

Peter M. Frinchaboy III
Professor & Graduate Director, Department of Physics & Astronomy,
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129 USA

email: p.frinchaboy [at] tcu.edu ; **ORCID:** 0000-0002-0740-8346

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

2026–Present Project Scientist, ‘After Sloan 5’, AS5
2019–Present Collaboration Committee, Sloan Digital Sky Survey-V
2015–Present Director of Graduate Programs, Department of Physics & Astronomy, TCU
2025–2025 Co-Chair, ‘After Sloan 5’ Steering Committee (AS5SC)
2023–2025 MSE Project Scientist, Canada-France-Hawai’i Telescope, CFHT
2011–2024 Director, Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Site Program, TCU
2012–2022 Management Committee, Survey Coordinator, Sloan Digital Sky Survey-IV
2008–2014 APOGEE Survey Operations Scientist, Sloan Digital Sky Survey-III

RESEARCH WORK:

My internationally recognized research focuses on observation-based study of Milky Way and Local Group stellar populations and stellar properties, with a focus on utilizing star clusters to analyze and calibrate large-scale systematic surveys and missions such as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS-III, -IV, -V, & AS5) and ESA Gaia.

Research Accomplishments:

- \$17.6M in External Funding as PI/Co-I/Senior Personnel (NSF/NASA/Private)
- \$4.0M in External Funding as PI (\$2M+ from NSF)
- 120+ Published refereed journal articles (*h-index* = 65 from [NASA ADS](#))
- Successfully directed/co-directed 8 PhDs and 5 MS
- 75+ Student-led Conference presentations

Professional Appointments:

AS5 Project Scientist, After Sloan 5 project (2025 – Present)
Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Texas Christian University (2021 – Present)
MSE Project Scientist, Canada-France-Hawai’i Telescope (2023 – 2025)
Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Texas Christian University (2015 – 2021)
Assistant Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Texas Christian University (2009 – 2015)
NSF Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow, U. Wisconsin (2006 – 2009)

Educational Background:

Ph.D. in Astronomy	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA	2006
M.S. in Astronomy	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA	2002
B.S. in Physics	California State University, Sacramento (Minors: Astro, CSC)	2000

Research Interests:

- Characterizing stellar populations with photometry and high resolution spectroscopy.
- Chemodynamical evolution of the Milky Way and Local Group galaxies.
- PI of the Open Cluster Chemical Abundances & Mapping (OCCAM) survey.
- Calibration of stellar surface chemical variations (e.g., diffusion, mixing) using star clusters.
- Identification of binary star populations using multi-wavelength photometry.
- Optimizing the design and operation of large collaborative surveys (SDSS, MSE).

SERVICE AND COMMITTEE WORK:

Texas Christian University:

University Graduate Council (2025–Present)
High-performance Computing Committee (2018–Present)
Physics & Astronomy Advisory Committee (2016–Present)
Texas Space Grant Consortium: TCU Institutional Representative (2014–Present)
Co-Chair, Provost Promotion & Tenure Review Committee (2021–2023)
Faculty Senator (CSE: 2021–2023)
Physics & Astronomy Curriculum Committee (Chair: 2017–2023)
University Technology Committee (2015–2022; Chair 2020–2022)
Chair, Astrophysics Faculty Search Committee (2014 & 2018)
Member, Physics Faculty Search Committee ('10, '12, '15, '17, '18, '19 [×2], '23 [×2])

External:

(2015 – Present) American Astronomical Society (AAS), Department Chairs Committee
(2014 – Present) American Astronomical Society Agent
(2024) *MSE Virtual Workshop*, (SOC & LOC Chair)
(2020) *SDSS-IV/APOGEE-2 Science Meeting*, (LOC Chair & SOC)
(2016) AAS Science and Engineering Congressional Visits Day
(2015) Texas Astronomy Undergraduate Research Symposium (TAURS) and Building Astronomy in Texas (BAT) meeting (SOC)
(2015) The SDSS-IV/APOGEE-2 South Targeting Training Workshop (LOC Chair & SOC)
(2013) *The SDSS-IV Operations Planning Meeting*, (LOC Chair & SOC)

Proposal Reviewer for National Science Foundation, NASA, HST, FONDECYT (Chile).
Manuscript Reviewer for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Astrophysical Journal, Astronomical Journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, PASP.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Astronomical Society (1999–Present)
American Astronomical Society: Dynamical Division (2001–Present)
International Astronomical Union (2012–Present)
Canadian Astronomical Society (2023–Present)
After Sloan 5 Survey (2025–Present)
Sloan Digital Sky Survey V (2018–Present)
Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV (2012–2022)
Sloan Digital Sky Survey III (2009–2012)
Raven Society, University of Virginia (Inducted 2005)
ΣΠΣ National Physics Honor Society (Inducted 1998)