

# SAMANTHA SCIBELLI

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Research interests: Low-mass Star Formation, Radio Astronomy, Astrochemistry, Astrobiology

## EDUCATION

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### University of Arizona

Ph.D. in Astronomy & Astrophysics

M.S. in Astronomy & Astrophysics

Advisor: Dr. Yancy Shirley

*August 2017 - Present*

*Expected: May 2022*

*May 2019*

### Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Bachelor of Science, Physics, second Major Astronomy

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Scholar

*August 2013 - January 2017*

*Magna Cum Laude*

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

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2019: Ed and Jill Bessey Scholarship in Astrobiology, University of Arizona

2017-2022: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient

2016: Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society, Stony Brook University

2015: Researcher of the Month, Stony Brook University

2013: National Runner-Up and Regional Winner for the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

2013: INTEL Science Talent Search (STS) Finalist

2012: National NASA WISH Scholar

2012: Winner of Northeastern US Astrobiology Short Story Contest

2011: Regional Hessberg Advanced Astronomy Campership Winner

## TELESCOPE TIME OBTAINED, AS PI

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IRAM 30m, Summer 2019: *High Resolution 1mm Continuum Study of the B10 Star Forming Region*, 17 hrs

ARO 12m, Spring 2019: *Survey of Highly Complex Organic Molecules in Young Prestellar Cores*, 350 hrs

ARO SMT, Fall 2018: *Mapping Inflow/Outflow Tracers in Massive Star-Forming Clumps*, 48 hrs

ARO 12m, Spring 2018: *A Deeper Look at Acetaldehyde in Prestellar Cores*, 210 hrs

ARO 12m, Fall 2017: *A Comprehensive Search for Methanol in Prestellar Cores*, 80 hrs

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### University of Arizona, Steward Observatory

Tucson, AZ

*Graduate Research Assistant*

*August 2017 - Present*

My current work focuses on constraining the physical, kinematic, and chemical structure of low-mass prestellar cores to better understand their evolution.

### NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Astrophysics Department

Pasadena, CA

*NASA Sally Ride Fellow*

*January 2017 - July 2017*

I studied the physical properties and gas kinematics of free-floating evaporating gas globules (FrEGGs) in the W5 star forming region. I learned how to reduce Arizona Radio Observatory data, an integral part of my masters and thesis work at the University of Arizona.

### Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Cambridge, MA

*NSF REU Intern*

*June 2016 - August 2016*

I learned how to reduce data using the *Herschel* HIPE software as well as MOPRA radio telescope

data. My research focused on understanding the properties of infrared dark clouds in the Inner Milky Way, and led to my interest in star formation.

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Astrophysics Department** Pasadena, CA  
*NASA UI Intern* August 2015 - December 2015

I reduced Hubble data from archived observations of ionized gas jets ejected from the dying sun-like star V Hydrae. I analyzed and modeled the data, which led to two published research articles.

**Stony Brook University, Physics and Astronomy Department** Stony Brook, NY  
*Undergraduate Researcher* December 2014 - January 2017

Constructed a project modeling the kinematics and gravitational lensing properties of spiral galaxies. I found that mass biases are more pronounced with lensing than with kinematics, and using both methods can help reduce the bias and provide stronger constraints on the dark matter distributions.

*Exploration in STEM Researcher* June 2015 - August 2015

I was funded through the summer to continue my gravitational lensing project.

**Stony Brook University, Laser Teaching Center** Stony Brook, NY  
*Undergraduate Researcher* February 2014 - May 2014

I constructed a educational and instructional research project which demonstrated the effects of gravitational lensing using a wine glass.

*Summer Research Intern* July 2013 - August 2013

A fully funded summer program in the optics lab at Stony Brook allowed me to study the evolution of caustics patterns formed by evaporating water droplets, with the foresight in mind that this would prepare me for a research project on gravitational lensing.

