Office (PMPO) at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in the Rocket City of Huntsville, Alabama. Before working at the PMPO, he worked for over four years in internal mission outreach and project coordination in NASA's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Daniel graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, with a focus on International Relations. Prior to working at NASA, Daniel has taught first year introductory classes to incoming university freshmen, as well as technology classes at local Huntsville private high schools. At his current position with NASA's PMPO, Daniel guest teaches STEM topics for elementary and middle school classes. In time off, Daniel also works with his wife Sharla and others on a music festival non-profit organization and contributes to programming at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee.



**Solveig Irvine**  
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**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 and the Dragonfly 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.

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**Russell Kackley**  
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**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**  
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**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**  
TMT Japan Project/Subaru  
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**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.

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**Mary Beth Laychak**  
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**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.



**Brian C. Lemaux**  
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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 one-year-old wakes up.

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**Fengchuan Liu**  
Thirty Meter Telescope

**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.



**Julien Lozi**  
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**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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**Leinani Lozi**  
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**Leinani Lozi** is the Hawai'i Education and Engagement Manager for the international Gemini Observatory (Gemini), a program of NSF's NOIRLab, volunteer Outreach Coordinator for ['Ohana Kilo Hōkū](#), and Cultural Advisor to the [International Lunar Observatory Association Hawai'i](#). Leinani is passionate about indigenous knowledge systems, native plant restoration and providing unique education opportunities for Hawai'i keiki. She was born and raised on the island of O'ahu in Ko'olaupoko and has lived in Hilo since 2013 where she graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She leads many programs including 'Ohana Stargazing and [Journey Through the Universe](#) with an emphasis on Hawaiian language and culture and community partnership in all programs. She has worked in the Hawai'i Astronomy industry since 2015 holding positions at Gemini, the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i, the Maunakea Visitor Information Station and the Thirty Meter Telescope Project. Leinani is a part of Hālau Leimanu under the direction of Leilehua Yuen and Hālau 'Ōhi'a under the direction of Kekuhi Kealiikanakaoleohailani. Catch Leinani volunteering on Hawai'i Island at all sorts of Aloha 'Āina events and Community Work Days on Maunakea, at Volcanoes National Park, Lili'uokalani Park and Gardens and Hale O Lono.



**Nadine Manset**  
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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 Director of Science Operations, she is in charge of the scientific priorities and activities at CFHT. This includes overseeing 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**  
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**Clara Martínez-Vázquez** has been an Assistant Astronomer at the International Gemini Observatory in Hawai'i since 2023 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 in 2017 where she was a Science Fellow for four years 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). In 2021, she joined the International Gemini Observatory in Hawaii as Science Fellow. 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**  
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**Callie Matulonis** is currently the Senior Telescope System Specialist and Outreach Program Manager 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 18 years fulfilling a variety of positions including public outreach, laser operations, and telescope operations.



**Natalia McCarthy**  
International Gemini  
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**Natalia McCarthy**, a native of La Serena, Chile, currently calls the Big Island of Hawai'i home. As an Ingeniero Comercial and PMI-PMP® certified professional, she is a project manager for the Gemini Observatory and a founding member of the Gemini PMO. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Natalia actively contributes as a member of the DEI&R Committee. Beyond her professional pursuits, she enjoys roller skating and aerial fabrics and is a passionate dog lover.

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**Peter Michaud**  
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**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.



**Joseph Minafra**  
NASA/SSERVI  
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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!

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**Junichi Noumaru**  
Subaru Telescope  
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**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 object such as emission nebulae 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**  
Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope  
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**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.



**Emily Peavy**  
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**Emily Peavy** is an astronomy educator and the Education & Engagement Senior Assistant at Gemini Observatory. Her job is to find the best ways to communicate and share the amazing local discoveries about the universe. A UH Hilo Astronomy program Alum, Emily completed a Master's in Education focusing on the presentation of astronomy concepts. She could talk all day everyday about the fascinating universe that we all live in.

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**Joy Pollard**  
International Gemini  
Observatory/NSF's NOIRLab

**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.



**Julien Rousselle**  
Subaru Telescope  
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**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.



**Justine Schaen**  
NSF's NOIRLab  
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**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.

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**Doug Simons**  
UH Institute for Astronomy  
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**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 number of programs including EnVision Maunakea, Maunakea Fund, Maunakea Scholars, and A Hua He Inoa.



**Rob Sparks**  
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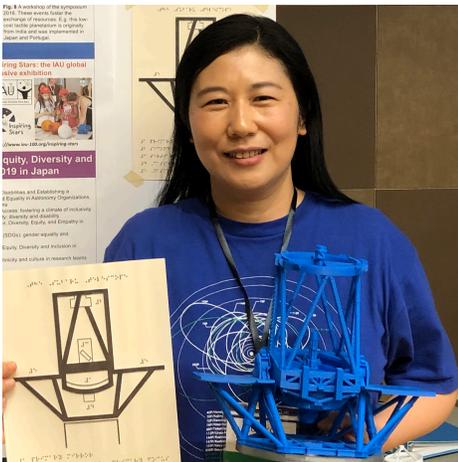
**Rob Sparks** is in the Communications, Education and Engagement group at NSF's NOIRLab. He earned his B.A. in Physics from Grinnell College and M.S. in Physics from Michigan State University. He has a long career in education which includes teaching at the Good Hope School on St. Croix, Saint Stephen's 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.

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**Ichi Tanaka**  
Subaru Telescope  
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**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.



**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.



**Tomonori Usuda**  
NAOJ TMT Project  
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**Tomonori 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.



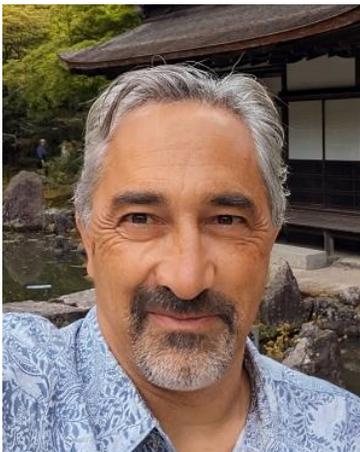
**Sebastien Vievard**  
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**Sebastien Vievard** is a French post doctoral fellow working at the Subaru Telescope since March 2018, in the SCEXAO team. He returned to the group after his productive visit as an undergraduate student in 2013. As a member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



**Lisa Wells**  
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**Lisa Wells** is a remote observer working for the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT). Lisa has been working here in Hawaii for over 24 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.



**Jonathan Williams**  
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**Jonathan Williams** is a faculty member at the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He grew up in England and moved to the US to go to graduate school at UC Berkeley. After his PhD, he had research and teaching jobs in the Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast before landing in Hawaii 20 years ago. He uses telescopes on Maunakea, Chile, and in space to observe radio and infrared light from dusty disks around young stars and studies how planetary systems like our own form. He raises two teenage sons and a dog in Kaneohe with his wife where they enjoy getting out onto its beautiful bay.

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**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 12 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; then, starting in June 2021, as the Astronomy Technical Specialist at CFHT. In his current role, he supports the science operations, manages the fault reporting system, and serves as the Project Manager for a large software development effort. On weekends, Cam enjoys paddling, camping, off-roading, and hiking.

**Cam Wipper**

**Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope**

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