



STEM Volunteer Profiles



J.D. Armstrong
UH Institute for Astronomy
Faulkes Telescope-North
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J.D. Armstrong is the project scientist for the Faulkes Telescope North -- the largest telescope built for education and outreach. He is also the Maui Technology Education and Outreach Specialist for the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy. J.D. received his Bachelor's degree in physics from Westminster College of Salt Lake City, a master's degree in physics from Michigan State University, and his PhD from the University of Hawaii. His research interests include solar physics, minor planets, and exoplanets, but he spends most of his time helping middle and high school students participate in real science. He claims that he is creating the scientists of the future.



James Barry
National Solar Observatory
Daniel K Inouye Solar
Telescope
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James Barry currently works as an Electrical Technician at the National Solar Observatory on Maui. He helps to maintain, repair & upgrade the telescope electronically. He has an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering from ITT Tech in 2014. He was Born & Raised in the Metro-Detroit area where he has been employed by a diverse range of companies prior to coming to Maui. Spanning in work that deals with Circuit Board Repair, Automotive Electronics, Musical Instrument Electronics, Residential Electricity and Designing and Integrating of Solar Battery Back-Up Systems for Streetscape Furniture such as Bus Shelters and Dog Park Equipment. His goal is to forever travel & work with cutting edge technology to advance his skills & understanding of the world around him. James is a Laid Back Extrovert that strives to make the best out of every situation. When work is at rest he enjoys to Hike, CrossFit, Read, help people out & play Rocket League.



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Tishanna Bailey Ben
National Solar Observatory
Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope
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Tishanna Bailey Ben is the Hawai'i Community Outreach and Education Programs Lead 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'ū High and Pahala Elementary School on the Big Island.

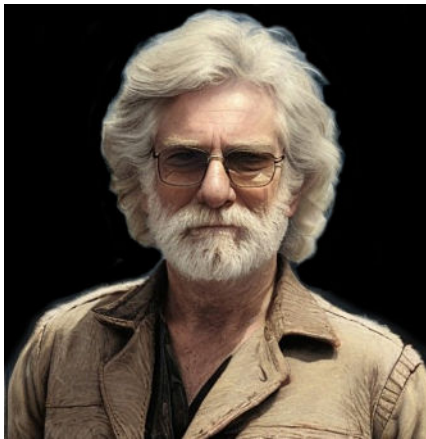


Sarah Jaeggli
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Sarah Jaeggli is an Astronomer at the National Solar Observatory on Maui and a graduate of University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Sarah specializes in building instruments for solar astronomy, and studies sunspots and solar chemistry.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Brian Day
SSERVI / NASA
Solar System Exploration
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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 Kiess entering Earth's upper atmosphere.



Paul Jeffers
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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 Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (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.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Cindy Krach
Haleakala Amateur
Astronomers
Warmvet@yahoo.com

Cindy L Krach is a recently retired veterinarian who practiced on Maui for 30 years. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990 with a Doctorate Degree in Veterinary Medicine. A self-proclaimed lifelong student of everything, she has a natural curiosity for science and understanding how things work. She is an avid amateur astronomer and a member of Haleakala Amateur Astronomers. Cindy has been involved in public outreach events with the Institute for Astronomy on Maui since 2010. She is the Sketching Observing Program coordinator for the Astronomical League, an umbrella organization composed of over 240 amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. Her astronomical sketches have appeared in and on the cover of Sky & Telescope magazine. She is a volunteer with Haleakala National Park as a Trail Steward as well as an Astronomy Interpreter Volunteer.

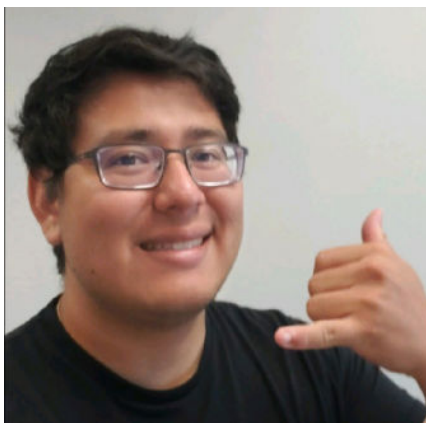


Leinani Lozi
NSF NOIRLab
Gemini Observatory
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Leinani Lozi is the Hawai'i Education & Engagement Manager for Gemini Observatory, a program of NSF's NOIRLab, volunteer Outreach Coordinator for 'Ohana Kilo Hōkū, and Cultural Advisor to the International Lunar Observatory Association Hawai'i. She is passionate about indigenous knowledge, native plant restoration and providing unique education opportunities for Hawai'i keiki. Leinani was born & raised on the island of O'ahu in Ko'olaupoko and has lived in Hilo since 2013 where she graduated from the UH Hilo. She leads many programs including 'Ohana Stargazing and Journey Through the Universe with an emphasis on Hawaiian language and culture, & community partnerships. Leinani is a part of Hālau Leimanu under the direction of Leilehua Yuen & Hālau 'Ōhi'a under the direction of Kekuhi Kealiikanakao-leohaililani.



