

UConn Department of Physics
Physics News | Fall 2023

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Greetings from the Interim Department Head

Professor and Interim Head **George Gibson** highlights recent successes, accolades, and new members of the Department of Physics.

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Department News



Katzenstein Lecture to Feature Nobel Prize Winner

Gérard Mourou, professor and member of the Haut Collège at the École Polytechnique and A. D. Moore Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan and 2018 Nobel Prize winner, will be presenting the 25th Distinguished Katzenstein Lecture.



UConn Partnership with Mirion Technologies, Inc.

Mirion Technologies, Inc. formerly Canberra Inc., located in Meriden, CT, a worldwide leading company for manufacturing of electronics and nuclear detectors, established a partnership with our Physics department.



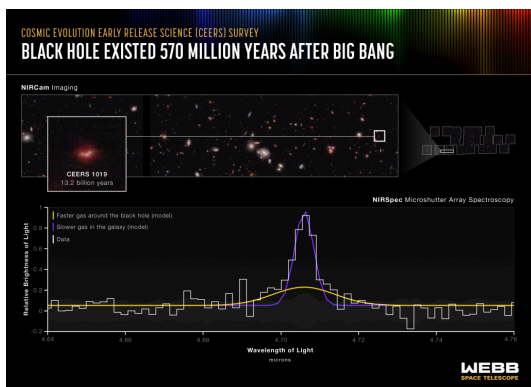
UConn STARs Program Visit Hartford High School

The UConn STARs program is for undergraduate students in physics, aimed to recruit and retain students from historically excluded groups in physics.



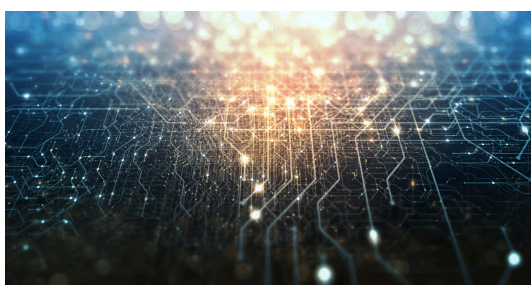
Physics Women in Science Outreach

The Women in Science Initiative at the Connecticut Science Center encourages girls and young women to pursue career paths in STEM and celebrates the achievements of women in the sciences.



The Most Distant Black Holes Yet

Since its launch just over a year and a half ago, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has enabled researchers to peer deeper into space, with greater clarity than ever before.



The Exciting Possibilities of Tiny, Twisted Superconductors

Transporting energy is costly. When a current runs through conductive materials, some of the energy is lost due to resistance as particles within the material interact – just notice the warmth from your phone or laptop.



International Workshop on Oxide Electronics

Associate Professor of Physics and Institute of Materials Science Menka Jain recently organized the 28th

International Workshop on Oxide Electronics, 2-5th October, Portland, Maine.



Faculty Work to Improve and Destigmatize Accessibility

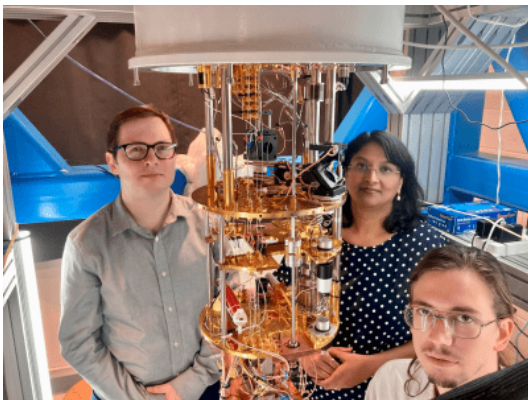
About 20% of UConn students are supported by the Center for Students with Disabilities. The true percentage of students who need help is even higher.

Achievements



CT Space Grant Awarded to Physics Graduate Student

Second-year graduate student Andrea Mejia received in Fall 2022 the CT Space Grant Award for her Graduate Research on “Constraining Black Hole Binaries and Mergers”



National Science Foundation Research Grant Awarded to Profs. Ilya Sochnikov and Menka Jain

Professors Jain and Sochnikov received an NSF research grant entitled, “New Quantum Elastocaloric

Demagnetization Refrigeration for the Millikelvin Range."

More Achievements

- [Barrett Wells](#), professor and head of physics, began serving as new Associate Dean for Life and Physical Sciences on July 1, 2023.
- **Gayanath Fernando** recently became an associate editor for the journal "Frontiers in Physics."

In Memoriam



[Remembering Jeff Schweitzer, colleague and mentor](#)

Jeff was a faculty member in the physics department for 25 years (1997-2022).



[Remembering Dr. Gary Bent](#)

Gary Dean Bent, 82 former Assistant Head of the Physics Department at the University of Connecticut for 23 years, passed away on Friday, March 3, 2023.



[Passing of Frederick Edward Steigert](#)

Frederick Edward Steigert, former advising professor at the University of Connecticut, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on Monday, May 29, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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