

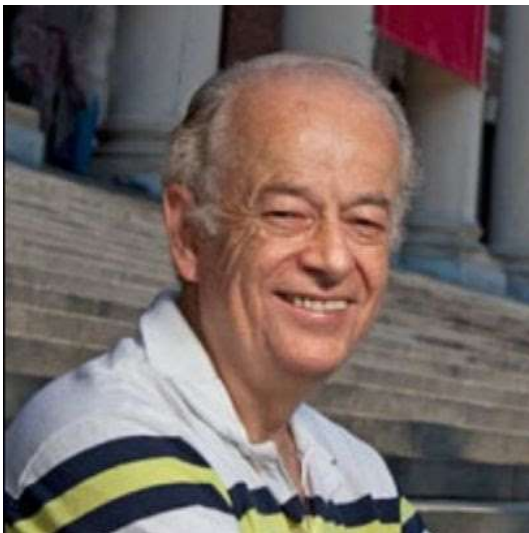


Department Head Greeting

Professor George Gibson highlights a transformative year marked by major quantum science investments, including the NSF-funded QuantumCT initiative and more.

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Department News



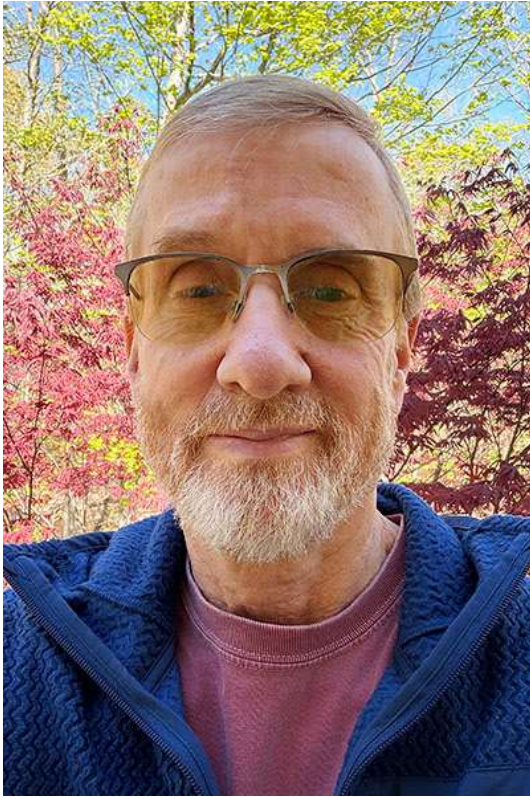
28th Annual Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture

The University of Connecticut, Department of Physics, is proud to announce the 28th Annual Katzenstein Distinguished Lecturer on Friday, October 16, 2026, by Professor Federico Capasso.

[Register for the Dinner](#)

Physics Professor Thomas Blum Receives Humboldt Research Award

The prestigious international award recognizes Blum's distinguished career and impact, and will support research with collaborators in Germany during the 2026-2027 academic year.



**Welcome to Physics: Prof.
Dimitri E. Kharzeev**

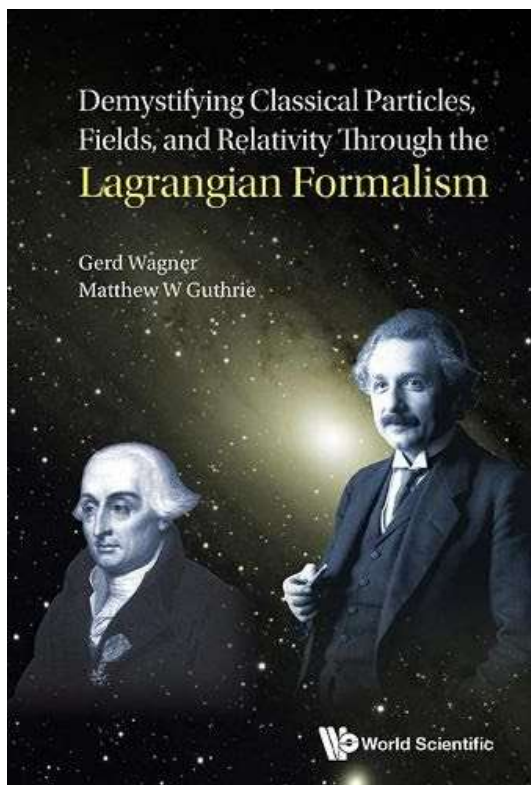
The UConn Physics Department is delighted to welcome Professor Dimitri Kharzeev in Fall 2026. Dimitri will be the Director of UConn's new Quantum Institute, and a Professor in UConn Physics.

