

Geneviève Escande de Messières

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Objective

Seeking a position that harnesses my extensive experience in science education, public outreach, and communicating to scientific and layperson audiences as well as my expertise in astronomy.

Education

- August 2011: Ph.D. Astronomy, University of Virginia.
 - DISSERTATION: “*Spitzer* Mid-Infrared Spectral Maps of Cool-Core Galaxy Clusters”
 - *Committee*: Dr. Robert W. O’Connell, Dr. Rémy Indebetouw, Dr. Aaron S. Evans, Dr. Megan Donahue, and Dr. Peter Arnold.
- May 2006: M.S. Astronomy, University of Virginia. GPA 3.5.
- May 2004: B.A. with honors in Astrophysics, Swarthmore College. GPA 3.3.
 - HONORS THESIS: “*XMM-Newton* X-Ray Spectroscopy of the B2 Bright Giant ϵ Canis Majoris.”
 - *Minor*: Mathematics

Communication Awards and Experience

- 2011 Science Writing Awards, First Prize (\$1000). Hosted by Boeing and Griffith Observatory. 4000-word general-audience article published in the *Griffith Observer*, July 2011. Writing sample available at astro.virginia.edu/~ged3j/demessieres_writingsample.pdf.
- 2008 AAS Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award, Graduate Medal, Austin, TX. One of two awards for best graduate research poster presentation.
- 2008, Fourth place in Physical Science & Mathematics Poster Presentation, Robert J. Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition, University of Virginia.
- 2006 Laurence W. Fredrick Award for Teaching Assistants, University of Virginia.

Education and Public Outreach Experience

- 2011 - present: VOLUNTEER, National Air and Space Museum Public Observatory Project and Discovery Stations. Supervised and facilitated visitor telescope use. Guided learning at hands-on activity stations.

- 2009 - present: **FOUNDING DEVELOPER** of a youth astronomy education program, Dark Skies, Bright Kids! Designed and led hands-on activities and experiments, both independently and as part of a team. Assessed educational impact. Wrote clear lesson plans.
- 2004 - 2011: **HOST** of observatory public nights at the University of Virginia. Led dialogue with visitors, educating them about astronomy and local history. Operated telescopes.
- 2008 - 2010: **GALLERY VOLUNTEER**, Virginia Discovery Museum. Guided children to learn in the museum and at science conventions for children. Built and maintained museum exhibits.
- Fall 2004 - Spring 2006, Fall 2007 - Spring 2008: **TEACHING ASSISTANT**, University of Virginia Department of Astronomy. Designed and led nighttime labs to teach core astronomical concepts and instill familiarity with the night sky and telescopes.

Research Experience

- 2004 - 2011: **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, Dr. Robert W. O'Connell.
University of Virginia Department of Astronomy.
- 2002: Scholarship, Research Experience for Undergraduates with Dr. Bart Wakker.
University of Wisconsin Department of Astronomy
- 2001: **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, Prism Computational Sciences.
- 2001 - 2004: **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, Dr. David H. Cohen.
Swarthmore College Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Professional Activities

Publications in Refereed Journals

- Martínez-Galarza, J.R. et al. 2011, forthcoming.
- Donahue, M. et al. 2011. *Astrophysical Journal*, 732, 40.
- Indebetouw, R., et al. 2009. *Astrophysical Journal*, 694, 84.
- Cohen, D. H. et al. 2003. *Astrophysical Journal*, 586, 495.

Conferences and Speaking Engagements

- 2011, forthcoming, David M. Brown Planetarium, Arlington, VA. "Sunday Science" presentation.
- 2010, JILA, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Colloquium.
- 2010, American Astronomical Society, Washington, DC. Talk.
- 2009, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. Short colloquium.
- 2009, Infrared Processing and Analysis Center, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA. Colloquium.

- 2009, University of California, Irvine, CA. Colloquium.
- 2009, Carnegie Observatories, Pasadena, CA. Short colloquium.
- 2009, Assembly, Gas Content and Formation History of Galaxies, North American ALMA Science Center Conference, Charlottesville, VA. Poster.
- 2009, Galaxy Wars, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. Poster.
- 2009, Robert J. Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition, University of Virginia. Talk.
- 2008, Robert J. Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition, University of Virginia. Poster.
- 2008, American Astronomical Society, Austin, TX. Poster.
- 2007, American Astronomical Society, Seattle, WA. Poster.
- 2003, Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium Conference, Wellesley College. Talk.
- 2002, Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, University of Wisconsin - Madison. Talk.
- 2002, American Astronomical Society, Washington, DC. Poster.
- 2001, Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium Conference, Williams College. Poster.

Skills

- Writing about technical material for both scientific and layperson audiences.
- Adept at public speaking.
- Advanced skill in productivity software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, LaTeX) and coding (IDL). Proficient in HTML.
- Conversational French.

Fellowships and Honorary Societies

- 2008: Robert J. Huskey Travel Fellowship.
- 2002: Sigma Xi.

Teamwork

- 2009 - 2010: University of Virginia Department of Astronomy Colloquium Committee.
- 2008: University of Virginia Department of Astronomy Graduate Admissions Committee.
- 2005 - 2006: University of Virginia Department of Astronomy Observatory Committee.

Last updated: August 27, 2011

http://www.astro.virginia.edu/~ged3j/cv_demessieres.pdf