Bachelor of Science Graduates

Sohra Ma

Bachelor of Science in Physics:

Applied Physics

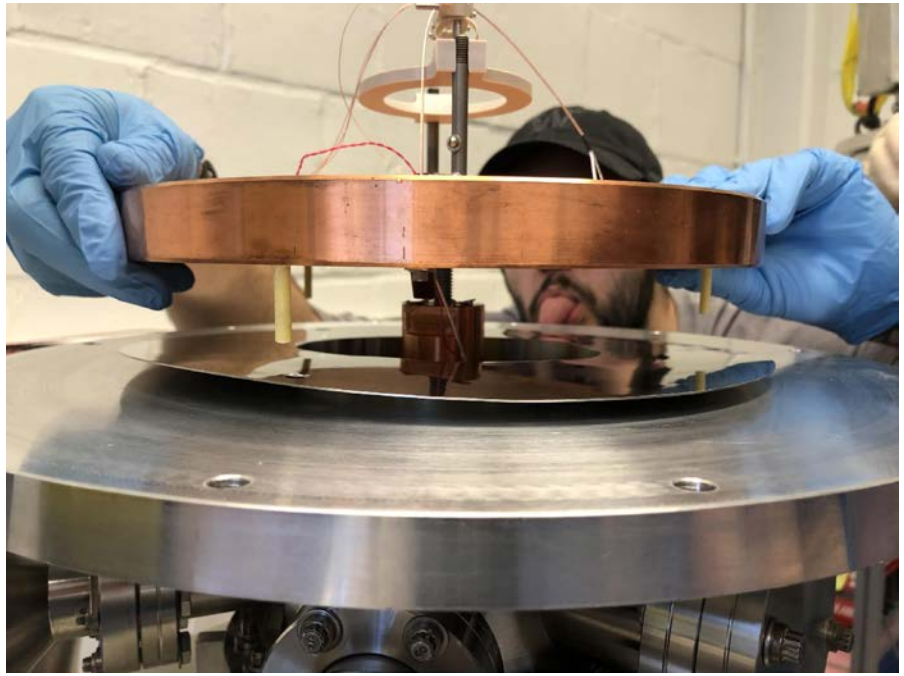
Autumn 2019

Sohra thanks all her professors and peers for teaching her and guiding her throughout the years, her friends and family for their never-ending support and love when times were tough, and everyone else she met and shared experiences with on her journey. She believes that it was because of these people and encounters that she was able to become the person she is today.

