

UM Department of Physics and Astronomy

OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTMENT NEWS

STUDENT NEWS

Andrew Dye: NuFACT presentation

Andrew gave a presentation at the 25th International Workshop on Neutrinos and Accelerators (NuFACT 2024) on behalf of the NOvA collaboration). NuFACT took place from September 16-21 at Argonne National Lab.

Xiaoyan Huang & Amitesh Singh: Prospectus defenses

Xiaoyan and Amitesh successfully defended their PhD prospectuses on September 20 and September 18 respectively. Congratulations to both on passing this milestone on the way to a PhD.

Byungchul Yu: URA Visiting Scholar fellowship

Byungchul was just awarded a URA (Universities Research Association) Visiting Scholar fellowship for the second time. This award will support his dark matter dissertation research in residence on the Muon g-2 experiment at Fermilab over the next 8 months. Congratulations to Byungchul!

Women in Physics group reactivated

Kaitlyn Thurmond has spearheaded the reactivation of the Women in Physics group. The group aims to encourage women to pursue careers in physics and to promote a welcoming environment for women in the department and discipline. It was founded in 2016 supported by an American Physical Society (APS) grant.

2024 – 2025 SPS officers

The Society for Physics Students (SPS) officers for the 2024-2025 academic year are Kaylyn Beard (President), Isen Furr (Vice President), Byron Villacorta (Secretary), Nathaniel Carlson (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Goreth (Social Media Coordinator).



Photo: Drs. Leo Stein, Jennifer Meyer, Luca Bombelli, Bin Xiao, and Jake Bennett at the CLA dinner

General Department News

- Drs. Jake Bennett, Bin Xiao, Jennifer Meyer and Leo Stein were honored at a College of Liberal Arts dinner on Thursday September 17 along with other faculty in the College to celebrate their professional advancement. Drs. Bennett and Stein were honored for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy while Drs. Meyer and Xiao were honored for promotion to Instructional Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Congratulations on this major achievement.
- Charles Timothy (Tim) Rich (66) passed away on September 7, 2024. Mr. Rich received his bachelors degree at Belhaven University and his MS in Physics in 1999, here at the University of Mississippi. He was a faculty member at Rust College and was passionate about his career, students and astronomy. His obituary can be found [here](#).

Events

- The Astronomy Creative Writing Contest is coming up. The registration deadline is October 6, 2024. You can register [here](#). The entries will be read and winners chosen on October 13, 2024 in Lewis 101 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.
- The next Astronomy Open House is Sunday October 13, 2024 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Our biggest outreach event of the year, 🎃Halloween Spooky Physics Night🎃, is scheduled to be on Friday, November 1. All are invited to participate in the event. [Contact Dr. Bennett](#) to get involved.
- There will be a PGSA journal club on October 1 at 12:00 in Lewis 104. The article to be discussed can be found on [ArXiv](#).
- The [PGSA picnic](#) will be on October 12th at Wall Doxey Park.
- The UM Women in Physics (UMWiP) group will meet regularly on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm this semester in the conference room. A book club will be part of the meeting. The first book will be Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel. Read a review of the book [here](#).
- SPS will meet regularly on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm this semester.
- PGSA will meet regularly every other Friday at 2:00 pm this semester.