

Department Newsletter

August 2025



DEPARTMENT ARRIVALS

The Department wants to extend a *special welcome* to our new graduate students arriving in August – **Anning Gao**, **Nadia Qutob**, and **Serat Saad** – transferring graduate student **Haniyeh Tajer** coming to us from OSU Earth Sciences – our new postdoctoral researcher **Marcelo Tala Pinto** – our new ASAS-SN Research Assistant **Calder Lenhart** – our new Student Administrative Assistant **Bailey Kearney** – and our new ASCTech/IRIS Support Specialist **Bridgette White**. There will be further arrivals later in the fall. **Welcome to Ohio State Astronomy!**

AWARDS & SUCCESS

There were Ph.D. defenses in July with **Dr. Joy Bhattacharyya**, and **Dr. Anusha Pai Asnodkar** successfully defending. An article by **Rebecca McClain** and **Prof. Adam Leroy** about the Sculptor galaxy has been [featured in The Conversation](#). Work by **Prof. Sultana Nahar** was been featured in the [2024-2025 OSC Annual Report](#). The new Wayfinders planetarium show was featured by WOSU. **Congratulations to all!**

SURP UPDATES

Congratulations to the 2025 [SURP](#) cohort who showcased their outstanding summer research at the annual [SURP symposium](#). Your hard work over the summer truly paid off! We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our project advisors and workshop presenters – your support is invaluable.

OUTREACH UPDATES

If you would like to know more about Department service and outreach opportunities, there will be a ‘Service & Outreach Astro Coffee’ during the first week of September. If you are interested in giving shows in the planetarium this fall or are TAing and would like to be trained, please email Wayne ([schlingman.4](#)) so training can be organized.

FACULTY UPDATES

Scott Gaudi is returning from sabbatical this month. Ji Wang and Adam Leroy are on sabbatical for the full academic year and Anil Pradhan is on sabbatical in the fall.

UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[URAP](#) is a funding and professional development opportunity for undergraduate students who are actively involved in a research project. The program funds around 60 students per year. The deadline for 2025-2026 program is Aug 31, 2025.

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

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

It's nearly time for the return of colloquium!

OTHER EVENTS

Aug 24-31: [Welcome Week](#)

Mon Sep 1: Labor Day

No classes. Office is closed.

First week events

Mon Aug 25: Academic Orientation for New Grads (tentative)

Tue Aug 26: First Day of Fall Classes

Thu Aug 28: All Day Research Symposium by Faculty for New Grads

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

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

ASTRONOMY WEBSITE PROFILES

Your OSU astronomy website profile is often the top item when someone searches for you online. Checking to make sure your details, photo (upload this at [opic.osu.edu](#)) and other information are [up to date](#) is an important thing to do. Contact Wayne ([schlingman.4](#)) if you need assistance with your profile or getting a new photo.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Did you know that you can update your preferred name in OSU systems at <https://my.osu.edu/>?

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Do you have any news items or events which you'd like to include on the Astronomy website, display screens, or in a future newsletter? Please email them to astro-webrequests@osu.edu to make sure they get included.