Timothy Mathew

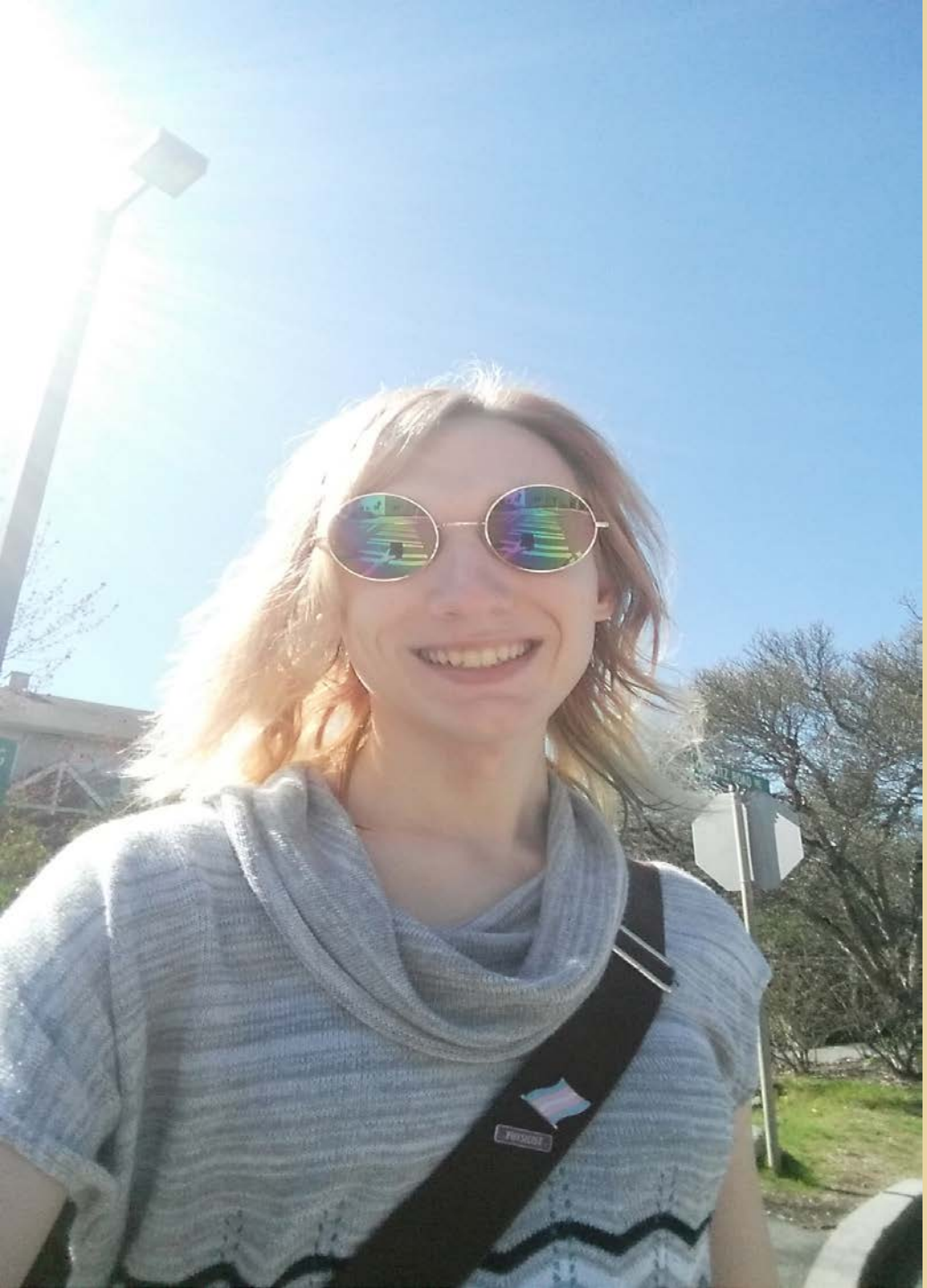
Bachelor of Science in Physics: Comprehensive Physics
Fall 2019

”I knew exactly what to do. but in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do.” -Michael Scott



Learning in physics classrooms and labs at UW helped Tim develop a passion for science and particle physics. So he pestered professors, looking for an undergraduate research position. Until one day, Prof. Detwiler gave in, and now he can’t get rid of Tim. After spending the summer as a post baccalaureate researcher for Prof. Detwiler, Tim will pursue a PhD in physics at the University of Oregon in the fall. He hopes to conduct cutting-edge research in particle physics, while working towards more accessible science education for all.

Tim thanks Prof. Detwiler for the amazing research opportunities, all the other professors and teachers who helped along the way, his study group for the hours spent on painful homework problems, and his wife and son for all their love and support.



Olivia McGoldrick

B.S. Physics: Comprehensive Physics,
College Honors, Spring 2020
Hometown: Olympia, Washington

First finding a passion in physics through video games during youth, Olivia further cultivated a love for problem solving and sharing her love for physics with others. Her UW physics experience culminated in working for the COHERENT neutrino group under Jason Detwiler. After graduation, she plans to search for private labs that find unique ways to apply physics to global problems in fields like renewable energy and public health.

Olivia would like to thank Professors Jason Detwiler, Paula Heron and Boris Blinov for being excellent teachers and mentors. She would also like to thank colleagues Madie Durand, Ningyi Chen and Will Nelson and countless others for their support and friendship through a wild four years.

Megan M. Miyasaki

Bachelor of Science in Physics: Applied Physics

Spring 2020

Hometown: Honolulu, HI

Megan has grown throughout her time at the University of Washington, and has enjoyed her time as a student in the Physics Department. Through her research projects and internships she has gained knowledge and experience to further her future endeavors.

Megan would like to thank her family and friends, as well as her advisors and teachers that have stood by her, supported her, and helped her throughout her journey at UW. She would like to give a special thanks to her Mom and Grandparents for all their love and support over the years.

Chris Moore

Bachelors of Science in Physics (comprehensive option) and Astronomy

Spring 2020

Hometown: Bellevue, WA

After nine years as a Navy SEAL, Chris found a welcoming physics community at UW. His new path felt solidified when his research was published in Physical Review Materials and when he became the president of the Society of Physics Students to improve opportunities for physics majors. He enjoyed researching at UW, tOSU, and MIT, and for it he was awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Chris will find research to match his unique background and will pursue graduate studies.

