

Department Newsletter

May 2025



NEW ARRIVALS

Shanel Deal and her husband celebrated the birth of baby Tatum on April 24th at 12:54am weighing in at 7 lbs 4 oz. **We're thrilled for your growing family!**

FUTURE POSITIONS

Caprice Phillips will be starting as a Hubble Sagan Fellow at UC Santa Cruz in the fall. **All the best for the new position!**

AWARDS & SUCCESS

Successes spanned the entire Department in April! Undergrad Ian Harris was awarded the [President's Buckeye Accelerator](#) for developing SWAN, a disinfection technology to prevent mold growth on spacecraft surfaces. The [Polaris poster session](#) was a major success with an impressive set of posters being presented – a credit to all the students and mentors. Graduate Student Kylee Carden submitted her first [first-author paper](#).

Among the faculty, Sultana Nahar has received "The William A. Fowler Award for Distinguished Research in Atomic Astrophysics" of American Physical Society, Spring 2025. Laura Lopez received the ASC Mid-Career Faculty Excellence Award at the ASC Spring Awards reception on April 22. Ji Wang received the Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award at the OAA Faculty Awards Celebration on April 25. Adam Leroy received the Draper Medal at the National Academy of Sciences on April 27. **Congratulations to all!**

ALUMNI SOCIETY AND LINKEDIN

To increase both networking and mentoring in astronomy and in industry, we are creating a dedicated **Astronomy and Physics Alumni Society** (for anyone with degrees from OSU Astronomy and Physics). Please [fill out a brief survey](#) to help us gauge interest and collect ideas. Audrey Zinn (Astronomy BS 2023) and Wayne ([schlingman.4](#)) are leading the current effort. Also, please follow or add the [Department of Astronomy](#) to your LinkedIn profile. This is a school so you can add it to your educational experience, in addition to *The Ohio State*. This helps immensely with our career networking.

DEPARTMENT SECURITY

Petty theft in OSU buildings often peaks at the end of the semester. Please keep doors closed and locked if a room is unoccupied. If you see something unusual, contact the OSU Police Department at 614-292-2121.

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

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

No more colloquia until next semester ☹️

OTHER EVENTS

Sa May 3, 1:45pm: [Senior Send-off 2025](#)

PRB Atrium

Su May 4: Commencement

Su May 4, 1:05pm: [Space Day at the Columbus Clippers](#)

Mo May 5, 9:00am: SURP begins

Talks

Fri May 1, 11:15am: Yinan Zhou (UT Austin)

Exoplanet Group Meeting – Unlocking the Detection of Earth-Like Exoplanets by Mitigating Stellar Activity with Deep Learning

Fri May 30, 12:00pm: Alison Duck (OSU)

Ph.D. Defense – Title TBC

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

Submit events and news: astro-webrequests@osu.edu

FALL GRADUATE STUDENT ARRIVALS

There are several new graduate students who will be joining OSU Astronomy in the fall: Anning Gao (Tsinghua U); Nadia Qutob (Georgia Tech); and Serat Mahmud Saad (Vanderbilt). Thanks to the Department admissions committee for their work, and to everyone who has supported visits and other admissions efforts!

CAMPUS RESOURCES: LIFESTYLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

[Lifestyle Spending Accounts](#) reimburse \$125 per quarter to eligible employees for personal expenses related to health, fitness, family, emotional and social wellness.

A NEWSLETTER THANK YOU

And finally, a huge thank you to Noah Downing for his help and efforts in compiling the past 18 editions of the Department Newsletter! As he graduates, his efforts will be missed.

