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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NEWS & UPDATES



In Memoriam: A Pioneer of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics

Gary Steigman, professor emeritus of astronomy and physics, who died April 9, 2017, was a leader in cosmology at a time when astronomy and particle physics were merging. His pioneering studies of the Big Bang helped overturn the idea that most of the universe's matter was made of atoms, leading to today's view of a universe filled with dark matter driven by **dark energy**. In 1986, when Ohio State recruited him to found a cosmology

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center, including both astronomers and physicists, the Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics (CCAPP) — now regarded as one of the nation's premier centers — was born. [See *The New York Times*' tribute.](#)

NEWS & RESEARCH

NIH Establishes New Interdisciplinary Molecular Biophysics Training Program at Ohio State

NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) awarded **Ralf Bundschuh**, physics; **Jeff Kuret**, biological chemistry and pharmacology; and **Thomas J. Magliery**, chemistry and biochemistry; approximately \$850,000 over five years to establish an interdisciplinary Molecular Biophysics Training Program (MBTP) at Ohio State. There are only 23 such NIH-supported Research Training Programs in the nation.

The Graduate School, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences; Medicine; and Engineering; and training-faculty members' departments, will provide more than \$1M in matching funds.

Indo-US STEM Initiative Celebrates Success, Announces New Center

Ohio State completed its Indo-US (formerly Obama-Singh) Knowledge Initiative providing faculty training for Indian graduate students in STEM education and research. **Sultana Nahar**, astronomy research professor, [introduced a new dual MEd degree program](#) and new center. ASC's departments of Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics, Molecular Genetics and Physics; Department of Radiology; College of Education; and Office of International Affairs, participated.

Dorothy Noyes Publishes Book on Collaborative Research



Dorothy Noyes, professor in English and comparative studies, has published [Sustaining Interdisciplinary Collaboration: A Guide for the Academy](#), coauthored with Regina F. Bendix and Kilian Bizer, just out from University of Illinois Press. Born of six years' experience in the Göttingen Interdisciplinary Working Group on Cultural Property, this book is a reflective guide to collaborative research as social process, showing newcomers how to anticipate characteristic challenges, shepherd interaction, and capture interdisciplinary insights under inevitably tricky working

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AWARDS

Political Science Professor Receives Best Article Award



Inés Valdez, assistant professor, political science, was selected for the award for Best Article published in *Political Research Quarterly* in 2016, by the Western Political Science Association. The article, "**Punishment, Race, and the Organization of U.S. Immigration Exclusion**," examines the way in which narratives of white victimization support a system of immigration enforcement that makes everyday life tougher for immigrants.

Alumna Named to *Granta* List of Best Young U.S. Novelists



Alumna **Claire Vaye Watkins** (MFA, English, 2011) has been named one of the 2017 *Granta's* Best of Young American Novelists. Watkins is the author of *Gold Fame Citrus* (2016) and *Battleborn* (2012), which won the Story Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Education Review Session May 11

The second and final session to discuss the review of the General Education program will be held **Thursday, May 11, 9-10:30 a.m.**, in 220 Sullivant Hall. Input is being sought on the following three questions:

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1. What should be the big picture goals of Ohio State's General Education program?
2. What should all Ohio State graduates know and be able to do?
3. What GE structure(s) will meet these goals? Be coherent? Serve student needs?

Randy Smith, vice-provost for OAA; and Faculty Fellows Larry Krissek, School of Earth Sciences, and Catherine Montalto, Department of Human Sciences, along with members of the GE Review Committee, look forward to your ideas and input. [Registration required.](#)

ASC Summer 2017 Staff Book Circle

Arts and Sciences staff are invited to participate in this summer's ASC staff book circle. Book circle members [will read the 2017 Buckeye Book Community selection *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*](#), by Bryan Stevenson. ASC book circles will meet two times over a brown bag lunch during July. For those ASC staff members who participate in a book circle, books are provided by the college at no cost; however, copies are limited and distributed on a first come, first served basis. **The registration deadline is Monday, May 22, 2017.** For additional information on the book and the online registration form, please visit [ASC Staff Book Circle](#). For questions, please email [Jean Whipple](#).

Design Matters Education Abroad Program Featured in Campus Brasil Newsletter

Led by Professor **Susan Melsop**, as a part of her #DesignMatters Course, students from the Department of Design traveled to São Paulo to work alongside local students from Mackenzie Presbyterian University to support design/construction projects for a local community organization, Cisarte. The [program was highlighted](#) in the most recent [Campus Brasil e-newsletter](#).

IN THE NEWS

Allison Snow, professor, EEOB, comments & photo in [Nature's](#) coverage of March for Science, May 1

Ian Krajbich, professor, psychology and economics, on his new study on moments of epiphany, [Columbus Dispatch](#), April 29

Paul Sutter, astrophysicist,

EVENTS

May 4

[ARTrepreneur Resource Party](#)
400 W. Rich St.
6-8 p.m.

Through May 6

[Department of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts Senior Projects Exhibition](#)
Urban Arts Space, 50 W. Town St.
Gallery Hours
Reception: May 6, 5-7 p.m.

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the Structure of the Sun?" [Space.com](#), April 29

Wendy Smooth, associate professor, women's, gender and sexuality studies, and **David Stebenne**, professor, history and law, on the Trump Presidency's First 100 days, [WOSU All Sides](#), April 27

Louis DiMauro, professor, physics, on producing a molecular movie, [Nature](#), April 26

The **Sports and Society Initiative's** panel discussion on athletes and social activism, [Columbus Dispatch](#), April 25

Ruchika Prakash, associate professor, psychology and director of the Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory, on how exercise is linked with better brain health in midlife, [Fox News](#), April 25

Natasha Woods, visiting assistant professor, Newark; and **Ryan McCarthy**, graduate student, evolution, ecology and organismal biology, on rain-soaked California desert's rare wildflower bloom, [Columbus Dispatch](#), April 25

May 9

Subject Matter Series: East Meets West Festival

Urban Arts Space, 50 W. Town St.
5:30 p.m.

May 10 to June 5

ARTrepreneur Workshop Series 2017

400 W. Rich St.

Times listed on event

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