# MARCH 2023

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### Quinn Campagna Ozaki Exchange Program Award

Quinn Campagna won an award from the Ozaki Exchange Program to pursue research at Belle II in Japan during Summer 2023 and Fall 2023.

#### <u>Akshay Khadse</u> Data Science Grant

Akshay Khadse won a 2023 - 2024 Data Science/Al Professional Development Grant to pursue professional development activities in the area of data science/Al from the Institute of Data Science at the University of Mississippi. Akshay also won the award for the best student talk at the UM-MSU 2023 Symposium.

#### <u>Purnima Narayan</u> Emerging Scholars Doctoral Fellowship

Purnima Narayan was selected as one of the 2023 - 2024 SEC Emerging Scholars Doctoral Fellows from the University of Mississippi which is one of the participating institutions. Purnima excels in all components of the award: academic excellence, superior work as a teaching assistant and a commitment to diversity as illustrated by past actions.

Congratulations to all!



## **Other News**

- Dr. Nicholas MacDonald will be joining the faculty in Fall 2023 as a new tenure-track assistant professor.
- Dr. Leo Stein recently became a member of the 2023 class of Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellows.
- Dr. Jake Bennett and Dr. Umberto Tamponi led an International Particle Physics Masterclass joint event with Iowa State, Hawaii, and Cinvestav (Mexico City) using real Belle II data on March 24, 2023. The event took place here at UM was attended by 39 high school students.

### **Events**

- As usual, the monthly Science Café is ongoing.
- There is also a weekly Journal Club during the lunch hour on Wednesday and an Astronomy Viewing Night on the last Sunday of each month weather permitting.
- The Society of Physics Students typically meets once a week.
- New events include the Astronomy Trivia Night and the Astronomy Art Contest.
- Finally, the triumvirate PGSA at UM, MSU and Alabama put on a vey successful symposium hosted by MSU in Starkville on March 25, 2023.