

# Department Newsletter

February 2025



## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS UPDATES

The astronomy PhD program received 269 applications this year (the highest number ever), with 8 prospective students being admitted! A virtual visit for prospective students is planned for mid-February, with an in-person visit anticipated in late March.

## AWARDS & SUCCESS

January and the preceding months have seen numerous awards and successes across all levels of the Department.

Faculty awards include **Laura Lopez** and **David Weinberg** being elected [2025 Fellows of the American Astronomical Society](#). **Adam Leroy** has been awarded the [2025 Henry Draper Medal](#) from the National Academy of Sciences for his pathbreaking efforts to characterize the physical nature of the interstellar medium and star formation in nearby galaxies.

As part of the 245<sup>th</sup> winter AAS in National Harbor, Maryland, graduate students **Joy Bhattacharyya**, **Alison Duck**, **Anusha Janardan Pai Asnodkar**, **Caprice Phillips** and **Dominick Rowan** all gave successful dissertation talks.

In undergraduate successes, **Josie Rose** and **Dasha Crocker** won poster prizes at the [2025 CU\\*IP meeting at Purdue](#). **Maura Kelley** has been awarded an [Undergraduate Research Scholarship](#). Undergraduates recipients of Department scholarships include **Dasha Crocker**, **Noah Downing**, **Emily Macbeth**, **Jack Stethem**, **Ashley Tarrant** ([L. Earl Slusher Scholarship](#)); **Jackson Cook**, **Erin Duell**, **Nora Julmy**, **Jory McDermott**, **Colton Ring**, **Sai Senthil Nathan**, **Shelby Summers** ([Ann Slusher Tuttle Scholarship](#)); and **Noah Downing** ([Bollinger-Kissell Scholarship](#)).

In publication and collaboration successes, the first-year science papers from the **DESI team** were among the most cited in all of physics in 2024. Work by **Smita Mathur** has recently been featured in [phys.org](#). **David Weinberg** has been appointed Co-Spokesperson of the newly formed Roman Science Collaboration ([find out more and join the collaboration](#)). The e-magazine "[An-Nisa 2024](#)" (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) was published by its chief editor **Sultana Nahar**.

**Congratulations to all!**

## DEI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Construction of the single-occupancy restroom on the ground floor of McPherson has now commenced! The current estimate for completion is mid-April.

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

## Upcoming Events

### COLLOQUIUM

**Th Feb 6, 3:00pm:** Greg Bryan (Columbia)

**Title:** A Multiscale Physics Approach to Understanding Galaxy Evolution

**Th Feb 13, 3:00pm:** Lia Corrales (U. Michigan)

**Title:** The Cosmic Journey of the Elements, from Dust to Life

### OTHER EVENTS

#### Talks

**Tu Feb 4, 12:00pm:** Austin Cummings (Penn State)

*CCAPP Seminar*

**Wed Feb 19, 6:00pm:** Sean Carroll (Johns Hopkins)

*15th Annual Biard Lecture – Complexity in the University*

#### DEI

**Th Feb 6, 12:30pm:** Diversity Journal Club  
*What makes a good NASA Inclusion Plan?*

**Th Feb 13, 12:30pm:** AstroGenMin Lunch

**Th Feb 20, 12:30pm:** Diversity Journal Club  
*Topic – TBD*

**Mon Feb 24, 4:00pm:** NSBP/NSHP Meeting  
*Contact Shanel Deal ([deal.137](#)) for details.*

**Th Feb 27, 12:30pm:** LGBTQ+ Lunch

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

Submit events and news: [astro-webrequests@osu.edu](mailto:astro-webrequests@osu.edu)

## EVENTS AND DEPARTMENT SCREENS

Display screens in the department now are linked to event listings on the Department website. To make sure events are shown on both the website and screens, please submit them to [astro-webrequests@osu.edu](mailto:astro-webrequests@osu.edu).