

William O. Balmer

4059 SE Pardee St, Portland OR | 971-998-4593
wbalmer21@amherst.edu | <https://www.astrowill.page/>

Education

Amherst College, Amherst MA

Expected May 2021

- Physics and Astronomy double major
- GPA: 3.7/4.00

Experience

Astronomy Dept., Amherst College | Amherst, MA

2018 - present

Research Assistant - Prof. Kate Follette

- Used angular and spectral differential imaging in tandem with the pyKLIP algorithm to search transitional disks for forming exoplanets
- [Transition Disk Database](#) Project Lead: coordinated and managed junior researchers in aggregating data and developing a platform for a centralized, public database

Dennis' 7 Dees Garden Center | Portland, OR

April 2016 – June 2017

Clerk

- Performed plant care and maintenance, maintained cleanliness of storefront and nursery
- Performed customer service including sales, planting and seeding advice, project guidance
- Lifted/carried bags of soil, trees, plants, and plant accessories weighing upwards of 50lbs

Shaking the Tree Theater | Portland, OR

October 2015 - June 2016

Producer/Co-director: LOL - A Modern Computer Farce

- Organized and carried out fundraising for over \$1000 to produce the play
- Handled cash & credit, while maintaining active and professional communication with multiple parties
- Directed student actors as well as designed set, lights, and sound

Additional Experience/Volunteer Work/etc

Volunteer - Great Falls Books Through Bars (Nov. 2019 – present)

Science communication - [Amherst STEM Network](#), personal blog (June 2018 – present)

Performer - Mr. Gads House of Improv (September 2017 – present)

Presentations

Jan. 7th, 2020 - [“Exploring the Transition Disk Population with a public facing database”](#) at the 235th meeting of the American Astronomical Society

Publications

Follette, ... **Balmer** et al. (in prep.)

Skills and Interest

- Proficient in:
 - Python: data visualization, preprocessing, analysis
 - Git: version control and collaboration
 - LaTeX: academic document preparation, formatting, design
- Academic interests include planetary formation, circumstellar disk evolution, and direct imaging techniques
- Personal interests include improv performance, biking, and beadwork