



Greetings from the Department Head

As we begin the 2021-22 school year, UConn is set for having classes in person again, students on campus, and our first taste of somewhat normal university life in a year and a half. Students, faculty, and staff are all required to be vaccinated, masks are required indoors, classrooms will be fully utilized and our labs are fully open once again. As with the rest of America, we are both excited to be coming back but nervous about what the future may hold.

Barrett Wells

Professor and Head, Department of Physics

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Department News

[UConn Research](#)



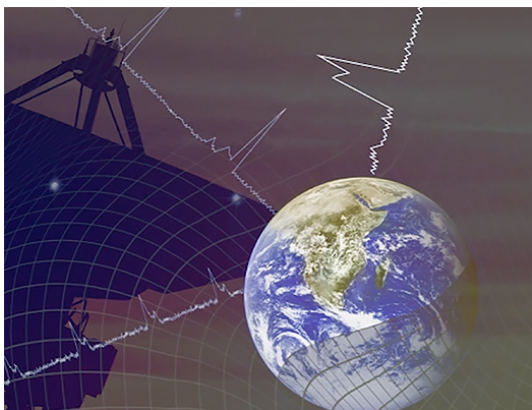
[Group at Jefferson Laboratory](#)

Associate Professor **Andrew Puckett's** research group is leading an international collaboration on a series of experiments known as the Super BigBite Spectrometer (SBS) Program at Jefferson Lab, operated by the US Department of Energy.



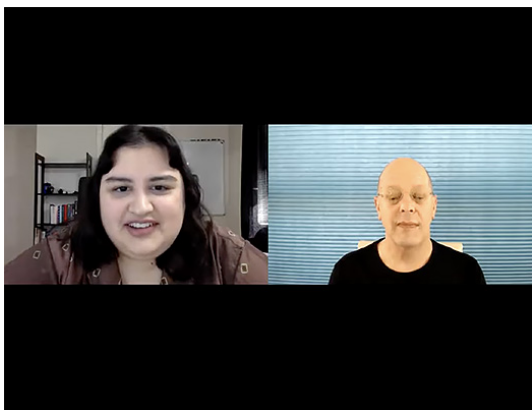
[Spotlight on Alumnus Michael Winingar '03 \(CLAS\)](#)

Winingar was recently featured in the professional journal [O&P Almanac](#), where he described how his background and UConn education enabled him to lead innovations in several areas of health research.



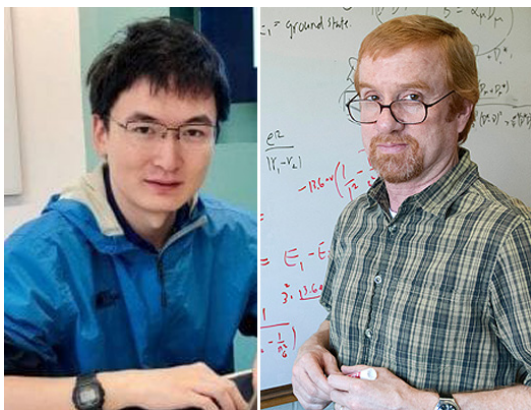
[Astrophysicist Researches Pulsars](#)

UConn astrophysicist **Chiara Mingarelli** and collaborators recently published data on a hint of a signal that sent ripples of excitement through the physics community.



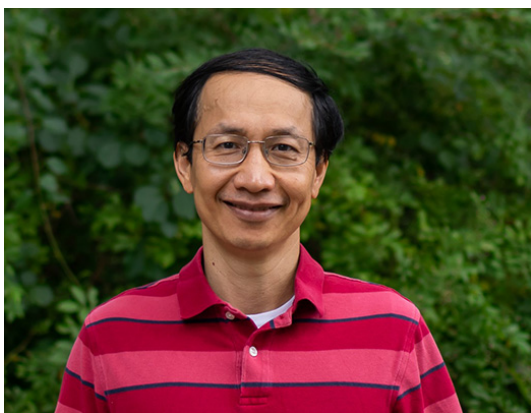
[Graduate Student Interviewed by the American Astronomical Society](#)

Gloria Fonseca-Alvarez talks about her work to understand the inner environments of black holes.



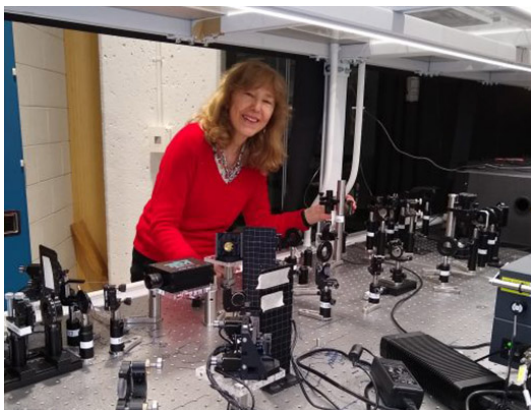
UConn Physicists Focus on a Law- Breaking Particle

In a Q&A with UConn Today, Professor **Thomas Blum** and Assistant Professor **Luchang Jin** discuss an anomaly, called the Muon g-2, that could challenge the fundamental laws of physics.



Physics Welcomes New Faculty Member

Anh-Thu "AT" Le is well-versed in current theoretical methods for exploring the interaction of ultrafast lasers with atoms and molecules.



Professor Nora Berrah Earns International Blaise Pascal Chaire d'Excellence

Previous winners of this distinguished honor include scientists and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, including multiple Nobel laureates.

In Memoriam

David Katzenstein

David was a friend and benefactor of the Department, and the son of **Henry Katzenstein**, the first physics Ph.D. graduate from UConn.

[Arnold Russek](#)

Arnold taught physics for 40 years at the University of Connecticut, having the title of professor emeritus when he retired in 1992.

[Munir Islam](#)

Munir was an emeritus professor and particle theorist. Professor of Physics **Philip Mannheim** remembers his life and legacy.

More Department News

More Achievements

Postdoctoral researcher **Aaron LaForge** and collaborators recently discovered how [bubble dynamics in a quantum fluid system can dramatically enhance intermolecular decay mechanisms](#).

Yasaman Homayouni '21 Ph.D. was [featured in a UConn Today profile of May graduates](#). "I was lucky to have a supportive advisor, Associate Professor **Jonathan Trump** as well as amazing mentors and role models," she said. "They made me believe in achieving things that I never even dreamed about."

First-year graduate student **Lauren Gorman** was selected by the National Science Foundation to be awarded a Research Assistant position for the 2021-2022 academic year.

UConn physics alumnus **Douglas Goodman '15 Ph.D.** and Professor Emeritus **Winthrop Smith** appear in a [special issue of the online peer-review journal Atoms](#).

Assistant Professor **Chiara Mingarelli** chaired the Gravitational Wave International Committee's Ph.D. Thesis Prize committee and gave a plenary talk at the [Amaldi 14 meeting](#), which is the premier gravitational wave meeting in the world. She is also part of an international research team that [earned an award from the National Science Foundation](#) for the Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav).

Two physics undergrads, **Abigail Moran** and [Nicole Khusid](#), received Summer Undergrad Research Funds from the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Featured Events

[Edward Pollack Distinguished Lecture](#)

Friday, September 24, 2021

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Online Event

Save the Dates

Charles Reynolds Distinguished Lecture

Friday, November 5, 2021

24th Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture

Friday, September 23, 2022

More Department Events



Alumni Links

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