Chris thanks Professor Fu and her research group for being welcoming and intellectually encouraging, Professor Olmstead and Margot for their efforts to improve the undergraduate experience, and his family and friends for being adventurous and keeping him socially minded.

Dear Physics,

This is Tina Khanh Nguyen
She is graduating in Spring 2020.
Graduating with a Bachelor's of Science
in Biophysics.

She's gone through so much. Wrestling with
Bohr, crying over Maxwell, and
glaring at Boltzmann.
But thanks to Griffiths, she came out alive.

With this newfound strength, she would like
thank her family, friends, mentors, and
everyone who believed in her when
she did not.

She may next cry in Pharmacy school or
throw herself into Medical Physics school.
Who Knows. We Shall See.

Thalya Paleologu

B.S. Physics & Math,
Winter 2020

Thalya thanks all her professors for their help and guidance. In particular, she would like to thank **Professor Cobden** and **Professor Morales** for teaching what became her favorite classes.

She thanks **Professor Chu**, **Professor Fu**, and **Professor Blinov** for giving her a chance to explore their labs.

She thanks **Shua** for introducing her to labs in the first place, **Mila** for being a wonderful mentor, and **Graham** for being an amazing teacher.

She thanks **Kenny** for his stories.

She thanks her awesome friends **Antonia**, **Hieu**, **Iunia**, **Irene**, **Luana**, and **Marium** for making her laugh and always being there.

She thanks her equally awesome friends/classmates **Callum**, **Dan**, and **Jonah** for distracting her from studying.

Most of all, she is grateful to her parents, **Roxana** and **Emanuel**, for being her biggest support system. She is lucky to have a loving family.

Devon Paulus

BS in Physics: Biological Physics
Hometown: Seattle, WA

- Devon spent her time in physics pursuing the intersect between science and business, with a passion for efficiency.
  - She worked both in the EE SEAL lab, and SAP Ariba to build her business acumen with her physics background.
- Devon plans to spend the summer travelling and spending time with friends and family before returning to work.
- Thanks go out to Devon's inspiration and motivation to succeed, her parents, Jay and Michelle, and younger sister Sydney.
  - Also to the endless support from her grandparents (Jim, Anita and Jane), uncles (Keith, Owen and Jerry), aunts (Melanie, Polita and Terry).

Alexandrea Kathleen Peterson

Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy
Spring 2020
Hometown: Spokane, WA

Alexandrea danced her way through college with the UW Swing Kids. She turned and tripled-stepped from one class to the next, broadening her understanding of the universe as she went. Somewhere along the way she found herself up in the ridges of Ellensburg at the Manastash Ridge Observatory. Here she developed a love of observational astronomy and hopes to one day be a telescope operator.

Alexandrea would like to thank her father for the sacrifices he made to his country in the Air Force that allowed her to graduate without financial worry. She is proud of his service. Additionally, she thanks the rest of her family for the support and love they gave her through the highs and lows of college.

Cabel Pollock
Bachelor of Science in Physics: Applied Physics
Spring 2020
Hometown: Ferndale, WA

Cabel thoroughly enjoyed his time studying Physics at UW thanks to his professors and the many friends he made during his undergraduate career. Cabel will be commissioning into the United States Air Force, where he will be stationed at Creech AFB in July. During his time as an Air Force officer, Cabel hopes to earn an advanced degree in astrophysics.

Cabel wants to thank all faculty and friends that he has met and made in his undergrad career. To 2020 and onwards, grow up, grow often, and grow strong. Pandemic or not, Cabel wishes you the best!

Daniel Primosch

Bachelor of Science in Physics:

Comprehensive Physics

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics

Spring 2020

Hometown: Vienna, Austria

Daniel desires to study the foundations of our understanding of nature or, to quote Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, to "pursue nature to her hiding-places." Being an RA at the Axion Dark Matter eXperiment (ADMX) deepened this passion. He explored many areas of physics and mathematics at UW that piqued his fasciation and graduates with even more dedication and curiosity. He will begin a PhD program in physics at UC San Diego in the fall.

Daniel thanks Profs. Rosenberg and Rybka for showing him what tireless dedication to research looks like. He thanks his mother, without whose free spirit and independence, he never would have the courage to chase his dreams. He also thanks his aunt and grandfather, whose unquestioning support made it possible.

