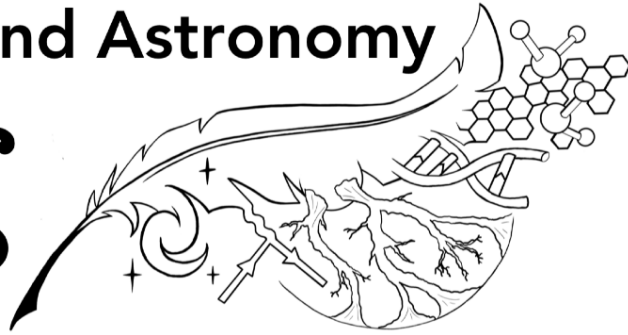


UCI Physics and Astronomy

Blog



2021 Spring Quarter Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

Question of the Quarter

The Blog Team would like to make our department newsletters more interactive. In each newsletter, we will have a fun and short poll for everyone to fill out. The results will then be displayed as a Wordle, or other graphic, in the next newsletter. Please respond to the current poll [here](#).

Disclaimer:

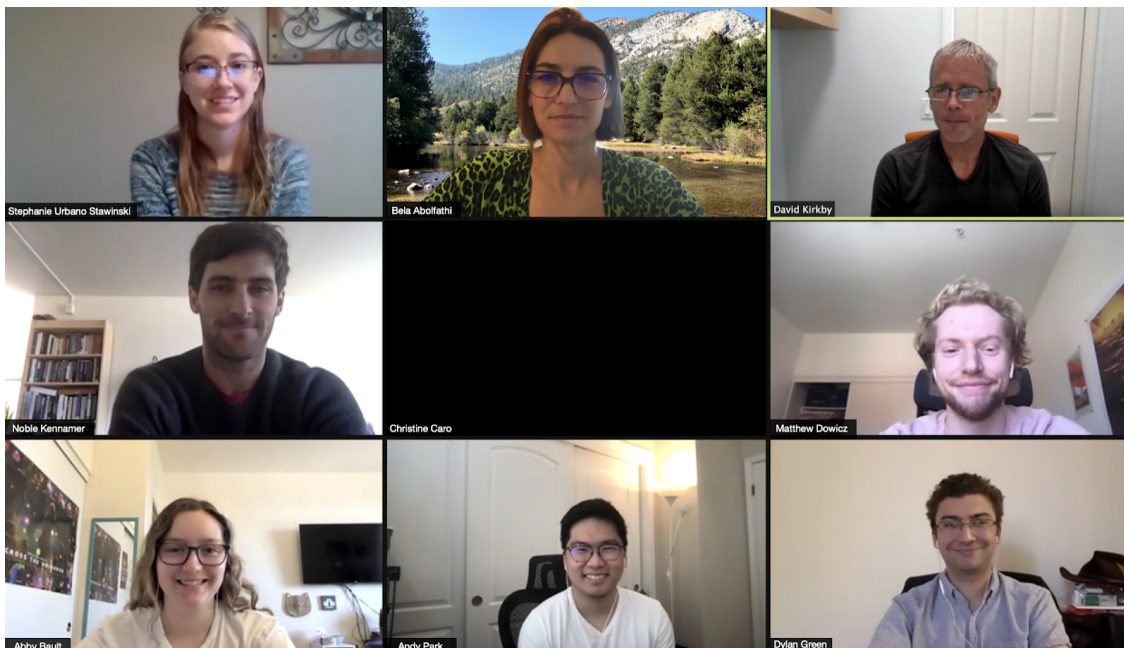
This poll is just for fun and is meant to be completely anonymous. Additionally, we will never display the responses in a way that would cause anyone to be personally identifiable. If you have comments, questions, or concerns please email the Blog Team at physastroblog@uci.edu.

Winter 2021 Question
If you couldn't do physics what would you do?



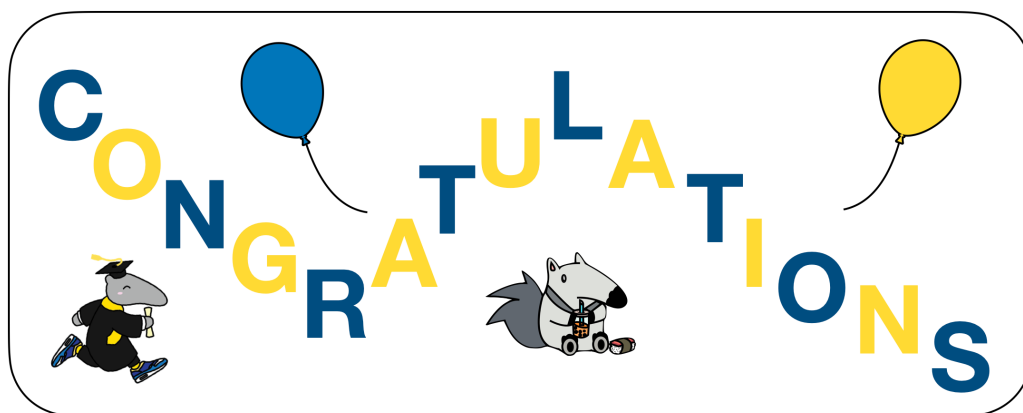
Research Content

Astrophysics graduate student Jack Lubin published a paper titled “Stellar Activity Manifesting at a One Year Alias Explains Barnard b as a False Positive”. You can read the paper [here](#).



