



Dr. Holly Sheets

Department of Physics and Astronomy

The College of Science and Engineering Technology proudly introduces Dr. Holly Sheets as a new faculty member within the Department of Physics and Astronomy. For the department, Dr. Sheets will be teaching Stars and Galaxies as well as Solar System Astronomy this spring. While not currently conducting research, Dr. Sheets does plan to return to her research in the near future; her focus of study is related to Exoplanets, which she explained to be “planets that orbit other stars, as opposed to our sun.”

When asked what brought her to Sam Houston State University, Dr. Sheets replied “serendipity”. She was elated to be a part of an institution that had an observatory while also being able to fill the desired roll of Astronomist for the department.

Dr. Sheets' interest in astronomy evolved from an early attraction to science fiction, puzzles and problem solving. She also notated that she was naturally a "night owl" who enjoyed observing the night sky. Growing up in a small town in Pennsylvania, the night skies were reasonably dark which allowed for a clear visibility and observation of the stars. With these interests in mind, she began her collegiate career at Gettysburg College where she obtained a B.S. in Physics. As an undergraduate, she had the opportunity to use the College observatory as well as participate in observations in Flagstaff, Arizona; these events helped fuel her interest in the area of study that ultimately led to the pursuit of her graduate work. Dr. Sheets went on to obtain a M.S. in Physics from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Maryland.

Fun Facts

Do you have any pets?

I adopted my dog Dorothy (AKA Dottie) from the local Rita B Huff Humane Society.



What is your favorite type of food?

I love coconut cake and ice cream sandwiches. I also love Teaberry ice cream, but that is a flavor rarely found outside Pennsylvania.

What is the most interesting place you've ever visited or lived?

The most interesting place I've ever visited is Hawaii. I attended a conference in Honolulu, then spent a few days for fun at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The most interesting place I've ever lived is Montreal, Quebec, for my postdoctoral fellowship at McGill University.

Do you enjoy any sports or hobbies?

I follow hockey, football, and baseball. I used to play intramural soccer, and I used to ski, but it's been awhile for both. I crochet and knit.

What's your favorite TV series or movies?

I like Babylon 5, Lord of the Rings, Hawaii 5-0 (the newer one), and Harry Potter.