Zakkir Abdul Rahman

Bachelor of Science in Physics: Applied Physics and Astronomy
Bachelor of Arts in Dance
Spring 2020
Hometown: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Zakkir's first memory of taking a physics coursework was the great challenge and he stayed to complete the rest of his degree in this major. He loved how physics elegantly complemented his astronomy major and provide the tools and knowledge that he need to further his interest in data analysis. He is the recipient for the Mary Gates Research Scholarship and Media Production Scholars.

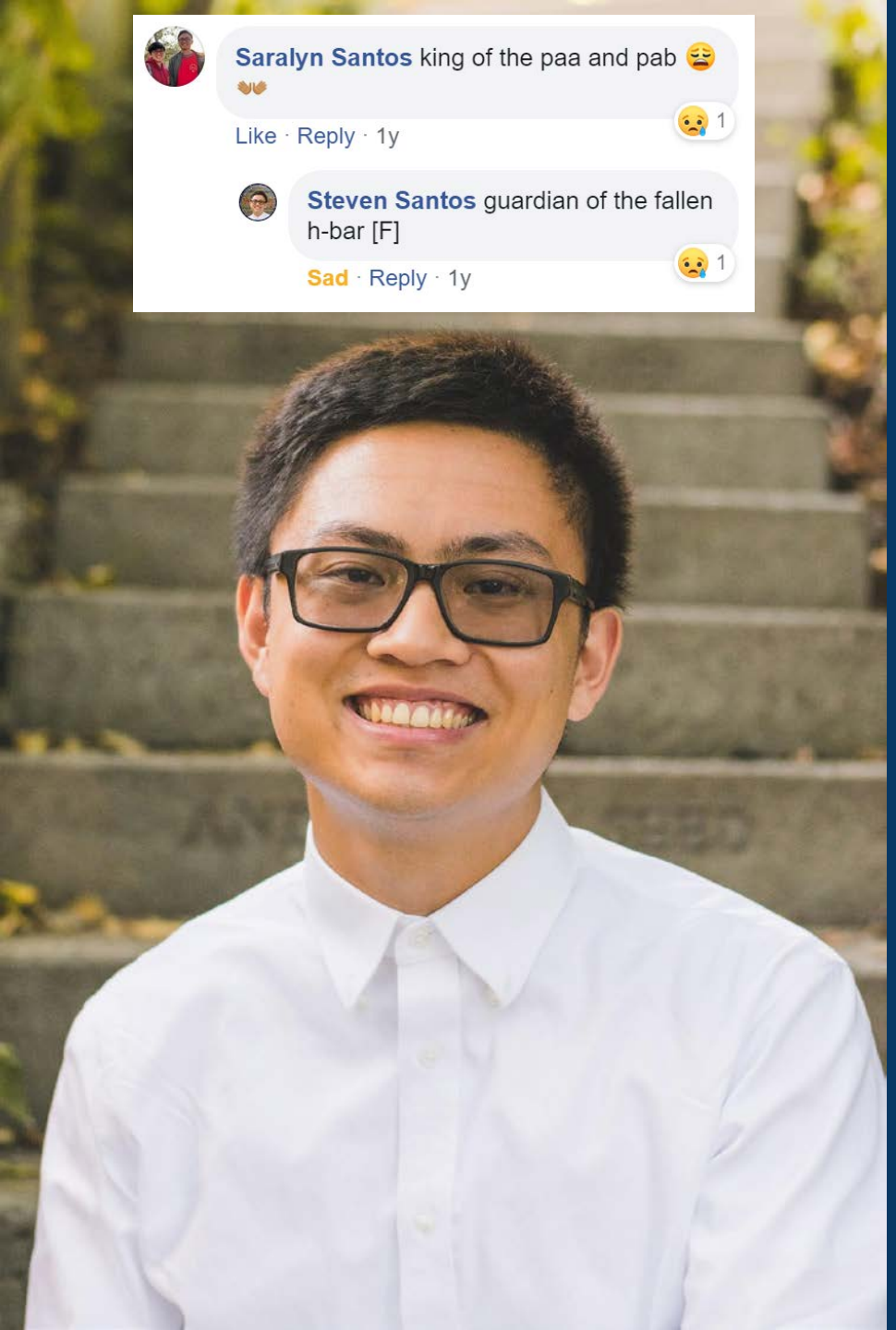
Zakkir thanks the physics professors and staff, his physics friend for those midnight oil studies, and his families back home for all the support.

