



The Physics Observer

Jun 6, 2023

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 10, 2023
- 10:00am, PAA A-102
[Physics Graduation
Celebration!](#)

EXAMS

Thursday, June 8, 2023
- 11:00am, CENPA
NPL-178 (Brynn
[MacCoy](#))

Friday, June 15, 2023 -
3:00pm, PAT C-520
([Ramya Bhaskar](#))

Welcome

The Physics Observer is a periodic bulletin of happenings in and around UW Physics. Our goal is to share information of notable happenings, events, and news associated with the department. Please feel free to pass this newsletter to anyone who may be interested. Readers wishing to subscribe, or unsubscribe, may do so [here](#). Previous newsletters may be found on the physics website at [The Physics Observer Newsletter](#). Information for future editions may be sent to the editor, physrecp@uw.edu.

Chair's Corner (L. Yaffe)

The past month has been very busy, with the annual department barbecue held last week on a beautiful sunny day, the annual awards presentation event, a department town-hall and a separate special meeting about graduate student stipends, and a terrific [Frontiers of Physics Public Lecture](#) delivered by Kip Thorne.

At our awards ceremony, it was a pleasure to handle a few of the presentations, with Awards Committee chair David Hertzog doing a fine job on everything else. This year earnings from our endowments earmarked for student support enabled the department to offer a total of four full years of undergraduate tuition scholarships to a number of deserving students; congratulations to Brian Chu, Gabe Hander, Elizabeth Pawelka, Bradley Taylor, Ian Wang, and Rox Wang with special thanks to recent donors Daniel Cox and the Guy Pitzel family. Among the other awards, Ibrahim Adurrahman and Minhao He received the Henderson Prize for an outstanding PhD thesis, Heather Harrington was recognized for General Exam excellence, and teaching awards went to Prof. David Cobden and graduate students Taylor Gurreithun, Roger Janusiak, Xan McPherson and Adrian Plenefisch. Instrument Maker Peter Hirtle and Lecture Demonstration Supervisor Steven Troy were recognized for outstanding staff contributions.

And just today I learned that Physics (and Computer Science) major Meghna Shankar has been selected as a 2022-23 recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Medal, given to one outstanding student in each division of the college. Congratulations!

Milestones & Arrivals

★ Research Scientist/Engineer [Duncan Prindle](#) celebrates 35 years with UW.

Awards & Grants

❖ Assistant Professor Matthew Yankowitz received \$8.5K from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for Electronic correlations and topology engineering in van der Waals moiré systems for novel quantum information devices.

❖ Associate Professor Gray Rybka received \$475K from the US Department of Energy

Friday, July 24, 2023 -
10:00am, PAB B-421
([Xinxin Tang](#))

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for Experimental Particle-Astrophysics at the University of Washington.

❖ Associate Professor Samu Taulu received \$9K from the University of California, San Francisco for Mapping magnetic field and tissue parameters using the elliptical signal model of balanced steady state free precession MRI.

❖ Associate Professor Mark Rudner received \$1.25M from the Brown Science Foundation for Dynamical quantum matter.

❖ Professor Gerald Seidler received \$40K from the US Department of Energy for Ion Pairing and Electrochemistry.

Funding Announcements

- Proposals solicited for [Washington Research Foundation Fellowships](#) and [Levinson Emerging Scholars Awards](#), both offering support for undergraduates beyond the introductory level who have already participated in three or more quarters of research. Application deadline July 30, 2023. [Info sessions](#) on June 27 and 30.

Job Opportunities

- [Tenure-track Faculty](#) in experimental high energy physics - Univ. of Notre Dame
- [Lecturer in Physics](#) - Central Michigan University
- [Lecturer in Physics](#) - Central Washington University

Selected Publications

- [The International Handbook of Physics Education Research: Learning Physics](#), M. F. Taşar, P. R. L. Heron.
- Burns space and holography, N. Paquette, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.00940>.
- Expert covariational reasoning resources in physics graphing tasks, C. Zimmerman, S. Brahmia, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.00921>.
- The effect of spatial sampling on the resolution of the magnetostatic inverse problem, W. J. Yeo, S. Taulu, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.19909>.
- Inhomogeneity-Induced Time-Reversal Symmetry Breaking in Cuprate Twist-Junctions, B. Spivak, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.15472>.
- Evidence for a Many-Body Anderson Metal-Insulator Transition using Kicked Quantum Gases, J. Toh, X. Tang, T. Rojo, C. Patterson, N. Williams, S. Gupta, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.14817>.
- Thermal transfer enhancement by hydrodynamic plasmons in electron bilayers, A. Andreev, et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.10674>.

UW Coronavirus Response Information

- Current pandemic information on the [UW Covid-19 tracking dashboard](#).