



University of California, San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 15, 2024 · 11:00 A.M.

PHYSICS COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Platform Party and Graduates
(Guests, please stand)

WELCOME

Dr. Oleg Shpyrko
Chair, Department of Physics

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS

Sonata Simonaitis-Boyd

GRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS

Ghita Guessous

AWARD RECOGNITION

Dr. Andrew Meyertholen
Vice Chair for Undergraduate Education, Department of Physics
Dr. Richard Averitt
Vice Chair for Graduate Education, Department of Physics

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Christine Hrycyna
Dean, School of Physical Sciences

HOODING OF PHD CANDIDATES

Physics Faculty

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Oleg Shpyrko

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Oleg Shpyrko

RECESSIONAL

(Guests, please remain seated)
(Reception to follow)

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

SHANG-KENG MA MEMORIAL AWARD

Sirius Song

The Shaoyeh Ma Foundation and the Department of Physics present the Shang-keng Ma Memorial Award to a graduating physics undergraduate student who has shown exceptional ability and promise during their UC San Diego undergraduate years. The award was established in 1984 to commemorate the contributions of Professor Ma to the UC San Diego Department of Physics and the field of theoretical condensed matter physics. The Shaoyeh Ma Foundation endowed this award in 2016 in honor of Shang-keng Ma.

JOHN HOLMES MALMBERG PRIZE

Xiangyu Shi

Sonata Simonaitis-Boyd

Farhad Taraporevala

Ruolun Zhang

The John Holmes Malmberg Prize is presented annually to graduating physics undergraduate students who are recognized for their potential for a career in physics and a measure of experimental inquisitiveness. This prize was established in 1993 in memory of Professor Malmberg who pioneered the use of nonneutral plasmas for sophisticated tests of plasma equilibrium, wave, and transport effects. He was an involved teacher of undergraduate and graduate students and was active in departmental and campus affairs.

GRADUATE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

DILIP K. BHADRA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Lawson Fuller

The Dilip K. Bhadra Fellowship is presented to graduate students in theoretical physics who have shown outstanding work and potential. In memory and recognition of Dilip K. Bhadra, one of the first graduate students at UC San Diego in the Department of Physics. This fellowship was established to honor Dr. Bhadra's memory and inspire the next generation of PhD students the same way that Dr. Bhadra inspired everyone who met him and learned from him.

HAROLD K. TICHO AWARD

Brandon Gunn

The Harold K. Ticho Award is awarded to students who have shown outstanding scholastic accomplishments and excellent work in physics. The award is named after Dr. Harold K. Ticho, who dedicated his entire career to the UC system. Dr. Ticho's academic leadership and groundbreaking work in experimental elementary particle physics shaped our fundamental understanding of the basic building blocks of matter that led to the quark model of the nucleon.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

Ahmed Ali Akhtar

PhD Physics

Rourav Basak

PhD Physics

Jo-Fan Chien

PhD Physics

Mounir Fizari

PhD Physics

Lawson Fuller

*PhD Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Neuroscience*

Ghita Guessous

*PhD Physics with a Specialization in
Quantitative Biology*

Jonathan Guiang

PhD Physics

Brandon Gunn

PhD Physics

Yi Guo

PhD Physics

William Hicks

PhD Physics

Xiang Ji

PhD Physics

Raghav Kansal

PhD Physics

Aravind Rao Karanam

*PhD Physics with a Specialization in
Quantitative Biology*

Peter Kim

PhD Physics

Elliot Kisiel

PhD Physics

Dawei Li

PhD Physics

Dachuan Lu

PhD Physics

Nathan McLaughlin

PhD Physics

Giulio Meille

PhD Physics

Pathak Parashar

PhD Physics

Maxwell Poore

PhD Physics

Ryan Rickards Vaught

PhD Physics

Andrey Rikhter

PhD Physics

Megan Russell

PhD Physics

Sanchit Sabhlok

PhD Physics

Zubelgenubi Scott

PhD Physics

Jacob Spisak

PhD Physics

Yu-Hsuan Teng

PhD Physics

Cameron Trapp

PhD Physics

Tran Tsan

PhD Physics

Timothy Tyree

*PhD Physics with a Specialization in
Quantitative Biology*

Brian Vermilyea

PhD Physics

Ethan Villarama

PhD Physics

Bin Wang

PhD Physics

Pan Xia

PhD Physics

Yifan Xiang

PhD Physics

Gerald Yan

PhD Physics

Meng Zeng

PhD Physics

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE CONT.