Anna Roche

Bachelor of Science in Physics
Comprehensive Physics
Spring 2020

Anna has truly enjoyed her time spent studying physics at UW. This fall, she will be pursuing a PhD at the University of Arizona as a University Fellow.

Anna thanks Professor Chu for the countless opportunities his lab provided, Professor Adhikari for a great summer, and Professor Miller for his teaching and dedication. She thanks Mike for his advice, jokes, and incredible impact on the entire department. She thanks Callum, Dan, and Jonah for being wonderful friends. Lastly, she thanks her outstanding advisors and supportive loved ones.



Steven Hormachuelos Santos

Bachelor of Science in Physics: Comprehensive Physics & Astronomy // Graduated Winter 2020

As a Physics and Astronomy double major, Steven practically lived in the PAB throughout college (and, as a result, had very definite opinions on the closing of the H-bar.) He loved learning more about the workings of the universe through his physics and astronomy courses. He'd share fun facts about outer space with anyone who would listen, and hoped to become an astrophysicist.

Outside of school, Steven was an involved member of the UW Chorale and the Filipino American Student Association, as well as an aspiring YouTuber.

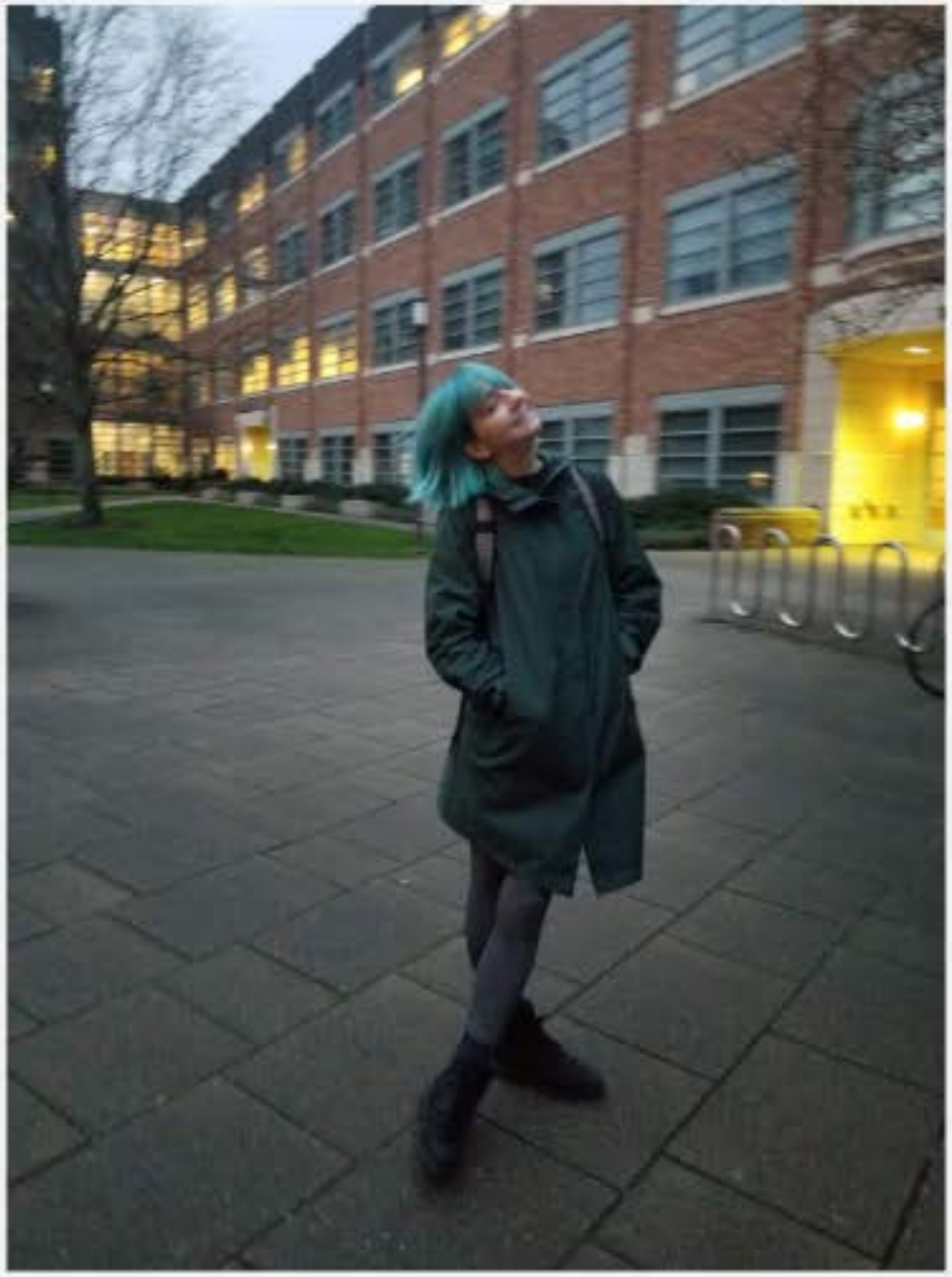
Steven passed away in January 2020.

