

MICHELE ZANOLIN

Dr. Michele Zanolin is an associate professor of astrophysics at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. He leads the supernovae detection team at LIGO, and chairs the 14-member LIGO Scientific Collaboration at Embry-Riddle. He started his PhD at the University of Parma, moved to MIT in 1999 to complete his PhD, and spent another 4 years there as a postdoc. Michele, his wife Caroline, and daughters Sophia, Annika and Luca, have been in Prescott since 2007. He emphatically believes that with further refinements in hardware and software "Supernovae will be the next big thing at LIGO."

More at: mercury.pr.erau.edu/~zanolinm/

Still more at: <https://roster.ligo.org/roster.php?do=roster&search=group&target=5>

KAI STAATS

Kai Staats, MSc, is a filmmaker, lecturer, visiting scientist, and traveler. For 10 years he served as CEO of a Linux OS and HPC systems provider for NASA, the DoE, and universities worldwide. Now Kai engages his passion for storytelling through film. "LIGO Detection" is his third NSF documentary. At Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University he guides the application of machine learning for the isolation of supernovae signals in LIGO data. When not at a computer, he explores those places that cell towers cannot reach. From 1988-1990 Kai was president of the Phoenix Astronomical Society.

More at: www.kaistaats.com/research/

Still more at: www.kaistaats.com/film/