



## Greetings from the Department Head

Professor and Head **Barry Wells** highlights recent successes, accolades, retirements, and new members of the Department of Physics.

[Read the Full Statement](#)

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## Department News

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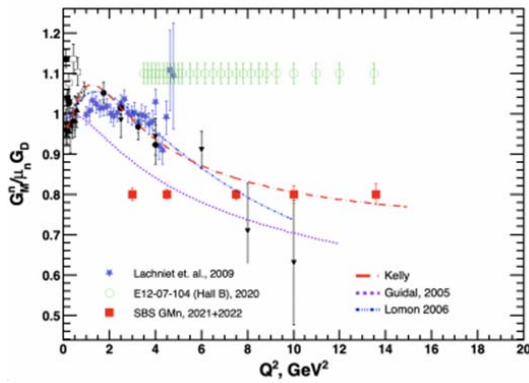
### [Katzenstein Lecture to Feature Nobel Prize Winner](#)

Professor **Donna Strickland** of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of

Waterloo was one of the recipients of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics.

## [Super BigBite Spectrometer Era Begins](#)

A new collection of apparatus at Jefferson Lab will allow UConn researchers to probe the interior of protons and neutrons with unprecedented spatial resolution.



## [Professor Discusses James Webb Space Telescope](#)

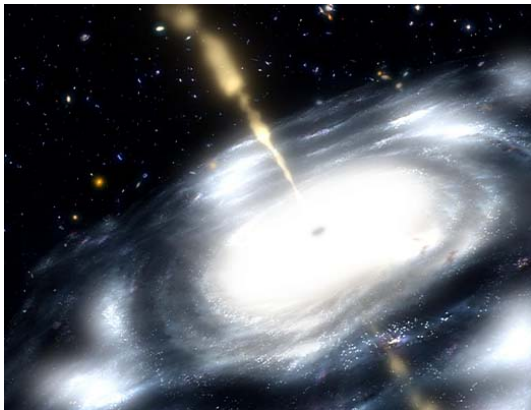
Associate Professor **Jonathan Trump** is part of the Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science collaboration that was awarded some of the first observations on the transformative new space telescope.



## [Plates That Helped Map the Universe, Now at UConn](#)

**Jonathan Trump** also helped design 10 large aluminum plates used as part of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, which observed more than three million objects in the sky from a telescope in New Mexico.

## [Investigating Supermassive Black Hole Mergers](#)



Assistant Professor **Chiara Mingarelli** is working to prove the existence of supermassive black hole mergers through a project that will engage high school students in research.



### [Cracking a Mystery With Supercomputer Simulations](#)

Assistant Professor **Daniel Anglés-Alcázar** and colleagues are investigating massive black holes and quasars by using new, high-powered simulations.

More Department News

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## Alumni Achievements

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## [One Alum's Step-by-Step Journey to Storrs and Distant Galaxies](#)

**Mohammad (Mo) Akhshik '22 Ph.D.** has focused on using data gathered from the Hubble Space Telescope in his work, which has led him to exciting discoveries, new research initiatives, a NASA fellowship, and more.

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## More Achievements

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Professor **Nora Berrah** received an [honorary doctoral degree from the University of Turku](#) in Finland in October 2021.

Two UConn physics graduate students were recently awarded the [Directed Energy Professional Society \(DEPS\) scholarship](#) to support their work in the field of directed energy.

[Assistant Professor Cara Battersby earned an NSF CAREER Award](#), which supports early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

In collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory, UConn physics researchers and colleagues at UConn are [launching a new program consisting of eight interconnected projects](#) focused primarily on photonics, magneto-optics, metamaterials, and detectors in the aerospace industry.

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## Upcoming Events

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## [You're Invited: 50th Annual Physics Department Mt. Monadnock Hike](#)

Saturday, October 8, 2022  
Mount Monadnock State Park  
Jaffrey, NH

[More Department Events](#)

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### **Alumni Links**

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