Annie Shoemaker

- Bachelor of Science in Physics: Applied Physics and Microbiology
- Minor in Applied Math
- Spring 2020

While completing her undergrad Annie fell in love with astrobiology and is excited to continue to pursue her passion. Over the next year she will be working as a research associate before continuing onto graduate school in extremophile microbiology.

Annie grateful to all her classmates that turned into friends along the way. They helped both in studying physics and in learning the extracurricular things that UW had to offer. She also thanks the professors she had through the Physics Department that took to time to listen to and consider their students as they taught.



ANIKA WEST SLIZEWSKI

Bachelor of Science in

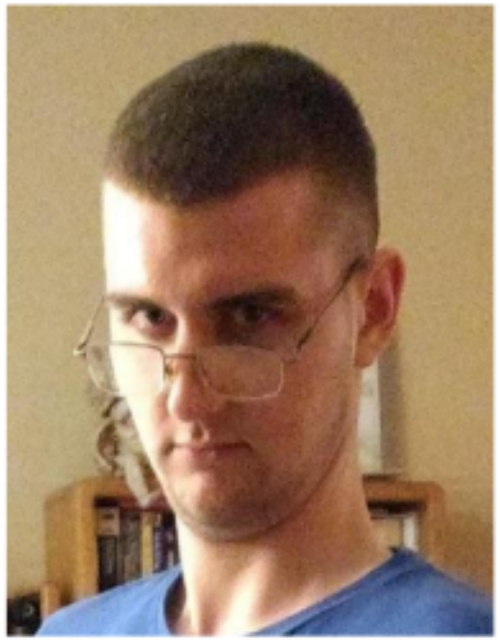
Physics: Comprehensive Physics and Astronomy

Winter 2020

Anika is forever grateful to have had exposure to so many research ideas in UW Physics. They ended up thriving in the quantum world (shout-out to Boris), and is excited to apply theories relevant to Astrophysics and Cosmology in their future.

For now, Anika is working with the Astronomy department and continuing some research; after the pandemic ends they may try to find a job out of academia. Eventually Anika will get their PhD and find work in the space industry.

Thanks UW for inspiring me!



Lucas Street

Bachelor of Science, Applied Physics
Spring 2020

Lucas thoroughly enjoyed sharpening his analytical skills in a rigorous environment. After his graduation he will pursue a career in software development and cloud computing, with the goal of improving the ways applied physicists can conduct and automate their experiments.

Lucas thanks Kai-Mei Fu, Christian Pederson, Vasileios Niaouris, Xiayu Linpeng, and the rest of the Optospintronics lab for their mentorship and for a rewarding summer research experience. Also thanks to Miguel Morales for teaching PHYS 434, which Lucas found to be an excellent unification of physics and computing.

Joseph Toby Stuckey

Bachelor of Science: Physics
Comprehensive Physics
Bachelor of Science: Astronomy
Spring 2020

Hometown: San Jose, CA

When Toby declared physics at UW, he had no idea that he would fall in love with the subject. The connections he made to mathematics helped him thrive in his coursework.

He would like to thank his friends and family, especially his parents, for supporting him in his academic career.

He would also like to thank the Physics Education Group and Professors Paula Heron and Peter Shaffer for helping him realize that physics education is something he wants to do in the future.

Toby plans on taking a year off before applying to graduate schools with interest in physics education sometime soon.

Dane W. Van Reeth Thorn

Bachelor of Science in Physics:
Comprehensive Physics
Minor in Mathematics
Spring 2020

Dane’s lifelong love of math and curiosity about the world led him to pursue a career in Physics, where he hopes to contribute to our understanding of the universe.

