



Department of Physics

<http://www.baylor.edu/physics/>

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Follow us @BaylorPhysics



Shout out to Graduating Seniors



Pictured left to right

- Alexis Simmons: BS – Physics, Math
- Nolan Craft: BS – Physics, Math
- Aaron Ridinger: BS – Physics
- Weston Hall: BS – Astrophysics
- Tres Herrera: BS – Astrophysics, Math

Not pictured:

- Ryan Lira: BA – Physics
- Andrew Contreras – BS December 2021

Outstanding Physics Students

The Department of Physics honored Outstanding Students Jorge Martinez-Ortiz and Emerson Gehr at the Academic Honors Convocation April 22. Jorge and Emerson are pictured at right accompanied by Undergraduate Program Director Dr. Jeffrey Olafsen.



Sigma Pi Sigma



New members of the physics honor society Sigma Pi Sigma were inducted at a luncheon held in their honor May 5. The students enjoyed poring over the membership book dating to 1957 to find the names of professors inducted in previous years. Pictured left to right: Jorge Martinez-Ortiz, Aman Patel, Haniel Kim, Cooper Pich, Rahul Banka, Emerson Gehr, Abbie Terrell and advisor Dr. Kenneth Park.

AWARDS



Alexis Simmons – Goldwater Scholarship –
Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and
Excellence in Education Program



Dr. Jeff Olafsen
2021 Elizabeth Vardaman Award for
Excellence in Research Leadership



Weston Hall –Southwest Data Science
Conference Undergraduate Research
Award; Outstanding Platform and Poster
Presentation at URSA Scholars Week

Aman Patel – URSA Research:
Outstanding Platform and Poster
Presentation at URSA Scholars Week



FACULTY ADVANCEMENT



Dr. Barbara Castanheira-Endl
promoted to Senior Lecturer



Dr. Zhenrong Zhang
promoted to Full Professor



Dr. Kenichi Hatakeyama
elected to Executive
Committee of TSAPS



Volunteering

Department of Physics Habitat for Humanity workday (3/26), organized by Dr. Walter Wilcox, with physics graduate students and SPS members. Thanks to Dustin Sanford, Baylor Physics alum, who is the new Construction Supervisor for Waco Habitat.

Jeff Lee graduated in December after defending his dissertation on “Extremal Conditions in Early Universe Cosmology” under the direction of Dr. Gerald Cleaver. Congratulations, Dr. Lee!



Bryan Caraway graduated this spring with his dissertation on "Search for New Physics Using Top Quark Pairs Produced in Association with a Boosted Z or Higgs Boson in Effective Field Theory." He is shown here with research advisors Dr. Kenichi Hatakeyama and Dr. Jay Dittmann. Congratulations!



Randy Hall is retiring as the Laboratory Manager and Lecturer in the Department of Physics after 14 years of service. Retirement doesn't mean he will stop teaching however; he already has a job lined up in the math department at TCU. We wish you the best!



Save the date ...

we'll see you here in Waco for the total solar eclipse!

<https://eclipse.web.baylor.edu/>

A promotional graphic for the event. It features a black background with a stylized sun in the center. The text 'APRIL 8, 2024' is at the top in yellow. Below it, 'ECLIPSE' is written in large white letters, with a sun icon replacing the letter 'O'. Underneath, 'OVER TEXAS' is written in white, with 'OVER' in a smaller font and 'TEXAS' in a larger font. At the bottom, 'LIVE FROM WACO' is written in yellow. At the very bottom, there are logos for Baylor University, Lowell Observatory, Discovery, and Waco - Heart of Texas.

This spring, the Physics Department was able to award \$19,700 in scholarships to 14 Physics & Astrophysics students for the 2022-2023 academic year. If you would like to contribute to the physics scholarship funds, please visit <https://bbis.baylor.edu/give> and search funds for 'physics'.