

# SPENCER HURT

2030 Spruce Street, Apartment 9, Boulder, CO 80302  
(970) 310-0435 ◦ [shurt@uoregon.edu](mailto:shurt@uoregon.edu) ◦ [spencerhurt.github.io](https://spencerhurt.github.io)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Oregon** Beginning October 2022  
*Ph.D. Candidate in Earth Science (Geophysics, Volcanology, and Planetary Science)*

**University of Colorado, Boulder** May 2020 – May 2022  
*B.A. in Astronomy and Astrophysics*

- *Summa Cum Laude*, 3.99 GPA
- Thesis Title: ‘Measuring the Alignment Between Resolved Debris Disks and Their Host Stars’
- Advisor: Dr. Meredith MacGregor

**Harvard College** August 2018 – May 2019

## GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSEWORK

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- ASTR 5120: Radiative and Dynamical Processes (Fall 2021, CU Boulder)
- ASTR 5800: Planetary Surfaces and Interiors (Fall 2021, CU Boulder)
- ASTR 5810: Planetary Atmospheres (Spring 2022, CU Boulder)
- ASTR 5820: Origin and Evolution of Planetary Systems (Fall 2020, CU Boulder)
- PHYS 5210: Theoretical Mechanics (Fall 2020, CU Boulder)
- PHYS 5770: Theory of General Relativity (Spring 2021, CU Boulder)

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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**Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy** June 2020 – Present  
*Undergraduate Researcher*

Collaborated with Dr. Meredith MacGregor to model images of circumstellar debris disks and place constraints on the presence of nearby planetary companions.

**California Planet Search** October 2019 – December 2021  
*Undergraduate Researcher*

Worked with Dr. Benjamin Fulton to maintain and add functionality to `RadVel`, a Python package used to model radial-velocity time series. Applied this work to search for low-mass planets around nearby stars.

**University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy NSF REU** May 2021 – August 2021  
*Undergraduate Researcher*

Worked with Dr. Michael Liu and Dr. Zhoujian Zhang to test model atmospheres of dusty ultracool dwarfs against highly-accurate evolutionary models.

**Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics** January 2019 – August 2019  
*Undergraduate Researcher*

Helped identify transiting exoplanet candidates with the TESS Follow-up Observing Program. Led a radial-velocity search for planets around the bright, nearby star Vega with Dr. David Latham and Dr. Sam Quinn.

## PUBLICATIONS

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4. *Evidence for Misalignment Between Debris Disks and Their Host Stars*  
**S. A. Hurt**, M. A. MacGregor  
In Preparation

3. *Observationally Testing Model Atmospheres of Ultracool Dwarfs*  
**S. A. Hurt**, M. C. Liu, Z. Zhang  
In Preparation
2. *Confirmation of the Long-Period Planet Orbiting Gliese 411 and the Detection of a New Planet Candidate*  
**S. A. Hurt**, B. Fulton, H. Isaacson, L. J. Rosenthal, A. W. Howard, L. M. Weiss, E. A. Petigura  
The Astronomical Journal, 163, 5 (doi:10.3847/1538-3881/ac5c47)
1. *A Decade of Radial-Velocity Monitoring of Vega and New Limits on the Presence of Planets*  
**S. A. Hurt**, S. N. Quinn, D. W. Latham, A. Vanderburg, G. A. Esquerdo, M. L. Calkins, P. Berlind, R. Angus, C. A. Latham, G. Zhou  
The Astronomical Journal, 161, 4 (doi:10.3847/1538-3881/abdec8)

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Astronaut Scholar Technical Conference (August 2021)
- UHfA NSF REU Presentations (July 2021)
- UH Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Symposium (July 2021)
- Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Exoplanet Presentation Lounge (February 2021)
- Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Science Team Meeting (January 2021)
- California Planet Search Group Meeting (July 2020)

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- Theodore Snow Scholarship (2022)
- Lokey Graduate Science Award (2022)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2022)
- Johnston Graduate Scholarship (2022)
- Churchill Scholarship (2022, Declined)
- Astronaut Scholarship (2021)
- Barry Goldwater Scholarship (2021)
- Program for Research in Science and Engineering Fellowship (2019)
- Origins of Life Fellowship (2019, Declined)
- Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Youth Impact Award (2019)

## TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL POSITIONS

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### **CU Boulder Department of Physics**

August 2021 – December 2021

*Learning Assistant*

*Boulder, CO*

Supported student learning in PHYS 2130 (Modern Physics) by facilitating discussions, holding office hours, and providing feedback on assignments. Enrolled in EDUC 4610, a class focused on developing effective teaching pedagogy.

### **CU Boulder Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences**

August 2021 – December 2021

*Grader*

*Boulder, CO*

Graded and provided feedback on assignments for ASTR 3710 (Planet Formation and Dynamics).

## OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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### **Grand Mesa Observatory**

August 2019 – August 2021

*Volunteer*

*Grand Junction, CO*

Organized stargazing nights and public talks. Developed outreach programs for local schools, including observing and data analysis curricula for high school students. Helped maintain and operate telescopes.