

Department Newsletter

February 2024



GRADUATE ADMISSIONS UPDATES

The astronomy PhD program had 241 applications this year (the highest number ever), with 9 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

A first author paper led by grad student Deb Pathak studying the structure of nearby spiral galaxies with JWST was highlighted in [Ohio State News](#). Joy Bhattacharyya has submitted her Dark Energy Survey paper on galaxy quenching of low surface brightness galaxies to ApJ and [arXiv](#). [Seven undergrad majors](#) received Undergraduate Research Scholarships. The Department continues to see awards and fellowships at all levels; these achievements will be included once publicly announced. **Congratulations to all!**

PLANETARIUM & OUTREACH UPDATES

With the upcoming eclipse, support is *critically* needed for planetarium shows in late February and early March. Public shows will also take place in spring break and presenters are needed. Contact Wayne ([schlingman.4](#)) about helping and for training.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

[Thirteen undergrad astro majors](#) attended the 2024 CUWiP conference at West Virginia University. Sultana Nahar hosted Dr. Hashima Hasan from NASA HQ on behalf of student organization International Society of Muslim Women in Science at OSU. Events included a department talk and a public talk at the Ohio Union.

DEI COMMITTEE UPDATES

We are (re)starting monthly lunches (bring your own lunch) to help connect groups within the department. The first events are AstroGenMin Lunch (Feb 15 - open to anyone who identifies as a gender minority) and LGBTQ+ lunch (Feb 29 - open to anyone who identifies a part of the broad LGBTQ+ community). Contact Joy ([bhattacharyya.37](#)) or Deb ([pathak.89](#)) for more information.

SENSORY TOOL KIT

Feeling overstimulated? Need to de-stress? We have a Sensory Tool Kit in the office printer room (4055C) with fidget toys, essential oils, candy, earplugs, and other sensory fun to support our neurodiverse department!

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The [Employee Assistance Program](#) offers a variety of resources, including free counseling services, resource locators, financial tools, and legal services for family law issues. It is available to OSU employees, their dependents, household members, and parents.

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

Th Feb 1, 3:00pm: Tiziana DiMatteo (Carnegie Mellon University)

Title: Massive Black Holes: Insights from Cosmological Simulations

Th Feb 8, 3:00pm: Juliette Becker (Wisconsin)

Title: Planet Formation from a Dynamical Perspective: Explaining the Orbits of Ultra-Short-Period Planets Through Disk-Planet and Star-Planet Interactions

Th Feb 15, 3:00pm: Luke Bouma (Caltech)

Title: TBA

Th Feb 22, 3:00pm: Tuguldur Sukhbold (Radiology Partners)

Title: TBA

Th Feb 29, 3:00pm: Phil Hopkins (Caltech)

Title: TBA

OTHER EVENTS

Th Feb 1, 12:30pm: Grad Reps

Grad student only DJC

Th Feb 8, 12:30pm: Juliette Becker

(Wisconsin)

DJC – Advancing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in Professional Societies: the DDA

Th Feb 15, 12:30pm: AstroGenMin Lunch

Th Feb 22, 12:30pm: Wendy Smooth (OSU)

DJC – Title TBA

Th Feb 29, 12:30pm: LGBTQ+ Lunch

Tu Feb 20, 12:00pm: Wenzer Qin (MIT)

CCAPP Seminar – Title TBA

Fr Feb 23, 11:15am: Maissa Salama (UCSC)

Exoplanets – Title TBA

Tu Feb 27, 12:00pm: Chris Carr (Columbia)

CCAPP Seminar – Title TBA

Feb 28-Mar 2 & Mar 6-8, 7:30pm: Lauren Gunderson's "Silent Sky"

A play hosted by the [OSU Theatre Department](#) about the life of astronomer Henrietta Leavitt.

Fr Mar 1: OSU Hayes Research Forum

[Forum for exemplary research](#) conducted by OSU graduate students and postdoc researchers.