

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mika Lambert

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EDUCATION

PhD University of California–Santa Cruz

Expected 2028

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Advisor: Constance Rockosi

M.S. University of California–Santa Cruz

June 16, 2025

Astronomy and Astrophysics

B.S. University of Arizona

May 12, 2023

Astronomy (Minors in Physics, Math, and Japanese)

Summa Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS (first author:2 total: 7)

Gustavo E. Medina, et. al. incl. **Mika Lambert**. [The mass of the Milky Way from outer halo stars measured by DESI DR1](#) - submitted to AAS Journal August, 2025

Arjun Dey, et. al. incl. **Mika Lambert**. [The Backup Program of the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument's Milky Way Survey](#) - submitted to AJ May 22, 2025

Gustavo E. Medina, et. al. incl. **Mika Lambert**. [The DESI Y1 RR Lyrae catalog II: The metallicity dependency of pulsational properties, the shape of the RR Lyrae instability strip, and metal rich RR Lyrae](#) - submitted to AAS Journal May, 2025

Christian Aganze, et. al. incl. **Mika Lambert**. [The Cocytos Stream: A Disrupted Globular Cluster from Our Last Major Merger?](#) - submitted to ApJ April, 2025

Donghyeon J. Khim, Dennis Zaritsky, **Mika Lambert**, Richard Donnerstein. [Properties of Nuclear Star Clusters in Low Surface Brightness Galaxies](#) - Published in the Astrophysical Journal on July 1, 2024

Mika Lambert, Donghyeon J. Khim, Dennis Zaritsky, Richard Donnerstein. [Systematically Measuring Ultra-diffuse Galaxies \(SMUDGes\). VI. Nuclear Star Clusters](#) - Published in the Astrophysical Journal on January 15, 2024

Mika Lambert, Chad F. Bender, Shubham Kanodia, Caleb I. Canas, Andrew Munson, et. al.
[*TOI-5375: An Object at the Hydrogen Burning Limit Orbiting an Early M-type Star*](#) - Published to the Astronomical Journal on April 28, 2023

Talks and Posters

Sept 25, 2025 – DESI Milky Way Survey Telecon –Talk, remote

July 10, 2025 – DESI Collaboration Meeting – Talk, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, CA

June 5, 2025 – Gravity in the Local Group –Talk, Carnegie Mellon University, PA

April 25, 2025 – UCSC FLASH Seminar –Talk, UC–Santa Cruz, CA

March 6, 2025 – DESI Milky Way Survey Telecon – Talk, remote

August 12, 2024 - DESI Milky Way Survey Workshop –Talk, University of Toronto

June 3, 2024 – USPA Symposium – Poster, Santa Cruz, CA

January 12, 2023 – American Astronomical Society 241st meeting –Poster, Seattle, WA

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

<i>Osterbrock Minigrant - Slug-gazing Outreach Training for Grads (PI)</i>	\$250	2025
<i>Osterbrock Minigrant - UCSC Astronomy Graduate Student Retreat (Co-PI)</i>	\$2575	2025
<i>Osterbrock Minigrant - Creating Community Through Coworking (Co-PI)</i>	\$500	2025
<i>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (UCSC)</i>		2023-2028
<i>Wildcat Distinction Tuition Scholarship (UArizona)</i>		2019-2023
<i>Galileo Circle Scholar (UArizona)</i>		2022
<i>William Scott and Elizabeth P. Jenkins Scholarship (UArizona)</i>		2022
<i>Angelos C. Langadas Astronomy Scholarship (UArizona)</i>		2022
<i>Glenn C. Purviance Scholarship (UArizona)</i>		2022
<i>Bychinsky A. Elaine Astronomy Scholarship (UArizona)</i>		2020, 2021
<i>The Art of Planetary Science gallery artist (UArizona)</i>		2021, 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher September 2023-Present
University of California–Santa Cruz

Advisor: Connie Rockosi

I am analyzing the **kinematic perturbations in the Milky Way disk** using the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) Milky Way Survey (MWS). Looking at different phase spaces we see manifestations of disturbances of the disk. The goal is to identify the radial distance these manifestations appear in the DESI MWS data, link them to substructures in the disk, and discuss the origins of these disturbances. It is important to understand the Galactic disk because it may

allow one to see the effects of the dark matter potential on the disk, and trace the satellite interaction history of the Milky Way.

