

# Dana Clarice Yaptangco

📍 London, UK   ✉️ d.yaptangco24@imperial.ac.uk   🌐 github.com/danay6   🆔 ORCID 0000-0001-6364-7336

---

## Education

<b>Imperial College London,</b> <i>Doctor of Philosophy in Astrophysics</i>	2024-2028
<b>University of Florida,</b> <i>Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics, Minor in Science Education</i> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	2020-2024




---

## Research Experience

<b>Graduate Researcher, Imperial College London (Advisor - Dr. Yvonne Unruh)</b> "Disentangling Stellar and Planetary Signals in Exoplanet Transits"	Oct 2024 – present
<b>Graduate Researcher, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Advisor - Dr. Gijs Mulders)</b> "Characterizing Exoplanet Around Small Stars"	Dec 2025
<b>Undergraduate Researcher, University of California, Berkeley (Advisor - Dr. Ann Marie Cody)</b> "Detectability of Megastructures in TESS Data Archive" - Utilized unsupervised machine learning anomaly detection to compute anomaly scores for lightcurves - Estimated the probability of overlooked technosignatures embedded within NASA's TESS data archive	Jun 2023 – Aug 2023
<b>Undergraduate Researcher, University of Michigan (Advisor - Dr. Marcelle Soares-Santos)</b> "Upgrading Post Processing of the DESGW Pipeline" - Automated image processing pipeline for the Dark Energy Survey to match gravitational waves with optical counterparts - Conducted mock observing runs & debugged pipeline to prepare for next LIGO observing run	Jun 2022 – Apr 2023
<b>Undergraduate Researcher, University of Florida (Advisor - Dr. Sarah Ballard)</b> "The Effect of Stellar Activity on Transit Detection in M dwarfs" - Lead a study on detectability of exoplanets around active versus inactive M dwarf stars - Construct an injection-and-recovery Python pipeline to analyze lightcurves from NASA's TESS Mission	May 2021 – present

---

## Publications

<b>First Author, Yaptangco D, Ballard S, Dittmann J. Quantifying the Effect of Short-timescale Stellar Activity Upon Transit Detection in M Dwarfs. Submitted Jan 2024. <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.00115">https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.00115</a> </b>
<b>Co-Author, Cody A. et al. A Search for Anomalous Fading Variability in the TESS Prime Mission I. Single Occulters. (In prep).</b>
<b>Conference Abstract, Yaptangco D, Cody A, Giles D. Signal Injection into TESS Light Curves for Technosignature Detection </b>
<b>Conference Abstract, Giles D, Cody A, Yaptangco D, Tong Y, Croft S. Anomaly Detection with TESS: A Search for Megastructures and Non-Spherical Occulters </b>

---

## Awards & Recognitions

<b>Fulbright Research Grant, 2024-25</b> - Awarded scholarship to undertake a research project in Santiago, Chile (9 months support)
<b>NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention</b>
<b>UF Astronomy Department Honors Thesis Award, 2024</b>
<b>William Oegerle Scholarship in Physics &amp; Astronomy, 2023-24 </b> - \$5000 for showing exceptional promise in conducting research in physics and/or astronomy
<b>Outstanding Service Award for the UF Astronomy Department, 2023</b>
<b>SETI Forward Scholarship, 2023 </b> - \$1500 research support, aimed at nurturing new SETI research talent, to be awarded at the Drake Awards Gala 2024
<b>GSMI Scholar of Científico Latino x Simons Foundation, 2023</b> - Selected to join the Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative (GSMI), a national cohort of 100 STEM students from minoritized backgrounds to engage in grad school preparation

## UF University Scholars Program, 2022

- \$1750 research support, selected to join cohort of 200 UF students across all disciplines conducting research with faculty one-on-one

---

### Presentations

---

- Talk, *Characterizing Planets Around Small Stars*** Mar 2025  
- Presented at the Fulbright Commission Enhancement Meeting, Santiago, Chile
- Talk, *Detecting Planets Around M Dwarfs*** May 2024  
- Presented as the 2024 Oegerle Scholar at the University of Florida Honors Thesis Seminar
- Poster, *Detectability of Megastructures in TESS Data Archive*** Jan 2024  
- Awarded travel grant to present at the American Astronomical Society Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- Talk, *Estimating the Probability of Megastructures in TESS*** Aug 2023  
- Presented at UC Berkeley SETI REU Symposium, Berkeley, CA
- Posters, *Assessing the Detectability of Transiting Planets around Small Stars*** Jan 2023 – Apr 2023  
- Presented at UF Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, Gainesville, FL  
- Awarded travel grant to present at Florida Undergraduate Research Conference, Miami, FL  
- Awarded travel grant to present at Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, Orlando, FL
- Talk, *Upgrading Post Processing of the DESGW Pipeline*** Aug 2022  
- Presented at University of Michigan Physics REU Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI
- Talk, *Assessing Detectability of Transits Around Active vs. Inactive M dwarfs*** Aug 2021  
- Presented at University of Florida Astronomy REU Symposium, Gainesville, FL

---

### Involvement

---

- Exohost Summer School** Sep 2024  
- Accepted with full funding to attend 1-week exoplanets workshops in Tartu, Estonia
- NASA Executive Secretary** Apr 2024  
- Took notes for NASA Review Panel  
- Gained insight into funding application review process
- Activate Student Mentoring Programme (Mentee)** Nov 2024  
- Mentee in mentoring scheme dedicated to supporting under-represented PhD students at Imperial College London
- Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics** May 2024  
- Member of the network to revolutionize our understanding of the universe through inclusive workplaces and equitable practices

---

### Other Service & Outreach

---

- Women & Non-Binary Students in Physics (Mentor)** Oct 2024 – Mar 2024  
- Completed mentor training on helping students identify and reach their goals  
- Coached an undergraduate student considering a PhD in Physics
- Co-Founder & Director, *Women's Astronomy & Astrophysics Mentorship (WAAM!) Program*** May 2023 – May 2024  
- Conceptualized and constructed a mentorship program focused on serving women and underrepresented minorities pursuing astronomy/astrophysics degrees  
- Match compatible graduate/undergraduate mentors & mentees as "big stars" and "little stars"  
- Organize and coordinate monthly events, including mentor training, team building, internship workshops, women's discussion panels, telescope observing nights
- Apprentice Teacher, *P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School*** May 2023  
- Wrote lesson plans and taught 8th grade science classes full time for one month  
- Improved teaching based on recorded videos of myself teaching class
- Tutor, *Triunfadores College Prep Program*** Aug 2022 – Dec 2022  
- Tutored English language learner elementary students in math, reading, and science 2 hours weekly
- STEM Club, *Carolyn Beatrice Parker Elementary School*** Jan 2022 – Apr 2022  
- Created lesson plans and ran weekly STEM club for the local elementary school's after-school education program