

Department Newsletter

May 2024



GRADUATE STUDENTS - DEFENSES AND CANDIDACIES

April saw Dr. Ness Mayker Chen and Dr. Michael Plummer successfully defended their Ph.D. theses. Miqaela Weller and Wynne Turner also successfully passed their candidacy exams. **Congratulations!**

AWARDS & SUCCESS

Several OSU astro students and alumni have been recognized as part of the 2024 [NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#):
GRFP Winners: Kaia Atzberger, Karina Barboza, Rebecca McClain, Anya Phillips, and Tawny Sit.
GRFP Honorable Mentions: Collin Christy, Evan Fitzmaurice, Kaz Gary, Mary Rickel, and Aiden Zelakiewicz.

David Zach was named as a recipient of the [2024 Mary Bailey Advising Award](#). Sultana Nahar organized a hybrid symposium on behalf of the Indo-US Stem Center of OSU-AMU and ISMWS (International Society of Muslim Women in Science).

Fantastic Successes!

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Two astronomy majors have been awarded College of Arts and Sciences [Undergraduate Research Scholarships](#) in Spring 2024: Dasha Crocker (advisor: Don Terndrup) and Noah Downing (advisor: Marc Pinsonneault).

Several astro majors and minors were honored by the Department of Physics at their annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony:

Physics Senior Award winners: Sanskruti Admane, Sam Bellman, Harrison Blake, Nigel Krekeler, and Anya Phillips.

Physics Junior Award winners: Dasha Crocker, Ben Hughes, Salim Karimov, Emily Macbeth, and Ashley Tarrant.

Physics Sophomore Award winners: Jackson Cook, Leandre Hogrefe, and Mingyi Xu.

Physics Freshman Award winners: Zachary Brutko, Sabrina Fortunak, Sabrina Henige, Kieran Kelly, and Sophie Olsen.

Way to go all!

OUTREACH UPDATES

Kaz Gary, Karina Barboza and Ji Wang hosted an Exoplanet exhibition booth at COSI's Passport to the Color of Science 2024 event. The 2024 Program of Excellent in Engaged Scholarship from the OSU Office of Outreach & Engagement 2024 saw two successes for the Department: [The SciAccess program](#), founded at OSU and dedicated to improving disability accessibility in STEM fields, and [WestFest](#), OSU's annual West Campus Science & Sustainability Festival. **Congratulations to all involved!**

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

No more colloquia until next semester

OTHER EVENTS

Th May 2, 6:00pm: Portable Planetarium Party

Solstice Outreach – PRB Atrium

Sa May 4, 1:30pm: Senior Send-off 2024

PRB Atrium

Mo May 6, 9:00am: SURP program begins

Talks

Th May 2, 1:00pm: Kiersten Boley (OSU)

Ph.D. Defense – From Soot Sprites to Planets: Influence of Elemental Abundances on Planet Formation and Evolution

Fri May 3, 11:15am: Songhu Wang (Indiana University)

Exoplanet Group Meeting – Towards a Unified Story for Planet Formation

CCAPP Seminars

Tu May 10, 12pm: Keir Rogers (University of Toronto)

SUMMER/FALL ARRIVALS

There are several new department members who will be joining us as we head towards the fall:

Graduate Students: Angelica Whisnant (Cal Poly Pomona); Devisree (Dev) Tallapaneni (Cornell); Grace Krahm (Agnes Scott College); and Shea DeFour-Remy (Arizona State).

Postdocs: Alison Crisp working with Scott Gaudi (PhD student at LSU); Amber Malpas working with Scott Gaudi (PhD student at U. Canterbury, New Zealand); Charuhas Shiveshwarkar as a CCAPP Fellow (PhD student at Stony Brook); Madeline Howell working with Jennifer Johnson, Marc Pinsonneault, and David Weinberg (PhD student at Monash University, Australia); Molly Wolfson as a CCAPP Fellow (PhD student at UCSB); Raquel Fores Toribio as a CCAPP Fellow (PhD student – U. Valencia, Spain); and Yuxi (Lucy) Lu as a Buckeye Prize Fellow, Presidential Fellow & CCAPP Affiliate Fellow (Postdoc at AMNH).