Professor David Kirkby, along with graduate students Bela Abolfathi, Abby Bault, and Dylan Green, were featured in a UCI press release for their work on the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI). DESI just started taking data for its 5-year survey this week. See the press release [here](#).

Department News

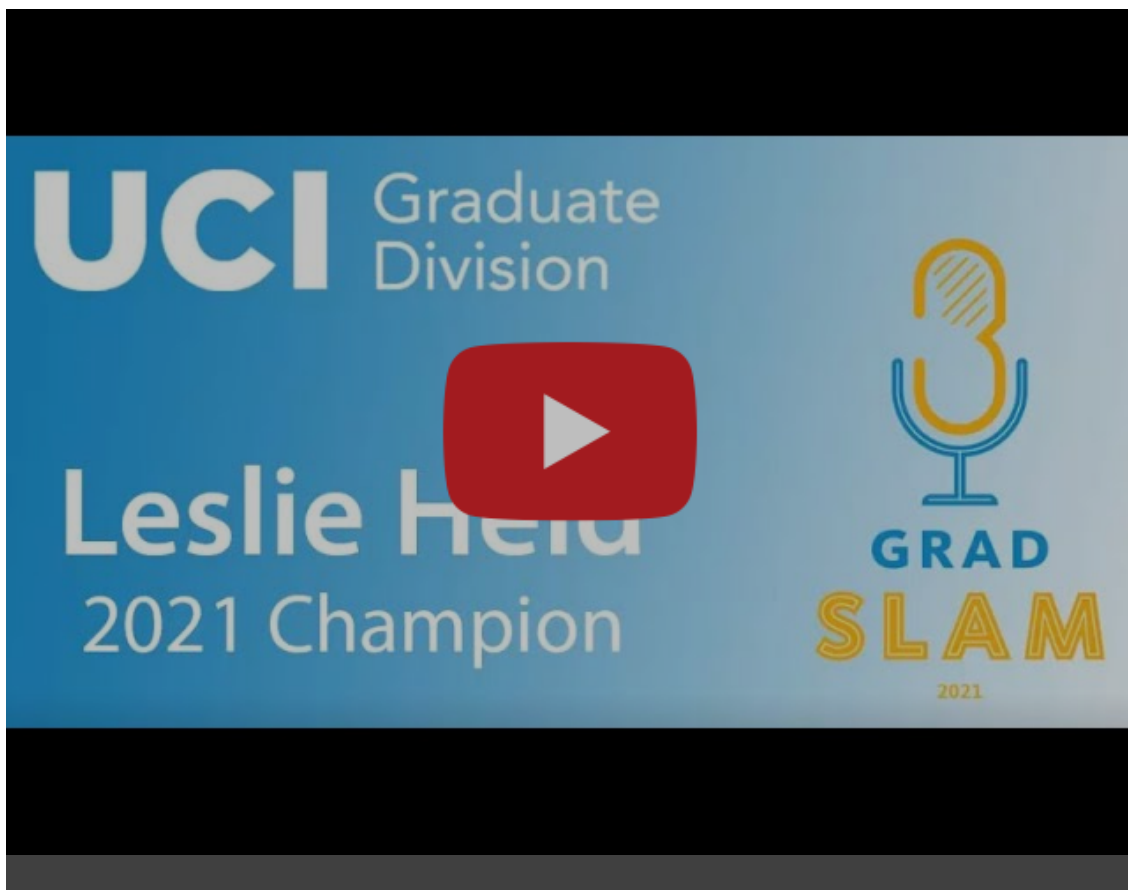


Congratulations to Dr. Michael Waterbury for successfully defending his thesis on Nonperturbative Dynamics of Monopoles in Quantum Field Theory!

Congratulations to Nick Duong and Max Fieg for being awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship! And congratulations to Maya Silverman, Anne-Katherine Burns, and Amy Wu for receiving honorable mentions!



Congratulations to Leslie Heid, an incoming ChAMP student from the MCSB program, on being named the 2021 UCI Grad Slam Champion! Leslie's MCSB work was under Dr. Downing in the BME department, where she derived an equation to predict the age of cells based on their methylation signature. Her winning 3-minute pitch is embedded below. You can also view the entire [2021 UCI Grad Slam finals here](#), along with the winner announcement, [here](#).



