

BENJAMIN K. CAPISTRANT

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EDUCATION

PhD in Astronomy <i>University of Florida</i>	2022 - present
MSc in Astronomy <i>University of Florida</i>	2022-2024
BS in Physics, BS in Astronomy-Physics, Certificate (Minor) in Mathematics <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 - 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Research Assistant <i>Dr. Jason Dittmann, University of Florida</i>	Aug 2022 - present
Research Assistant <i>Professor Andrew Vanderburg & Dr. Melinda Soares-Furtado, Massachusetts Institute of Technology & University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	May 2021 - Aug 2022
Research Assistant <i>Professor Ke Zhang, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Sep 2020 - Sep 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Capistrant, B.; Dittmann, J. *Stellar Flares in the TESS Light Curves of Planet-hosting M dwarfs*, 2026, The Astrophysical Journal, 998, 1 [\[ADS\]](#).

Capistrant, B.; Soares-Furtado, M.; Vanderburg, A.; Jankowski, A.; Mann, A.; Ross, G.; Srdoc, G.; Hinkel, N.; Becker, J.; Magliano, C.; Limbach, M.; Stephan, A.; Nine, A.; Tofflemire, B.; Kraus, A.; Giacalone, S.; Winn, J.; Bieryla, A.; Bouma, L.; Ciardi, D.; Collins, K.; Covone, G.; de Beurs, Z.; Huang, C.; Jenkins, J.; Kreidberg, L.; Latham, D.; Quinn, S.; Seager, S.; Shporer, A.; Twicken, J.; Wohler, B.; Vanderspek, R.; Yarza, R.; Ziegler, C. *TESS Hunt for Young and Maturing Exoplanets (THYME) XI: An Earth-sized Planet Orbiting a Nearby, Solar-like Host in the 400 Myr Ursa Major Moving Group*, 2024, The Astronomical Journal, 167, 2 [\[ADS\]](#).

Capistrant, B.; Soares-Furtado, M.; Vanderburg, A.; Kounkel, M. Rappaport, S.A *Population of Dipper Stars from the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite Mission*, 2022, The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series, 263, 1. [\[ADS\]](#)

PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentation, Extreme Solar Systems V, New Zealand March 2024

Poster: *The non-negligible activity of "inactive" M dwarfs measured by TESS and implications for JWST Observations*

Talks, Graduate Student Symposium, University of Florida Fall 2023, '24, '25

Oral presentation: *Stellar flares in the TESS light curves of planet-hosting M-dwarfs*

Invited Talk, Monday Science Seminar, UW-Madison January 2022

Oral presentation: *Classifying the Light Curve Morphology of Dipper Stars*

TEACHING AND OUTREACH

Graduate Teaching Assistant Aug 2022 - Dec 2024
University of Florida

Astronomy and Astrophysics I (AST 3018)

Graduate level Observational Techniques in Astronomy (AST 6725C)

Undergraduate level Observational Techniques in Astronomy (AST 3722C)

**Remote Experimental Team at
Rosemary Hill Observatory (RETRHO)** Oct 2024 - present
University of Florida

Public observing nights volunteer Aug 2022 - present
University of Florida

MEDIA & PRESS

NASA Discovery Alert, [Discovery Alert: Earth-sized Planet Has a 'Lava Hemisphere'](#), C. Gohd, 2024

Astronomy Magazine, [Nearest young Earth-sized planet could shed light on how terrestrial worlds evolve](#), S. Kunthunur, 2024

Ars Technica, [Astronomers found ultra-hot, Earth-sized exoplanet with a lava hemisphere](#), J. Ouellette, 2024

SETI Live, [Exploring a Hot, Young World: The Closest and Youngest Earth-sized Planet Discovered](#), B. Johnson, 2024

University of Florida News, [Young Earth-like Planet with Lava Oceans Spotted Near the Big Dipper](#), E. Hamilton, 2024