

MAY 1, 2024

DEPARTMENT NEWS

STUDENT NEWS

Madusanka Abeykoon, Sina Rostami, Guoqin Liu and Josh Moore: Graduate School Assistantships and Fellowships

Guoqin and Josh were awarded Summer 2024 Research Assistantships. Sina and Madusanka were awarded Fall 2024 Dissertation Fellowships.

Bryce Barrett: Honors Thesis Defense

Bryce defended his honors thesis directed by Dr. Joel Mobley.

Andrew Dye: PhD Prospectus Defense

Andrew defended his PhD prospectus directed by Dr. Gavin Davies.

Bin Liang and Lorena Magaña Zertuche: PhD Dissertation Defenses

Bin and Lorena defended their PhD dissertations directed by Dr. Roger Waxler and Dr. Leo Stein respectively. Congratulations to our new PhDs!

Purnima Narayan: 2024 StudyMississippi International Graduate Student of the Year

Purnima was chosen as the 2024 International Graduate Student of the Year in recognition of her contributions to student life and outreach.

Alexandria Watrous: NSF GRFP Award

Ally won a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program grant for PhD studies in chemistry at the University of Utah. Ally majors in Physics, German, Chemistry.

2023-2024 Graduating Class

BS: Cooper Crawley, Harrison Roth, Graham Speedie. **BA:** Bryce Barrett, Cailey Colletta, Sophia DiForti, Maxwell Mobley, Alexandra Watrous. **MS:** Adnan Azwad, Paul Gebeline, Dinura Hettiarachchi, Cody McCammon, Wil Stacy. **MA:** Amitesh Singh. **PhD:** Akshay Khadse, Sumeet Kulkarni, Bin Liang, Lorena Magaña Zertuche, Baisakhi Mitra, Saroj Pokharel, Joe Rivest.



General Department News

- Amy Barnes, our administrative secretary, who has been in at the university for 25 years, will retire in June 2024. Best wishes to Amy for this new chapter in her life. She will be missed.
- Dr. Jake Bennett won the Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar Award in the UM College of Liberal Arts (CLA) in the Natural Sciences section. The award recognizes untenured, tenure-track professorial faculty in the CLA who have demonstrated exemplary performance in research, scholarship, and/or creative achievement that has enhanced the scholarly reputation of the College and University and has had a demonstrated impact on the success of their department.
- Dr. On Kim, postdoctoral researcher working with Dr. Breese Quinn, received an award from the Universities Research Association (URA) Visiting Scholars Program. Dr. Kim's award will support his research in residence at Fermilab for 6 months on the Muon g-2 experiment.
- Dr. Breese Quinn will be an Affiliate Academic (equivalent to a Visiting Professor) at University College London (UCL) this summer. His selection and appointment as an Affiliate Academic is primarily for collaboration with UCL colleagues on the Muon g-2 experiment with the goal of producing the best ever muon electric dipole moment measurement and first ever dark matter search with muon storage ring data. He will also present seminars on the Muon g-2 search for CPT and Lorentz Invariance violation at UCL, Oxford University, and University of Liverpool.

Events

- Well there was not one, but several road trips and the eclipse was AMAZING! People traveled to Heber Springs, Jonesboro and Batesville AR and the clouds parted at just the right time.
- Sigma Pi Sigma Induction (May 8, 2024 at 11:15): Graham Speedie and Lane Taylor will be inducted into the physics honor society Sigma Pi Sigma. All are invited to attend.
- Summer Gravitational Wave Workshop (June 6 - 7, 2024): The Department and the Center for Multimessenger Astrophysics (CMMA), led by Dr. Anuradha Gupta, will host a gravitational wave workshop for high school and college students. Participants will learn about gravitational wave detection, data analysis with Python, black holes, and neutron stars.