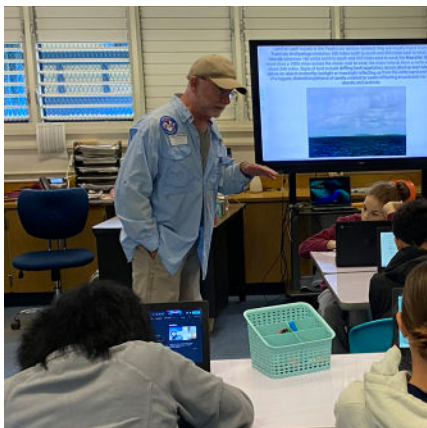
STEM Volunteer Profiles



Matthew Lugo
Privateer
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Matthew Lugo is an aerospace engineer at Privateer Space. He grew up in Wailuku and received his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering, and his Master's in Aerospace Engineering with a focus on propulsion systems and astrodynamics. At Purdue, he contributed to the testing of NASA's new monopropellant fuel, ASCENT.

At Privateer, he contributes to the Space Systems team, contributing to satellite payloads and design with much of his work on mechanical design, thermal management, and systems engineering. Privateer Space is a startup company headquartered in Kihei focused on ensuring the safety, sustainability, and accessibility of space.



Steve McGaughey
NASA Solar System Ambassador
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Steve McGaughey is a NASA Solar System Ambassador and amateur astronomer.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Joseph Minafra
NASA Ames Research Center
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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. He is excited to share his NASA experiences with Journey through the Universe communities!



Shadi Naderi
Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL/RD)
AF Maui Optical &
Supercomputing (AMOS) Facility
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Dr. Shadi Naderi currently holds the role of Senior Research Mathematician within the Air Force Research Laboratory, Directed Energy Directorate (AFRL/RD), Space Electro-Optics Division, at the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing (AMOS) facility. In addition to her responsibilities as a principal investigator for the 24/7 Optical SDA & Imaging Science project, Dr. Naderi also serves as the STEM Outreach Technical Lead. Beyond her work within the Air Force, she is also the founder of Little Hoku Montessori in Kihei, showcasing her commitment to education and community development.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Chriselle Nagata is a Mechanical Engineer for the National Solar Observatory's Inouye Solar Telescope on Maui and the current mechanical tech supervisor. She was born in the Philippines but raised on the island of Maui. Chriselle received her Bachelor's degree in Science for Mechanical Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She recently obtained her professional engineering license as a mechanical engineer in Hawaii. Chriselle enjoys being outdoors, traveling, hiking, DIY home improvements, and spending time at the beach.

Chriselle Nagata

National Solar Observatory

Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope

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Brialyn Onodera was born and raised on Hawai'i Island 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 in 2017, and her EMBA from the Shidler College of Business in 2022. Brialyn's work at the Daniel K. Inouye Solar telescope involves collaboration with her peers to execute various engineering projects and analyze 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.

Brialyn Onodera

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STEM Volunteer Profiles



Evan Pascual
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Evan Pascual is the Communications Officer for the National Solar Observatory / Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope. Evan was born and raised in Lahaina and graduated from Lahainaluna High School. He earned a BBA in Marketing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Evan's passion for the environment and creative writing led him to pursue his interests and a career in science! After college, he worked at the Maui Ocean Center where he helped promote conservation and the relationship between Hawaiians and the sea. Evan has since made the jump from sea to space, and currently works with solar scientists. His job is to foster wonder for the Sun and its relationship with Earth. In his free time, Evan enjoys playing guitar, basketball, and tennis. He's also enjoys the outdoors and connecting with friends for trivia nights and board games.



Jorge Perez-Gallego
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With degrees in astronomy (PhD) and design (MFA), my happy place is one in which my creative juices can flow toward celebrating wonder—whether developing innovative informal science education opportunities or building meaningful bridges between science, art & technology. I have worked on a broad spectrum of projects for cultural institutions as well as taught graduate and undergraduate courses on subjects as diverse as astronomy, graphic design, science fiction literature and cinema, and interactive media at institutions such as the University of Florida, the University of Miami, and the University of Colorado Boulder. My research and creative work has been published in leading international journals and conferences on the fields of museums, astronomy, and art. Currently, I lead education, public outreach, and communications at the National Science Foundation's National Solar Observatory.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Donna Piet is an Acquisition Manager for the United States Air Force.

Donna Piet

United States Air Force

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Lois Wardell

Space Force

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Following her career as an environmental engineer that included a season in Antarctica, **Lois Wardell** began a research career that first concentrated on secondary metabolites from exotic marine species (NASA Exobiology Fellowship, Univ. of Mississippi). However, after falling in love with Antarctica, she ended up doing doctoral work on Mt Erebus, the southern-most active volcano on Earth. She was awarded a DOE Climate Change Education Fellowship for working on the global contribution of CO₂ and other gas species from volcanoes while at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Her research with volcano geochemistry led her to all seven continents and to some wonderfully remote places. Although Lois hates cold more than anyone she knows, she became fascinated with the polar regions, about life in the extremes, and was awed by the impacts of climate change.



STEM Volunteer Profiles



Dav Yuan
Maui Digital Bus
Maui Economic Development
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Dav Yuan has dedicated his career to understanding how to best share knowledge between children, adults, and everyone in between. Since 2014 he has been at the helm of The Maui Digital Bus. The Digital Bus program, now recently a part of the Maui Economic Development Board, operates mobile science and culture classrooms offering free experiential education projects to underrepresented students of Maui Nui. A biologist by training, he completed his undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland and his M.S. at Clemson University, focusing on animal behavior. During his journey as a biologist, Dav found his passion was more in sharing information rather than collecting information, which propelled him into the field of science education.