

UConn Department of Physics
Physics News | Fall 2024

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Department Head Greeting

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

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Department News



Meet New Head of Physics, George Gibson

Professor George Gibson moves from Interim to Permanent Department Head in Physics



The Edward Pollack Distinguished Lecture Continues

Presented by Prof. Philip Bucksbaum from the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford University. This event will also be celebrating Professor Nora Berrah's Election to the National Academy of Sciences



Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Adam Riess, Katzenstein Distinguished Lecturer

The University of Connecticut, Department of Physics is proud to announce the 26th Annual Katzenstein Distinguished Lecturer that will be on Friday, November 15th.



APS CU*iP 2025 at UConn, January 24, 2025 – January 26, 2025

The American Physical Society's Conference for Women and Gender Minorities in Physics will be held at UConn in Storrs



Mansfield Elementary students visit CLAS Physics Studio Classrooms

Students from Mansfield Elementary had four hours of fun learning in the same state-of-the-art classrooms as physics undergraduates



Eclipse Viewing Party and Other Astronomy Outreaches

Monday's party at Horsebarn Hill is one of many ways UConn physicists bring their subject matter to the public



UConn's Old Planetarium Gets a New Upgrade

UConn faculty, students, and facilities staff are working to reawaken Connecticut's oldest planetarium



[New Life to the UConn Observatory](#)

After nearly 20 years of being out of commission, UConn's East Road Observatory is back up and running



[UConn STARs visits Hartford Public High School](#)

The UConn STARs group visited Hartford Public High School (HPHS) to teach physics for a total of eight class periods from May 6th-9th, 2024



[Physics Celebrates 51'st Annual Ascent of Mount Monadnock](#)

On October 14, 2023 40-50 members and friends of the UConn Physics department took part in the 51'st annual ascent up Mount Monadnock, near Jaffrey, New Hampshire

Achievements



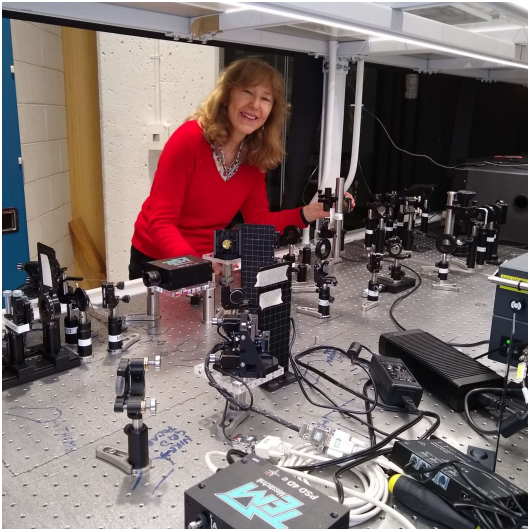
Prof. Moshe Gai Awarded 2024-2025 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award

Professor Moshe Gai, the director of the Laboratory for Nuclear Science, was awarded a 2024-2025 Fulbright US Scholar Award to teach and do research in Romania



Physics Professor Nora Berrah Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Berrah is the seventh member of the UConn community to be elected to the selective national organization that works to advise the nation on issues relating to science and technology



Professor Nora Berrah is nominated for the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor award

This prestigious award represents the highest honor the university can confer upon its faculty

2024 Physics PhDs Awarded

[Learn More](#)

Alumni Highlights



Debadarshini (Jolly) Mishra defended successfully her PhD thesis entitled “Photo-induced ultrafast dynamics and non-linear processes in molecules”, May 3, 2024. She is working as a Postdoctoral fellow at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

[Jonathan Mercedes Feliz](#) is continuing work in Prof. Daniel Anglès-Alcázar’s group as a Postdoctoral Research Associate for the next year or two, and planning to apply for Postdoc positions while leading projects at UConn.

[Learn More](#)

In Memoriam



Former UConn Physics Visiting Professor, Father Thaddeus Burch

Professor Budnick remembers Father Burch as “a dedicated and gifted student at Fordham and a creative and interactive researcher in the lab. He was a genuinely wonderful person in every way.”



Lawrence “Larry” Kappers

Lawrence “Larry” Kappers, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2024. Professor Lawrence (Larry) Kappers (aka “Kap”) retired in 2009, having joined the UConn Physics Department in 1973.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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