

# Department Newsletter

## July 2026



### AWARDS & SUCCESS

There were several Ph.D. defenses in May and June with **Dr. Connor Basinger, Dr. Emily Koiva, Sebastian Lopez, Dr. Jack Roberts and Dr. Wynne Turner** all successfully defending. **Prof. Sultana Nahar** had three papers selected for the Editor's Choice of journal *Atoms*. OSU has also been invited to join the [Brinson Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) program in Cosmology as a host institution. Thanks to **Todd** for his work on the application and congrats on its success. **Congratulations to all!**

### SURP SYMPOSIUM

This year's SURP Symposium will take place on **Friday July 17** and will showcase the exciting summer research carried out by this year's SURP cohort. New this year: SURP participants will present their Raspberry Pi instrumentation projects, an initiative piloted in collaboration with the ISL. The symposium will be in hybrid format, beginning at 10:30 a.m. during the usual Astro Coffee slot and using the Astro Coffee Zoom. The event will continue into the early afternoon. A [detailed schedule will be available online](#) shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay ([westraadt.2](#)).

### ILOCATER SEES FIRST LIGHT

The iLocater program checked off two major program milestones in June: 1) a [successful instrument reintegration](#) at the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) and 2) the [first starlight being recorded by the instrument](#). Department members completing integration were **Julia Brady, Jonathan Crass, Mark Derwent, Mike Engelman, Dan Pappalardo and Marcelo Tala**, with on-sky first-light operations being supported by **Jonathan Crass, Jackson Datkuliak, Marshall Johnson, Sai Vidyud Senthil Nathan and Marcelo Tala**. **Thanks to everyone who helped this decade long-program reach its first light observations!**

### 2026/27 POLARIS MENTOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are still open for graduate students in astronomy and physics to become a Polaris Mentor for next academic year! Find out more about the [Polaris program](#), and [submit your mentor applications online](#).

For current news stories, visit <https://astronomy.osu.edu/news>

## Upcoming Events

### COLLOQUIUM

**No more colloquia until next semester** 🙄

### OTHER EVENTS

**Fr Jul 3: Independence Day (Observed)**

*No classes. Offices closed. No astro-coffee.*

**Fr July 17: SURP Symposium**

*An all-day event showcasing research presentations from current SURP students.*

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A list of upcoming events can be found at <https://astronomy.osu.edu/events>

Submit events and news for the website, display screens and newsletter by emailing: [astro-webrequests@osu.edu](mailto:astro-webrequests@osu.edu)

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### NOIRLAB UNDERGRAD REU PROGRAM IN CHILE

NOIRLab in La Serena Chile is [inviting applications for their Jan-March 2027 REU program](#). Students will work on individual research projects on location in Chile. A weekly stipend and housing will be provided. Undergraduate students who are US citizens, US nationals, or US permanent residents are eligible. The deadline for applications is 9 September.

### CAMPUS RESOURCES

The [Ohio State Postdoctoral Association](#) is a volunteer organization that works to support postdoctoral scholars. They host monthly meetings, organize workshops and Postdoc Appreciation Week, and advocate for postdoctoral issues on campus.

### DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATES

Over the next few months, expect to see a series of changes to the Astronomy website. This will bring content up to date and improve the navigation structure for users. If you see any content which is out of date and needs updating, please email [astro-webrequests@osu.edu](mailto:astro-webrequests@osu.edu).