



Department Head Greeting

Professor George Gibson highlights recent successes and accolades within the department.

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Department News



Edward Pollack Distinguished Lecture presented by Prof. Philip H. Bucksbaum, Stanford University and SLAC National Laboratory

Prof. Philip H. Bucksbaum from Stanford University and SLAC National Laboratory gave the Edward Pollack Distinguished Lecture celebrating Professor Nora Berrah's election to the National Academy of Sciences on Monday, October 14, 2024.



26th Annual Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture

Professor Adam Riess, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor and 2011 Co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics from Johns Hopkins University gave the 26th Annual Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture on Friday, November 15, 2024.



UConn Hosts Conference for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics

The Physics Department hosted the 2025 American Physical Society

Conference for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics on January 24th- January 26th, 2025.



At UConn's Queer Science Conference, New Futures Take Shape for Young Scientists

Professor Menka Jain's two PhD students, Jacob Pfund and Zachary Ritchey, assisted with planning and organizing the 4th Annual UConn Queer Science Conference on June 8, 2025.



UConn STARS Visits Hartford Public High School in May 2025

The UConn STARS program had its annual outreach event at Hartford Public High School (HPHS) during the week of May 12-16, 2025.



Refurbishment of Stamford Physics Lab Equipment

This summer, thanks to \$25k in funds from CLAS, there have been some major improvements to the lab equipment and organization in Stamford.

Cynthia Wyeth Peterson Memorial Planetarium

UConn's planetarium reopened this past year after an extensive restoration and was officially renamed the [Cynthia Wyeth Peterson Memorial Planetarium](#) in recognition of Dr. Peterson's decades of leadership. The project transformed a long-dormant space into a venue for teaching and public engagement, with weekly shows, outreach programs, and plans to integrate with the astronomy curriculum. A [video](#) of the rededication colloquium is available, and we post upcoming events on our [Instagram page](#) @uconn_planetarium.



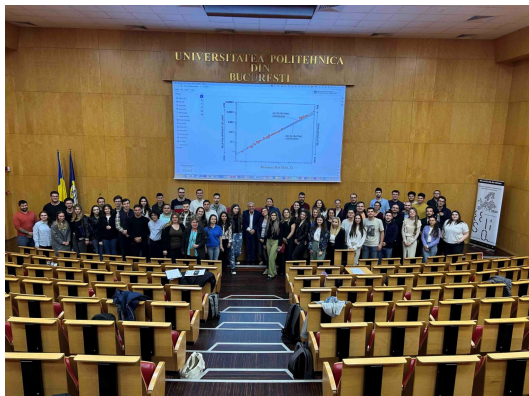


Achievements



Computational Astrophysicist Daniel Anglés-Alcázar Awarded Sloan Research Fellowship

Anglés-Alcázar, assistant professor of physics, was one of 126 outstanding early-career scientists to be selected for the honor from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation this year.



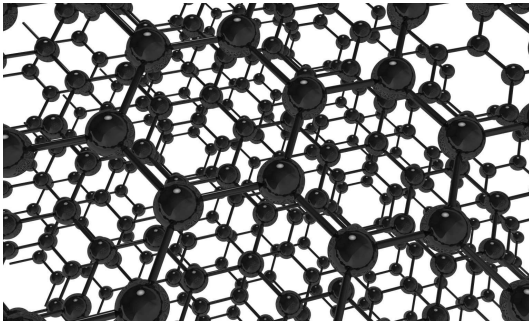
Professor Moshe Gai as a Fulbright Scholar

Professor Moshe Gai completed 5 months as a teaching and research Fulbright scholar in Bucharest, Romania.



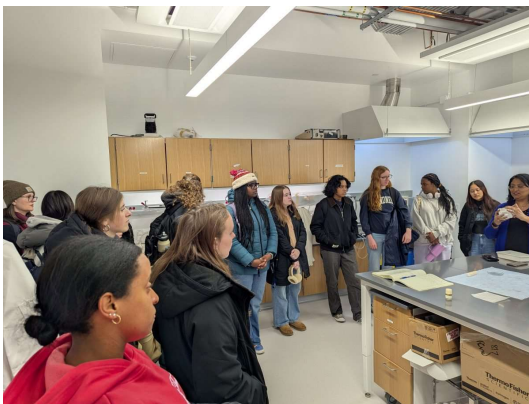
Professor Pavel Volkov received the 2025 Nevill F. Mott Prize

For novel theoretical descriptions of unconventional superconductors and innovative probes of its two-dimensional ground-state.