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Physics and Astronomy Department** Troy, NY  
*Visiting Student Researcher* November 2010 - August 2014

I analyzed over 10,000 spectra by eye in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey to find that %10 of the objects were mis-classified by the electronic template fitting algorithm. Because of this work I was awarded several scholarships as an INTEL Science Talent Search 2013 finalist.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**4 journal articles (4 first or second author, 1 in prep.)**

5. *Prevalence of Complex Organic Molecules in Prestellar Cores in the Taurus Molecular Cloud*  
**Scibelli, S. et al.**, in prep. (expected submission: July 2019)
4. *Biases in inferring dark matter profiles from dynamical and lensing measurements*  
**Scibelli, S.**, Perna, R., Keeton, C., 2019, MNRAS, 769
3. *High-Velocity Bullets from V Hydrae, an AGB Star in Transition: Ejection History and Spatio-Kinematic Modeling*  
**Scibelli, S.**, Sahai, R., & Morris, M. R., 2019, ApJ, 870, 117
2. *High-speed Bullet Ejections during the AGB-to-Planetary Nebular Transition: HST Observations of the Carbon Star, V Hydrae*  
Sahai, R., **Scibelli, S.**, & Morris, M. R., 2016, ApJ, 827, 92
1. *Census of Blue Stars in SDSS DR8*  
**Scibelli, S.**, Newberg, H. J., Carlin, J.L., & Yanny, B., 2014, ApJS, 215, 24

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### Modeling and Analysis Software & Tools

SHAPE, RADEX  
Python, IRAF, Ds9, GILDAS, LaTeX, HTML, Fortran, C++

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

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### Contributed Talks:

*Prevalent Organic Molecules towards Prestellar Cores in the Taurus Star Forming Region*

- Astrochemistry: Past, Present, Future, Caltech, July 2018, Pasadena, CA
- NRAO TUNA Talk, December 2018, Charlottesville, VA
- The Olympian Symposium 2018: gas and stars from milli- to mega- parsecs, Mediterranean Village Hotel Spa, Paralia, Katerini, Greece, May 2018

*Physical Properties of Free-Floating Evaporating Gas Globules (FrEGGs) in the W5 Star Forming Region*

- The 33rd Annual New Mexico Symposium, NRAO, Socorro, NM, November 2017

*A Detailed Analysis of the Physical Conditions in the Infrared Dark Clouds in the Region IGGC 16/23*

- SAO Astronomy Summer Research Symposium, Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA, August 2016

*Using HST/STIS data to Model High-Velocity Bullets from a Dying Star*

- FLASH Talk, NOAO, January, 2019, Tucson, AZ
- Special Astrophysics Seminar, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, December 2015

*The Natural Focusing of Light*

- Physics and Nature Conference, Pace University, White Plains, NY, November 2013

### Poster Presentations:

*Prevalent Organic Molecules towards Prestellar Cores in the Taurus Star Forming Region*

- Star and Planet Formation (SPF2), Biosphere, Tucson, AZ, March 2018

*A Detailed Analysis of the Physical Conditions in the Infrared Dark Clouds in the Region IGGC 16/23*

- American Astronomical Society Meeting, Grapevine, TX, January 2017

*Using HST/STIS data to Model High-Velocity Bullets from a Dying Star*

- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, Stony Brook, May 2016

*Probing Dark Matter by Modeling Gravitational Lensing of Spiral Galaxies*

- CUWiP Women in Physics Conference, Wesleyan University, CT, January 2016
- Exploration in STEM Symposium, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, August 2015
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, Stony Brook, April 2015

*Optical Demonstration of Gravitational Lensing*

- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, Stony Brook, April 2014

*A Study of Evolving Caustics Formed by Evaporating Water Droplets*

- Frontiers in Optics, OSA Annual Meeting and Exhibit/Laser Science XXIX, Orlando, FL, October 2013
- Symposium for Summer Research, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, August 2013

#### *Census of Blue Stars in the SDSS*

- American Astronomical Society Meeting, Long Beach, CA, January 2013
- New York Astronomical Society meeting, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, Spring 2012
- New York Astronomical Society meeting, Skidmore College, Saratoga, NY, Fall 2011

#### **Other:**

CUWiP Meeting Participant/Poster Presenter, Rutgers University and Wesleyan University (January 2015/2016) - Attended conference for undergraduate women in physics

#### **MENTORING AND OUTREACH**

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- NOAO Teen Astronomy Cafe Volunteer (throughout 2019 school year) - high school students participate in hands on demonstrations, work on interactive computer activities and listen to presentations from the scientists at NOAO and other institutions.
- Astronomy Camp Counselor (June 2018/2019) - employed as counselor to teach middle school and high school students about astronomy and get them interested in science and technology in general.
- TechPrep Mentor, Stony Brook University (Summer 2015) - employed as STEM summer camp counselor for middle school girls on Long Island.
- Volunteer as Mystery Women for Explore Your Opportunities (EYO) Conference (April 2014/2015) - educated 7th grade girls about STEM through interactive learning techniques in Bronx, NY.