

# APRIL 1, 2024

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### STUDENT NEWS

#### Sumeet Kulkarni: First articles for Nature news published

Sumeet's first astronomy news article for Nature news, "How dwarf galaxies lit up the Universe after the Big Bang" was published on 02/28/2024. His most recent article was published on 03/28/2024, "How papers with doctored images can affect scientific reviews". Congratulations Sumeet!

#### Lorena Magaña Zertuche: 2023 - 2024 Doctoral Class Marshall

Lorena was selected as one of the two doctoral class Marshalls for the 2023 - 2024 academic year graduating class. Lorena will give a speech at the doctoral hooding ceremony on May 8, 2024 at the Sandy and John Black Pavilion and also play a role at the Convocation on May 11, 2024 in the Grove.

#### Purnima Narayan and Lorena Magaña Zertuche: Science Maker's Event

Purnima and Lorena participated in the "Science Makers" event at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS on Women's Day 03/08/2024. The event celebrated the contributions of women and minorities active in their respective scientific fields. Hands-on activities, free stickers and bookmarks highlighting women in STEM were presented to about 500 attendees.

### ALUMNI NEWS

#### Anil Panta: UM Physics Colloquium talk

Anil Panta returned to visit the department and gave a colloquium talk "My Journey to Data Scientist at Jefferson Lab" on 03/25/2024. Anil graduated in 2023 and was one of Dr. Jake Bennett's PhD students. He is currently a physics data scientist at the Jefferson Lab.



### General Department News

- The High Energy Physics group hosted a masterclass event (led by Dr. Jake Bennett) on 03/06/2024. A group of 42 students, mostly from Oxford High School spent a day learning about particle physics and doing hands-on activities with Belle II data. The event also included student groups in Virginia, Iowa, Slovenia, Armenia, Italy, and Japan via Zoom. Janaka Kospalage, Saroj Pokharel, Dinura Hettiarachchi, Adnan Azwad, and Wil Stacy helped out with the activities.
- Dr. Anuradha Gupta's astronomy-themed outreach project, "Astronomy Outreach: Learning About the Universe is Fun", was selected for the 2024 University of Mississippi Excellence in Community Engagement Award. Project activities include public talks, trivia nights, an art contest and exhibition, a creative writing contest, physics demo shows, and the gravitational wave summer workshop. The award recognizes Dr. Gupta's contributions to community-engaged research, teaching, service, and engaged scholarship and provides a \$1,000 monetary award to advance the outstanding work that she has led. Congratulations to Dr. Gupta and the team who have helped her in these activities!
- The March 19 Science Café featured New York Times bestselling author and UM professor of English and Creative Writing, Aimee Nezhukumatathil giving a talk titled "From Plankton to Planets: Science Poems and Possibilities". Lorena Magaña Zertuche is lead organizer of the Science Café.

### Events

- The winning art from the recent astronomy art contest will be exhibited on April 14, 2024.
- On the day of the solar eclipse, 04/08/2024, there will be a road trip to Jonesboro, AR where totality can be experienced, organized by the Society of Physics Students and the Physics Graduate Student Organization. There will also be a local event in the quad with Dr. Nicholas MacDonald as the main point person on the ground. Free solar glasses will be provided for the viewing and solar telescopes will be available. Rumors of free moon cakes abound.
- This semester, the Society of Physics Students meets on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.