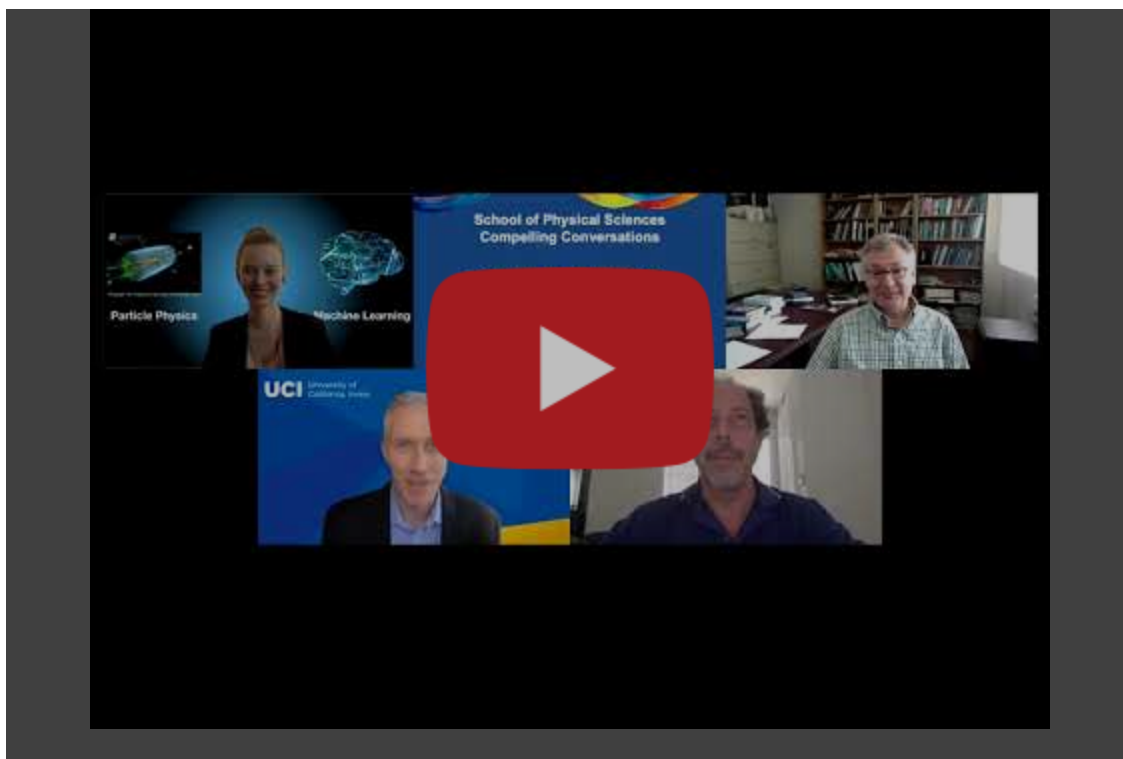
Congratulations to members of Prof. Howard Lee's research group on receiving several fellowships! Christopher Gonzalez was awarded a fellowship by the National GEM consortium and will be completing an internship at Lawrence Livermore National Lab over the summer. Andrew Palmer received the Beall Applied Innovation Graduate Innovation Fellowship, and Jingyi Yang received the [Corning Women in Optical Communications Scholarship!](#)

Interested in communicating science to a public audience? The UCI Physics and Astro blog is accepting guest submissions of "bite-sized" physics articles to feature on our website! These are short, jargon-free articles on some aspect of physics or astronomy, whether it be a recent [research paper](#) or [something more creative](#). Anything aimed at a broader audience is welcome to be considered. You can send an email to physastroblog@uci.edu with any submissions, ideas, or questions about writing a guest article.

Events

PACE hosted their last Attitude Thruster “Publishing! The Process of Submitting Papers” on May 27. This workshop was dedicated to discussing the process of writing and submitting scientific papers for publication. Initial presentation led by Postdoc Alex Chaushev followed by a collaborative group activity. Be sure to check out future PACE Attitude Thrusters!

Jessica N. Howard presented at the UCI School of Physical Sciences’ Compelling Conversations on May 27 about “Big Data, Machine Learning, and Modeling.” Check out the recording [here](#), or embedded below!



As part of their quarterly Magnifying Voices in Physics (MVP) program WiPA hosted Romy Rodríguez, a graduate student at Ohio State University, who shared her path to physics and research on exoplanets. You can see previous talks on the WiPA [website](#). These talks are held once per quarter, so be sure to check out future MVP speakers!

Resources

It has been well over a year since this pandemic started, and it still remains important to remember to take care of your wellness through these times. UCI

Be Well offers a tool here at this [website](#) for searching UCI wellness programs and initiatives for students, faculty, and staff.