Undergraduate Researcher
University of Arizona

November 2019-August 2023

Advisor: Dennis Zaritsky

I developed analysis software to identify **nucleated low surface brightness galaxies** and measure the properties of the nuclear sources. The goal was to measure the incidence of nuclear clusters in these galaxies and to uncover any galaxy properties that led to an increased incidence rate. The properties of the nuclear core will also be used to constrain models for the formation and evolution of these cores. I am the first author of a paper submitted to the *Astronomical Journal*.

Undergraduate Researcher
University of Arizona

January 2022-May 2023

Advisor: Chad Bender

I identified **potential exoplanet targets** using spectroscopy and photometry of nearby stars to characterize them and the exoplanets that are orbiting them. We followed up on TESS objects with ground-based high-resolution spectroscopy from HPF to measure radial velocities. I learned how to utilize the `PYMC` and `exoplanet` packages from collaborators at Penn State University to model the orbital parameters, mass, and radius of targets of interest. I specifically worked on characterizing a system, labeled TOI-5375, and concluded the companion is a very low-mass star at the hydrogen-burning limit. I am the first author of a paper on the TOI-5375 system published in the *Astronomical Journal*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Winter 2024

Overview of the Universe (ASTR2)

University of California–Santa Cruz

- Lead discussion sections of 15-20 students each by creating lectures, worksheets, and interactive learning activities each week.
- Work with the instructor to grade weekly homework assignments, and plan the following week's lesson plan.

Preceptor

Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Introductory Mechanics (PHYS141)

University of Arizona

- Lead discussion sections of over 30 students for the physics introductory mechanics classes along with graduate students by encouraging students to work in groups to solve the weekly packet.
- Address questions that students have in a way that will guide them to the correct answer rather than simply giving the answer.

-Meet weekly with the professor lecturing the course to go over the packet and comment on how the previous meeting went as well as discuss the future worksheet.

Mentor Experience

Professional Development

TIMESTEP Alumni Panel - invited speaker	2024, 2025
GradPath (WiSE at UCSC)	
<i>Alison Weber - Graduating Senior</i>	2025
<i>Abigail Baddeley - Graduating Senior</i>	2025
<i>Tyler Barton - Graduating Senior</i>	2024
<i>Hayden Campbell - Graduating Senior</i>	2024
<i>Lily Larkins - Graduating Senior</i> → Florida Tech PhD student	2024
UCSC Astro Grad Mentoring Program	
<i>Anavi Uppal</i>	2024

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Graduate student representative 2024-2025

DEI committee (UCSC)

- Lead monthly meetings between the graduate student, post-doc, and faculty representatives.
- Create and organize several professional development workshops including a two-part post-doc application workshops, and an academic advising committee discussion.
- Organize events for the first week of the academic year to welcome new students and researchers.
- Organize a pool of funding to support ECS to attend identity-based conferences like NSBP/NHSP joint conference in Nov 2025.

Graduate School Application Resources Website 2024
[Website](#)

- Created a website using HTML of my personal advice to apply to PhD programs in the U.S. and the NSF GRFP.

President Spring 2022-Fall 2022

Vice President Fall 2021-Spring 2022

The University of Arizona Astronomy Club

University of Arizona

- Run the weekly meetings with over 100 active members to provide resources for undergraduates, updates on future volunteer outreach events, and announce internal events such as off-campus observation nights, and the annual out-of-state spring trip.
- Coordinate with the other officers to organize outreach events, telescope training events, and bi-annual trips to local dark sky locations, manage our budget, and increase our departmental funding from \$100 to \$600 annually.

-Communicate with the University's student government association as the liaison between the club and the University.

Undergraduate Leader

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

TIMESTEP

University of Arizona

- Led a meeting focused on navigating the first two years of people's undergraduate careers.
- Facilitate a positive community that values diversity through attending discussions and DEI workshops.

DEI committee member

Spring 2021-Present

Phi Sigma Rho

University of Arizona

- Create a newsletter for the 60 members to promote inclusivity in our sorority including resources for further education.

Camp Counselor

Summer 2021

Astronomy Camp

University of Arizona

- Teach 20 to 30 students how to use image processing software, AstroImageJ, to analyze data taken from telescopes at Mt. Bigelow.
- Lead breakout room discussions about different topics in astronomy including galaxy classification and stellar evolution.

OTHER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Graduate student retreat organizer (UCSC)

2024-2025

Astro Grad Mentoring Program coordinator (UCSC)

2024-2025

Women in STEM mentorship program (UArizona)

Fall 2019–Spring 2020

UArizona vaccination Point of Distribution (POD) volunteer

Feb 2021–May 2021

Arizona Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) voter registration volunteer

Fall 2020