

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**MARGARET G. LYSAGHT THACHER**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**EDUCATION**

- 1991        **M.S.**, Astrophysics, Iowa State University, Ames, IA  
*Thesis title: "Optical and Infrared Photometry of Ring Galaxies."*
- 1987        **B.A.**, Physics, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

1999–present **Laboratory Instructor**, Five College Astronomy Department, Smith College

- *lab instructor for AST 102 "Time," AST 103 "Telescopes," and AST 113 "Telescopes & Techniques"*
- *designed AST 103; taught it for one semester*
- *maintain, repair & order equipment*
- *train, schedule, and supervise approximately 10 undergraduate teaching assistants per semester*
- *outreach, including open houses and visits to local area schools (see below)*

2006–present **Laboratory Instructor**, Physics Department, Smith College

- *taught labs for PHY 115/117 "General Physics I," and PHY 118 "General Physics II"*
- *helped develop new labs and revise the lab manuals for both courses*

2010–present **Lecturer**, English Department, Smith College

- *designed and taught a new ENG 118 course, "Writing about Science," for two semesters*

- 2007–present **Instructor**, Smith College Summer Science and Engineering Program
- *“Telescopes & Digital Imaging”*
- 1997–1999 **Teaching Assistant**, Astronomy Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- *graded and held office hours for Introductory Astronomy*
  - *developed and taught Observational Astronomy; trained other TAs to teach it*
  - *helped develop a campus-wide TA orientation program and taught a seminar*
- 1996–1997 **Faculty**, St. Paul’s School, Concord, NH
- *taught workshop physics*
  - *taught introductory, observational, and advanced astronomy courses*
  - *helped develop a linked physics and math program*
  - *held monthly “star parties”*
- 1992–1995 **Research Assistant**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- *feasibility study for moderate resolution spectroscopy of carbon stars*
- 1991–1992 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 1989–1991 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Iowa State University
- *taught recitation sections for introductory physics and astronomy courses*
  - *helped develop a training program for physics and astronomy TAs*

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2000 Hubble Space Telescope Education/Public Outreach grant (co-investigator)  
*Planetarium Shows and Astronomy: Guiding Children to Scientific Curiosity*
- 1998 Quinton Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistants, University of Massachusetts
- 1995 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research
- 1992 Graduate Scholarship, General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts
- 1990 Teaching Excellence Award, Iowa State University

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Astronomical Society

American Association of Variable Star Observers

Astronomical Society of the Pacific

## OUTREACH

*\* indicates activities for which I collaborated with and trained undergraduate assistants*

### Smith

- Ongoing \*Astronomy department open houses, approximately every 3-4 weeks (depending on weather) throughout the semester  
 Presentation of the Astronomy major & minor  
 \*Physics & Astronomy department graduation week open house
- Oct 2009 \*Visiting students from Park Tudor school in Indiana
- July 2010 Step-up Program (Smith summer program for 9<sup>th</sup> graders)
- July 2009 Step-up Program
- Oct 2008 \*Galileo (FYS "Reacting to the Past," David Cohen)
- Oct 2005 Stargazing hike with Service Organization of Smith (now Community Service Office)
- July 2000 Four observatory open houses for SSEP students

### School visits

- June 2010 Fausey School (West Springfield, MA) 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
- June 2009 Fausey School 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Dec 2000 \*Leeds Elementary School (Northampton, MA) 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Oct 2000 Presentations to 2 groups (grades 1-4) visiting Smith from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary School (Washington, DC)
- Nov 1999 \*Leeds Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

### Scout groups

- Nov 2009 \*West Springfield Junior Girl Scouts
- Feb 2007 \*West Springfield Cub Scouts
- Nov 2002 \*Hatfield Boy Scouts
- Jan 2002 \*Hatfield Webelos
- Mar 2000 \*Westfield Junior Girl Scouts (Planetarium show at Amherst College)

### Miscellaneous

- Mar 2011 Holyoke Adult Learning Center (2 classroom visits)
- Aug 2010 CARE Center, Holyoke, MA, Hypatia Summer Institute
- Aug 2009 CARE Center Hypatia Summer Institute
- July 2009 West Springfield Public Library summer program for kids
- Mar 2009 Springfield STARS amateur astronomy club panel discussion
- Apr 2009 West Springfield Department of Parks & Recreation International Year of Astronomy/100 Hours of Astronomy star party

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Carbone, A. 2009, "Western Mass. stargazers to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei," Springfield Republican, March 31.