

Laura Vican Haney

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Astronomy, UCLA, Anticipated June 2016

M.A., Astronomy, UCLA, June 2013

B.A., Astrophysics, Barnard College of Columbia University, June 2011 (minor in Math)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow (UCLA)

Summer 2015 (2 courses)

- Created content for two 4-credit college courses in Astrobiology as the instructor of record
- Developed a syllabus with an emphasis on student-centered learning
- Wrote and graded quizzes and exams
- Executed the responsibilities of a Teaching Associate (see below)
- Implemented computer-based educational tools (including Moodle and NearPod)
- Provided opportunities for learning outside of the classroom by connecting students with faculty in other departments via lab tours and planetarium shows

Teaching Assistant Coordinator (UCLA)

2012-13, 2013-14, 2015-16 (3 courses)

- Developed the syllabus for a department-mandated teacher training course for graduate students
- Created course content with a focus on interactive teaching techniques and discipline-based educational research
- Mentored first-year graduate students as they worked as teaching assistants at UCLA
- Attended courses and workshops run by the Office of Instructional Development at UCLA

Teaching Associate (UCLA)

Winter 2012 – Fall 2015 (5 courses)

- Consistently received positive evaluations from students (average overall rating of 95%)
- Earned UCLA Physics and Astronomy “Outstanding Teaching Award” in 2012
- Created content for one-hour discussion sections with up to 50 students per section
- Helped develop syllabus and course material for lectures
- Developed educational demonstrations for use in discussion sections
- Taught students from diverse backgrounds, such as international students and students with learning disabilities
- Wrote homework assignments and helped write exams for classes of over 130 students

Teaching Assistant (Columbia University)

Spring 2010 – Spring 2011 (2 courses)

- Graded homework assignments and exams

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Education Courses

- *Central Seminar* (UCLA Office of Instructional Development)
- *Language Structure and Acquisition* (UCLA Education Department graduate course)
- *Social Foundations* (UCLA Education Department graduate course)
- *Educational Psychology* (UCLA Education Department graduate course)
- *Secondary Content and Literacy Methods* (UCLA Education Department graduate course)

Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

- Conference: ComSciCon2015 (over 900 applicants to attend conference, 50 selected)
- Workshop: *Citizen Science in the College Classroom*
- Workshop: *Teaching Astronomy Through Role-Playing and Debate*
- Workshop: *Teaching Physics to Life Science Majors*
- Workshop: *Science Communication 101* (organizing committee)
- Seminar: *Teaching Astro 101* (Center for Astronomy Education)
- Seminar: *UCLA Physics Education Research Journal Club* (co-founder)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Summer 2011 - present

- Completed several original research projects, all of which ended in first- or second- author publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals (3 first-author publications)
- Mentored five undergraduates as they completed their senior research projects. Three have since gone on to successful careers in graduate school.
- Completed an original Master's thesis project and worked towards a PhD thesis project
- Completed over 30 nights of astronomical observing in support of thesis projects
- Worked on independent and collaborative research projects simultaneously
- Gave scientific talks on my research for academic colleagues and the public
- Presented posters about my research at several international conferences
- Awarded the Chambliss Student Achievement Award (2012)
- Awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2012-2015)

OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Astronomy Live! Outreach Coordinator

Winter 2013 - Spring 2015

- Oversaw day-to-day operations; duties include: managing demonstration supplies, managing ongoing funds, coordinating with local teachers and community leaders, organizing small (<200 student) events, and soliciting volunteers
- Led an interdisciplinary team of outreach coordinators across many STEM fields for our annual Exploring Your Universe event in 2013 and 2014
- Raised over \$40,000 in funds in 2014 to support our annual Exploring Your Universe event. This event saw over 5,500 attendees in 2014, 4,500 in 2013, and 2,500 in 2012
- Wrote a successful grant proposal for \$25,000 to support the creation of educational videos of the hands-on demonstrations and activities available in the Physics and Astronomy Department and the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences
- Wrote a successful grant proposal for \$3,500 to hire undergraduate Physics and Astronomy majors to develop and update educational demonstrations
- Organized an eight-week summer observing workshop for high school students at UCLA for Summer 2014 to give students research experience and to bridge the gap between high school and college
- Presented over 20 planetarium shows for the general public and small school groups (<50 students)
- Developed four new planetarium shows for the public

Volunteer Educator

Fall 2011 - Winter 2013

- Volunteered at over 40 different outreach events, both at UCLA and in local K-12 schools
- Used hands-on activities and demonstrations to teach basic physics and astronomy concepts
- Created worksheets and instructor manuals for three educational demonstrations at UCLA

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE

SciComm Hub Co-Founder / Director

Spring 2015 - present

- Co-founded an organization dedicated to providing resources and networking opportunities to graduate students interested in careers in science education, outreach, and communication
- Organized several events, including a career panel, demo development workshop, and panel discussion on science in pop culture
- Organized an 8-week science communication workshop for graduate students (Fall 2015)
- Maintained the SciComm Hub website (scicommhub.com)
- Curated a rotating Twitter account (@iamscicomm), allowing science communicators from around the world to share their experiences and questions, and to facilitate discussions and collaborations

Science Writing (Universe Today Magazine)

Spring 2015

- Conducted interviews with Geoff Marcy (UC Berkeley) and Jill Tarter (SETI) regarding the recently announced Breakthrough Listen program
- Published an article about Breakthrough Listen in Universe Today

SKILLS

Communication: public speaking, science writing, discipline based educational research training, lecturing.

Computer: proficient in LaTeX, Python, bash shell scripting, Scratch programming, basic HTML, Google Docs, Microsoft Powerpoint, Excel, NearPod, and Moodle

Leadership: project management and supervision, fundraising, collaborative team-building, and delegation