Searching for a Universal Principle for Unconventional Superconductivity

In their recent Nature publication, a collaboration of researchers, including UConn Department of Physics Professor Pavel Volkov, detail surprising findings about superconductivity in twisted trilayer graphene.



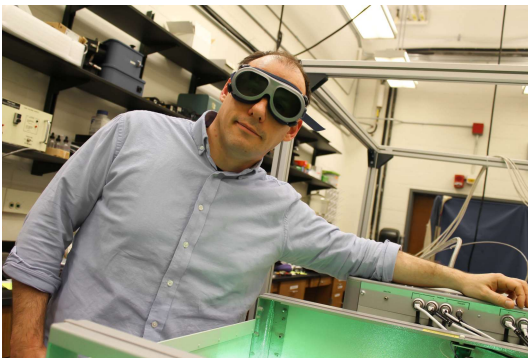
Lab Tours for Women in Math, Science, and Engineering

Prof. Menka Jain and her group hosted about 35 WiMSE students from UConn Storrs arranged by the Women in Math, Science, and Engineering Learning Community.



Study Examines Attitudes, Challenges for Disabled Graduate Students

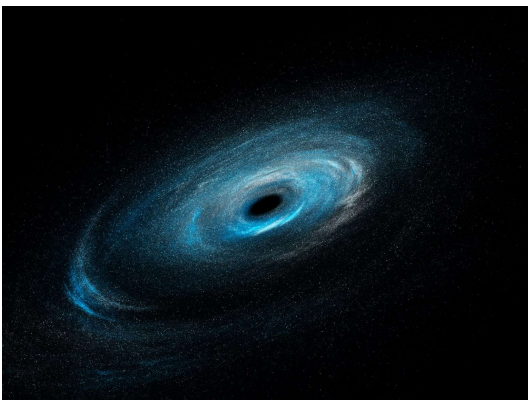
UConn Physics Assistant Professor-In-Residence, Erin Scanlon, will lead the UConn portion of the joint, three year, \$1.3 million NSF-funded project with the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois.



Groundbreaking Work Reaffirms UConn's Excellence in Laser Research

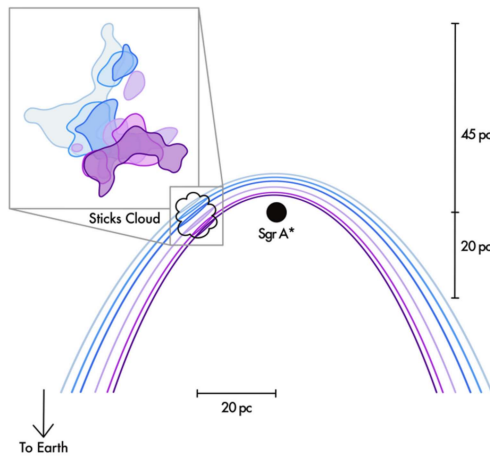
UConn Department of Physics researchers have broken new ground by achieving higher peak power and average power in optical pulses than ever before with a novel class of lasers.

Student Highlights



Black Hole Archeology.

University of Connecticut Physics Ph.D. student Logan Fries detailed exciting findings about nearby black holes at a press conference on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the 245th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in National Harbor, Maryland.



UConn Students featured by Press Releases at the American Astronomical Society.

Two UConn students presented press releases at the 245th meeting of the American Astronomical Society, held in Washington D.C. on January 12-16, 2025.



Alumni Susini DeSilva Now Tenured Assistant Professor at Columbus Community College

She also has had her first peer reviewed paper published since graduation. The paper she contributed to at Colorado School of Mines recently published, P-Wave Arrival-Time Tomography of the Middle East Using ISC-EHB and Waveform Data.



UConn Honorary Degree Awarded to Alumnus, Manasse Mbonye, Ph.D. 1996

Manasse Mbonye (UConn Physics PhD 1996, Advisor: Ron Mallett) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree, and was the Commencement Speaker at the UConn Commencement ceremony in Gampel Pavilion on May 12, 2025.

[Listing of Awarded Ph.D.s for 2024-2025](#)

In Memoriam



Professor Winthrop Smith, 1936-2025

Sadly, Prof. Emeritus Winthrop W. Smith passed away in Peabody, MA on April 7, 2025 with his devoted daughter Sarah by his side. [Read More.](#)

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