Dane would like to thank his parents for their never-ending love and support, his brothers for pushing him to be his best, Professors Blinov and Gupta for the life and fun they brought to learning, Professor Xu for taking a chance on him, and Minhao for showing him what it takes to be a physicist.

CHINMAY SHAILENDRA UPADHYE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE:
APPLIED PHYSICS
SPRING 2020
DOUBLE DEGREE: AERONAUTICAL &ASTRONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Chinmay is very thankful that he was able to study physics at the University of Washington. In particular, he was very excited to learn about topics such as quantum mechanics and electrodynamics in depth. Next year, he will be pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Illinios, Urbana-Champaign in Aerospace Engineering with a focus on fluid dynamics.

Chinmay would like to thank Professor Olmstead for always working to accommodate his varying schedule, and Professor Pengra for the amazing classes.

Sierra Wilde

Bachelor of Science in Physics: Comprehensive Physics and Astronomy
Minor in Classical Studies
Spring 2020

Hometown: Kennewick, WA

Sierra enjoyed her time at UW learning about physics. Her summer internship at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and research with Project 8 piqued her interest in pursuing a career in nuclear physics. Next fall, she will attend Yale to pursue a physics PhD with hopes to continue researching neutrinos.

Sierra would like to thank Dr. Elise Novitski for all of the mentorship and support she gave her, and her family for always believing in her.

Ally Louise Witeck

Bachelors of Science:
Astronomy &
Physics: Comprehensive Physics
Spring 2020

Hometown: Seattle, WA

After graduation, Ally will be an IT-Enterprise Architecture Intern at F5 Networks. In the fall, she will attend Northwestern University to pursue a Master's of Data Science. She would like to thank her friends and family for all the support through her time at UW, especially Mom and Dad.

Ad astra per aspera!

Mingxun Xie

Bachelor of Science in Physics:
Applied Physics
Winter 2020
Hometown: Foshan, Guangdong

Mingxun enjoyed his four and a half years at UW. His curiosity led him on the journey of learning the secrets of the universe. He did not have notable academic accomplishments to share, or so he thought. Fortunately, he believed that this journey was well worth his sweat and tears. He is ready to move on to his next chapter in life.

Mingxun thanks Prof. Garcia for the encouragement and patience with their conversations, Dr. Messina for teaching him not to be someone that he is not, Margot for the help and the chats, Emory for counseling support through his academic distress, Brynn for hearing him out at a difficult time, his friends for enlightening him on different matters, and most of all, his family for their unconditional love and support.

Joshua Chambers Yap

Bachelor of Science in Physics: Comprehensive Physics
Minor in Applied Mathematics

Winter 2020

Joshua's time at UW was highlighted not by academic achievements but by a valuable range of life experiences. He developed most by deepening relationships in the midst of adventures and by pursuing his passions. He plans to play golf professionally for the foreseeable future.

Joshua thanks Prof. Beane for his willingness to mentor him, The Inn for all the relationships and growth it's given him, Niles and the golf range staff for making the range a great place to work at, his family for their love and support, and all the others who have had an impact on him.

Zining Zhu (Leonardo)

Bachelor of Science in Physics:
Comprehensive Physics
Bachelor of Science in Astronomy
Spring 2020

Zining Zhu is a Departmental Honors student. He loved his comprehensive physics coursework and the precious experience with his professors and peers at the UW's undergraduate school. His research assistantship at CENPA during his junior year helped him decide to continue along the path of unraveling the secrets of the universe. This fall, Zining will enroll in the physics graduate program at UCSB with an emphasis on astrophysics to research the circumgalactic medium. Zining thanks Prof. Gray Rybka for teaching him to do research like a physicist, his peer Yifei for providing invaluable assistance and guidance in the past four years, and his family for their love and support.

Zu Zulkifli

B.S. in Physics, with Honors

Zu began studying physics ~~to understand how the world works~~ because he loves Star Wars. Science fiction inspired him since he was young, and as a fully graduated physics student, he's still hoping lightsaber technology will be invented.

Given his impressive aptitude in the subject, Zu started as a T.A. for Physics his senior year. He guided over 100 students in their study of introductory physics. Meanwhile, he studied high-level physics concepts himself in Honors courses.

Apparently, Zu can't get enough of problem solving. On top of his degree in Physics, he majored in Astronomy, and hopes to work in data science in the future. In his free time, Zu enjoys strategy games and solving puzzles. He also climbs with the UW Climbing Team and performs with UW's premier a cappella group, Furmata.