Yuanhang Zhang
PhD Physics

Yueqi Zhao
PhD Physics

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

Taiqoor Zareer Ahmad
Anthony Aportela
Alex Bevier
Robin Glefke
Yanxi Gu

Wanda Hou
Jayke Nguyen
Daniel Primosch
Ziyuan Ren

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Abdulrahman Alawadhi
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Earth Sciences

Brandon Azoy
B.S. Physics

Ethan Berg
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Materials Physics

Joshua Billie
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics
Minor in Engineering Mechanics

Gabriel Brewster
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics
Minor in Mathematics

Moya Caulfield
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics

Miles Chen
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics

Po-Chang Chen
B.S. Physics

Sean Chen
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Computational Physics,
Mathematics-Computer Science

Weston Chester
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics
Minor in Computer Science

Charles Cody
B.S. Physics

Tristan Collis
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Computational Physics

Andrew Dai
B.S. Physics

Simon Danitz
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Materials Physics
Minor in Climate Change Studies

Allecia Dodd-Noble
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Biophysics
Minor in Mathematics

Joshua Evans
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Materials Physics

Bhavya Gupta*
B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Astrophysics
Minor in Mathematics

Trevor Hidalgo
B.S. Physics

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE CONT'D

Khalil Hoque

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Materials Physics
Minor in Economics*

Evelyn Kimbirk

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics
Minor in Cognitive Science*

Aaron Kirk

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics, Mathematics-
Computer Science*

Jake Kosakoff

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics, Applied
Mathematics*

Jun Hyuk Lee

B.S. Physics

Xiaoke Li

*B.S. Physics
Minor in Electrical Engineering*

Tiffany Liou*

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics*

Nicole Liu

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics
Minor in Data Science*

Yuechen Liu

B.S. Physics

Alison McAnally

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Materials Physics*

Parker Merrill

*B.A. General Physics with a Specialization
in Secondary Education*

Scott Miller

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

Haoran Mou

*B.S. Physics
Minor in Electrical Engineering*

Jeffrey Nguyen

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in Earth
Sciences
Minor in Engineering Mechanics*

Lydia Nizheborosky

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics
Minor in Mathematics*

Adolfo Partida Lizarraga

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

Dylan Perez

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

Quinn Picard

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

Simon Poon

B.S. Physics

Koelle Rahman

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics*

Zachary Reyes

B.A. General Physics

Kenneth Ricks

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics*

Everett Ririe

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics
Minor in Philosophy*

Oscar Romero

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

William Ross

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics
Minor in Mathematics*

Megan Salek

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Biophysics*

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE CONT'D

Trevor Senaha*

B.S. Physics

Xiangyu Shi

B.S. Physics, Mathematics

Ziyuan Shu

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Biophysics, General Biology*

Sonata Simonaitis-Boyd*

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics
Minor in History, Mathematics*

Bretton Simpson

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics
Minor in History*

Sirius Song

B.S. Physics, Mathematics-Applied Science

Aditya Sriram

*B.S. Physics, Mathematics-Computer
Science*

Ethan Stark

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Materials Physics*

Farhad Taraporevala*

B.S. Physics

Canaan Tsepina

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Materials Physics*

Brigette Vazquez Segovia*

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics
Minor in Mathematics*

Will Von Mueller

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics*

Pacharadech Wacharanan

B.S. Physics

Ethan Wadhwa

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics
Minor in Engineering Mechanics*

Andy Wan*

*B.S. Physics
Minor in Mathematics*

James Warning

B.S. Physics, Mathematics

Jason Weitz*

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Computational Physics*

Bo Xiang

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Biophysics*

Menghui Xiao

*B.S. Physics
Minor in Mathematics*

Xingzhou Yu

B.S. Physics

Constance Zanze

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Biophysics
Minor in Chemistry*

Ruolun Zhang*

B.S. Physics

Lexu Zhao*

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics, Applied Mathematics*

Jinyi Zhu

*B.S. Physics with a Specialization in
Astrophysics
Minor in Philosophy*

*THE PHYSICS HONORS PROGRAM

The Department of Physics offers an Honors Program for students who demonstrate excellence in the major. The Program consists of a minimum of eight units of Honors Thesis Research (Physics 199H), an Honors Thesis, and the presentation of the research to faculty and peers at UC San Diego's Undergraduate Research Conference or an Undergraduate Seminar. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program and who have maintained a GPA of at least a 3.50 in the major will have one of the following designations on their diploma, based on an average of their major GPA and the grade for their research project (this is calculated after all term grades in the final term of enrollment are finalized).

3.50 – 3.67 "with Distinction"
3.68 – 3.85 "with High Distinction"
3.86 – 4.00 "with Highest Distinction"