Achievements



Prof. Daniel Anglés-Alcázar received prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF)

Through this award, Anglés-Alcázar will develop improved simulations of galaxy formation and evolution.



Professor Matt Guthrie has published a book

Prof. Matt Guthrie has published a book: Demystifying Classical Particles, Fields, and Relativity Through the Lagrangian Formalism. Written for undergraduate students and instructors, the book explains how to use the Lagrangian formalism, as well as why it works and how it connects classical mechanics, field theory, electromagnetism, special relativity, and general relativity.



Professor Moshe Gai Named Fulbright Specialist for 2026-2029

Moshe Gai, a professor of physics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will look to research in Romania with fellow colleagues. This program will be an extension of his 2025 Fulbright U.S. Scholar award. During the spring semester of 2025, he spent five months at the University Polytechnica of Bucharest, where he taught both on the graduate and undergraduate level.

“The Fulbright Specialist program presents me with an opportunity to extend my international collaboration,” says Gai. “It is a source of sorely needed international travel funds that are now becoming more and more scarce.”

In Bucharest, Gai also developed his research program on the world’s highest intensity laser of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics. The graduate class he developed as a Fulbright has now been approved for a new special topic course, Quantum Physics of Stars, that will be taught at UConn.



Profs. Lea Ferreira dos Santos and Prof. Nora Berrah were elected to the Connecticut Academy of Sciences and Engineering this year.

Physics Professors Elected into the Connecticut Academy of Sciences and Engineering.



Women in Science Leadership Award for Prof. Tandoğan!

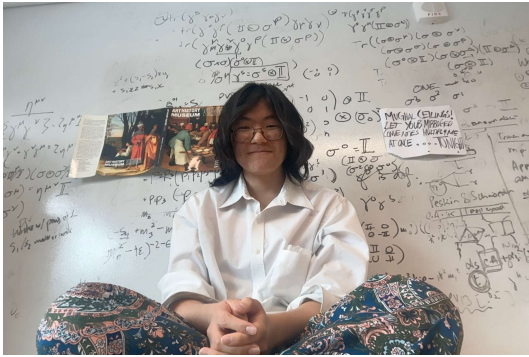
Dr. Asli Tandoğan, Assistant Professor in Residence at UConn's Hartford Campus, was awarded the 2026 Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award of the Connecticut Science Center for her "innovative teaching methods, mentorship, and community outreach".

Student Highlights



Congratulations Prof. Filip Bergaboo!

Former Physics graduate student, Filip Bergabo is Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Physics at the Jacksonville University.



Freshman Physics Major Alex Yi selected for CEU Conference in Philadelphia!

UConn Physics undergraduate Alex Yi has been selected to participate in the Conference Experience for Undergraduates (CEU), where he will present a poster on research carried out in the Bhattacharya Nuclear Theory Group.



UConn Physics Undergraduate Awarded Plasmonic Reactor Systems – UConn Summer Fellowship

The Department of Physics at the University of Connecticut is pleased to announce that Hilton Chanthakhyly, a rising fourth-year undergraduate, has been awarded the Plasmonic Reactor Systems (PRS)-UConn Summer Fellowship, sponsored by PRS, Inc.

UConn Ph.D student's program selected for observation time on our most powerful space telescope

Former PhD student Gokce Basar (PhD 2011, Dunne) was awarded tenure in the Physics Department at UNC Chapel Hill: Gokce was also a past recipient of an NSF CAREER award.

Former PhD student Zoey Harris (PhD 2024, Dunne), a former NSF Graduate Fellow, will start a new faculty position at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA, in Fall 2026.

Recent PhD graduate Max Meynig (PhD 2026, Dunne) will begin a postdoctoral position in Fall 2026 with Professor Albrecht Klemm at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

PhD student Edson Signor, who has been running the quantum computing club at UConn, was selected for a competitive internship at Google over the Fall. He will be part of a project that will use the Google quantum computer to study the scrambling of quantum information.

In Memoriam



Professor William Stwalley: 1942-2025

Sadly, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus William C. Stwalley passed away in the Twin Cities of Minnesota on October 7, 2025 (his 83rd birthday), with his family by his side.

UConn Physics Lab Coordinator, Robert V. Erickson: 1940-2025

Robert "Bob" Erickson, 85, died peacefully at his home with family by his side on Sunday, December 21, 2025.



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