

CURRICULUM VITAE

MARGARET G. LYSAGHT THACHER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Work address

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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" and AST 113 "Telescopes & Techniques"*
 - *designed and teach AST 103 "Telescopes"*
 - *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)*
- 2013–present **Academic Director**, Smith College Summer Science and Engineering Program
- 2006–2012 **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*
- 2010–2011 **Lecturer**, English Department, Smith College
- *designed and taught a new ENG 118 course, "Writing about Science," for three semesters*

- 2007–2012 **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
 Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators

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
- July 2010 Step-up Program (Smith summer program for 9th graders)
- Oct 2009 ★ Visiting students from Park Tudor school in Indiana
- 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

- Jan 2012 Lander Grinspoon Academy (Northampton, MA) kindergarten
- June 2010 Fausey School (West Springfield, MA) 3rd graders
- June 2009 Fausey School 2nd graders
- Dec 2000 ★ Leeds Elementary School (Northampton, MA) 2nd 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 2nd graders

Scout groups

- Nov 2013 ★ Northampton Junior Girl Scouts
- Nov 2009 ★ West Springfield Brownie and 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

PUBLICATIONS

“Alien Seasons,” **Ask**, May/June 2013 [translated and reprinted in **Ask en español**, September/October 2014]

“Seeing Stars: Astronomy in the desert southwest,” **Faces**, April 2013

“The Big Bang: When *everything* explodes,” **Odyssey**, July/August 2014

“Waste + Water,” **Odyssey**, November/December 2014

MEDIA COVERAGE

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