

[Click Here to view the web version of this email](#)



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

# Department of Physics & Astronomy



## Greetings from the Department

Dear Alumni and Friends,

With the close of the 2021-2022 academic year last month, I am writing to share some of the good news from our department's many successes over the past year.

Since our last newsletter, our faculty were very fortunate to have received several awards. **Dr. Christopher Crawford** was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award this spring and also received one of six 2021 **Great Teacher Awards**. Dr. Crawford studies fundamental symmetries in nuclear physics and finds ways to incorporate research in classroom assignments. The Graduate School presented **Dr. Susan Gardner** with the 2022 **Albert D. and Elizabeth H. Kirwan Memorial Prize** for outstanding contributions to original research. Over the course of her distinguished 27-year career at UK, Dr. Gardner has developed an international reputation, bringing considerable attention to our department and UK.

We also celebrate the many successes of our undergraduate and graduate students. Gabija Ziemyte and Richard Lai were recognized as the Outstanding Junior and Senior, respectively, at the department's Awards Ceremony on April 29th. Additionally, Sheng-Chieh Lin, advised by **Dr. Yuanyuan Su**, was named as the recipient of the **Keith B. MacAdam Graduate Excellence Fellowship** in Physics and Astronomy.

The department successfully carried out a faculty search in theoretical condensed matter physics with a focus on quantum materials. Dr. Chunli Huang, who is currently a postdoc at Los Alamos National Laboratory, will join our department in January 2023. Dr. Huang's research focuses on understanding topology, magnetism, and superconductivity in Moire materials.

Finally, I am pleased to report that, following four years of physical separation, our theoretical physicists and astronomers will vacate Blazer Dining Hall and rejoin our experimental physicists in the Chemistry-Physics Building. We are excited to have our department reunited this summer as the **renovation of the Chemistry-Physics Building's third floor** nears completion.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to hearing from you. We would be pleased to welcome you for a visit of the renovated Chemistry-Physics Building.

With best wishes,

**Brad Plaster**

Chair, Department of Physics & Astronomy

*June 2022*

## Alumni Profile: Dr. Anyi Li

In the summer of 2003, Anyi Li arrived at the University of Kentucky to study physics and graduated in 2009 with a Ph.D. in Theoretical Nuclear Physics under the direction of [Professor Keh-Fei Liu](#). Now, he is the Attending Physicist and the Chief of the Department of Medical Physics for [Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#) in New York. [Read More](#)



*Dr. Anyi Li*

# Faculty Honors

Professor **Susan Gardner** received the **2022 Albert D. and Elizabeth H. Kirwan Memorial Prize**. The prize is bestowed each year to a faculty member in recognition of their outstanding contributions to original research and is a tribute to Dr. Gardner's gifts as a creative theoretical physicist and international leader in nuclear physics, particle physics, and astronomy. [Read More](#)

Professor **Chris Crawford** was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award this spring for his impact on the department's graduate program. Dr. Crawford also was honored with one of six 2021 Great Teacher Awards, nominated by students and sponsored by the UK Alumni Association. [Read More](#)

## Faculty News

### Faculty Profile: Professor Ryan MacLellan

SNO Collaboration recipient of the [2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics](#), [Ryan MacLellan](#) joined UK's Department of Physics in early 2020. [Read More](#)

### Faculty Research Updates

[Dr. Sumit Das](#)' discoveries with quantum gravity [Read More](#)

[Dr. Wolfgang Korsch](#)'s study of spin structure [Read More](#)

[Dr. Nick Martin](#)'s research of free-free scattering [Read More](#)



## Graduate Honors

Graduate student Austin Nelson was selected for the **Department of Energy's Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program** at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. [Read More](#)

## RESEARCH IN SYMMETRIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

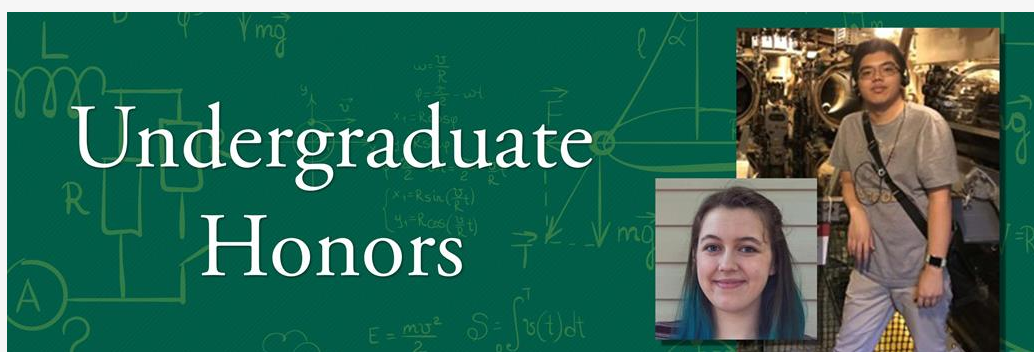
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES (REU)  
JUNE 6, 2022 - AUGUST 12, 2022



<https://pa.as.uky.edu/reu>



UK Physics and Astronomy continues its 3-year National Science Foundation-funded **Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program**. Over the course of 10 weeks, the 2022 Summer REU program blends research and academics with team camaraderie building activities. The overarching aim of the REU program is to increase participation in physics and astronomy by a diverse range of students. [Read More](#)



At its Recognition Day and Spring Celebration, the department awarded Outstanding Junior Gabija Ziemyte and Outstanding Senior Richard Lai. [Read More](#)

## Congratulations to Our 2021-2022 Ph.D. Students

Physics & Astronomy welcomes its newest doctoral degree graduates. [Read More](#)

### THE PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Your gift to the **Physics and Astronomy Development Fund** will provide critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and

provide innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.

By mail, please send to:

UK Philanthropy  
PO Box 23552  
Lexington, Kentucky 40523

For questions please contact **Debra Gold** at [debra.gold@uky.edu](mailto:debra.gold@uky.edu) or 859-257-8124.



Explore Physics  
& Astronomy



Giving and  
Support



Contact Us

Department of Physics & Astronomy  
177 Chemistry-Physics Building  
505 Rose Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0055

Phone: (859) 257-6101  
Email: [diane.yates@uky.edu](mailto:diane.yates@uky.edu)



 University of  
**Kentucky**  
*College of Arts and Sciences*



University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences  
202 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

An Equal Opportunity University.

**Preferences | Unsubscribe**