

Department Newsletter

June 2024



AWARDS & SUCCESS

May saw **Liam Dubay** successfully pass his candidacy exam. **Ji Wang** was also promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure! **Congratulations!**

Sultana Nahar and Anil Pradhan delivered a global online research astrophysics course to 60 participants from 11 countries.

The past month saw several key science results across the department. The [first year of DESI results](#) was released with department members playing a major role in its analysis. Smita Mathur was the PI of one of the two recommended initiatives as part of the [Chandra Legacy Program](#). On May 17, [iLocator](#) achieved its first light spectrum at the Large Binocular Telescope using a mini spectrograph called Lili (Little iLocator). **Congratulations to all!**

SURP UPDATES/OPPORTUNITIES

The 2024 [Summer Undergraduate Research Program](#) (SURP) began on May 6 and will run through July 26. The students working with us this summer (in SURP and as summer researchers) are: Jenna Bittner; Jackson Cook; Noah Downing; Hannah Eggenschwiler; Amanda Fanale; Roland Hebner; Brayden JoHantgen; Eleonora Julmy; Victor Karkour; Stephen Lenker; Ian Luckeydoo; Raihan Malik; Suhas Reddy; Colton Ring; Phoenix-Avery Sarian; Sai Senthil Nathan; Chen Yang; and Chuan Zhao.

Feel free to stop by the SURP venue (McPherson 1015) and say hi to this year's SURPEES! All members of the department are also welcome to attend the **SURP Symposium on July 22** where this year's cohort will be showcasing their hard work over the summer.

For any graduate students/postdocs who are interested in mentoring SURP students on their writing, students will have completed drafts of personal statements that you can work with them on nearing the end of June and July. Contact Lindsay ([westraadt.2](#)) for any other information about SURP.

ASCTECH UPDATES

The University will be transitioning to Teams Calling for your OSU phone number in June. Please refer to [this article](#) for more information and reach out to David Lawson if you need a headset or desk phone.

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

Still no colloquia until next semester 🙄

OTHER EVENTS

Talks

Fr June 21: Rachel Patton (OSU)

Ph.D. Defense – New tools for old problems: Re-examining the role of binary interaction in shaping stellar evolution

OUTREACH UPDATES

Several department members helped host an exoplanet exhibition booth at the COSI Science Festival on May 4. The festival was attended by over 10,000 people with over 150 exhibitors including a strong OSU presence.

Several astronomy outreach events are taking place across Columbus in June:

- [Strawberry Moon in June – Westerville Library](#) – June 5
- Astronomy on Tap returns on June 13, visiting a new venue of [Echo Spirits in Grandview](#). [Stephan Frank](#) will be presenting and people are encouraged to attend to support the relaunch!
- [Astronomy Adventures - Bexley Library](#) – June 27
- [Upward Bound – Planetarium](#) – July 1 & 2
- [Astronomy Adventures - Bexley Library](#) – July 18

If you are interested in helping with an event, please contact Wayne ([schlingman.4](#)).

CAMPUS RESOURCES

OSU maintains a [list of potential funding sources](#) for projects for students, faculty, and staff. These include federal sources, State of Ohio sources, other external funding sources, as well as internal funding sources.

MISSING AN EVENT OR NEWS ITEM?

As event and talk schedules begin to be organized for the fall semester, please make sure to submit these to astro-webrequests@osu.edu. This allows them to be added to the department website and be included in the appropriate monthly newsletter.