

IOWA

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY AWARDS COLLOQUIUM

April 29, 2025

Schedule

Recognition of Graduates
Recognition of Award Recipients
Student Presentation

2024-2025 Graduating Seniors

Summer 2024

Erin O'Rourke B.A. Physics

Fall 2024

Emilie Andrews B.A. Physics

Rebekah Brown B.A. Physics

Hao Dong B.A. Physics

Trenton Hogue B.A. Physics

Andrew Milne B.A. Physics, B.S. Astronomy, Minor in Chemistry

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics & Astronomy; University of Rochester

Olivia Tobin B.A. Mathematics, Minor in Physics, Minor in English

Academic Program Coordinator in Department of Statistics and Actuarial
Sciences; University of Iowa

Spring 2025

Adam Bergen B.A. Physics, B.A. Music

Eric Biedke B.S. Physics (*Highest Distinction*), B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Mathematics

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Materials Science; The Ohio State University

Nolan Blodig B.S. Physics, Minor in Mathematics

Dakota Gooden B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy, Minor in Chemistry

Mary Haag B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy

Aden Hageman B.S. Physics, B.A. Asian Language and Literature (Japanese), Minor in
Mathematics

Cade Hoambrecker B.S. Chemistry, Minor in Physics

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry; The Ohio State University

Jason Homann B.S. Physics, B.A. Astronomy, Minor in Mathematics

Phillipe Jay B.S. Physics (*Highest Distinction*), B.S. Mathematics (*Highest Distinction, Honors in the Major*),

B.S. Statistics (Mathematical Statistics) (*Highest Distinction*)

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics; Cornell University

Avi Kaufman	B.S. Physics, B.S. Computer Science, B.A. Mathematics
Jack Kelley	B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy
Jaeho Kim	B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Mathematics, B.S. Physics
Meg Krapfl	B.A. Physics, B.S. Chemistry Pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry (Chemical Education); University of Utah
Will Meiners	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Physics, Minor in Mathematics
Christian O'Brien	B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy
Emerson Peters	B.S. Physics (<i>Highest Distinction</i>), B.A. Linguistics (<i>Highest Distinction</i>), Minor in Mathematics Pursuing a Ph.D. in Speech & Hearing Sciences; University of Washington
Zach Piker	B.S. Physics
Tino Smith	B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy Pursuing an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering; Iowa State University
Emily Thomson	B.S. Physics, Minor in Computer Science
Aditya Venkatesh	B.S. Physics (<i>Highest Distinction, Honors in the Major</i>), B.S. Astronomy (<i>Highest Distinction</i>), B.S. Mathematics (<i>Highest Distinction</i>), University Honors Pursuing an M.S. in Physics; University of Iowa
Noah Wessels	B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa
Zeke Young	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Physics, Minor in Ancient Civilization Pursuing an MSc in Particle and Nuclear Physics; University of Edinburgh

2024-2025 Advanced Degrees

Summer 2024

Tyler Grover	Ph.D. Physics Visiting Assistant Professor; Grinnell College
Kenton Greene	Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy) Postdoctoral Researcher; University of California, Berkeley
Punit Sharma	Ph.D. Physics Postdoctoral Research Associate; Brookhaven National Laboratory

Fall 2024

Connor Feltman	Ph.D. Physics Postdoctoral Researcher and OCHRE Sounding Rocket Project Manager
Jacob Fruchtman	Ph.D. Physics Postdoctoral Researcher; University of California, Berkeley
Ian Masson	M.S. Physics Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Jacob McLaughlin Ph.D. Physics
Postdoctoral Fellow at West Virginia University Studying Fundamental Plasma
Physics and Developing Novel Diagnostics

Colin Packard M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Astronomy; University of Iowa

Daniel Pette M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Jonatan Posligua M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Jared Termini M.S. Astronomy
Research Fellow; NASA

Spring 2025

Kenny Buffo M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

James Corona Ph.D. Physics

Andrew Dewald M.S. Physics

Cecilia Fasano Ph.D. Physics
Postdoctoral Scholar at Naval Research Lab in Washington D.C.

Chase Fuller Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)

Kevin Hall M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Astronomy; University of Iowa

Michael Hite Ph.D. Physics

Brady Martin Ph.D. Physics

Raaman Nair Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)

Kristie Nault Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)
Astronomy Professor; College of DuPage

Matthew Nelson M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Orgho Neogi M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Zane Ozzello M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

2024-2025 Undergraduate Awards

Brian D. Strayer and Richard L. Rairden Scholarship in Physics

Renewal: **Arissa Khan**

Recipient: **Jose Camarena**

James A. Van Allen Award

Recipients: **Emerson Peters, Avi Kaufman, Eric Biedke**

Myrtle K. Maier Scholarship

Renewal: **Ashley Lindquist**

Recipient: **Sydney Tune**

Distinguished Service Award

Recipient: **Mary Haag**

Undergraduate Scholar Award

Recipients: **Phillipe Jay, Aditya Venkatesh, Zach Piker**

Van Allen Research Grant

Recipient: **Alexandra Moreno, Luke Thompson**

Charles A. Wert Scholarship

Recipient: **Augustin Heitman, Brendyn Little, Darren Timmerman, Minou Emmad, Fiona Holmes, Grace Paxton, Jack Kelley, Kimberly Jackson, Landon Moran, Nikolas Vinovich, Ryan Dunn**

Acevedo Family Research Scholarship

Recipient: **Aden Hageman**

Andrew Nelson Undergraduate Poster Prize

Recipients: **Minou Emmad, Andrew Milne**

Acevedo Family Undergraduate Poster Prize

Recipient: **Avi Kaufman**

Phi Beta Kappa

Invited Members: **Eric Biedke, Ryan Dunn, Augustin Heitman, Philippe Jay, William Parker, Emerson Peters, Aditya Venkatesh**

2024-2025 Graduate Student Awards

Pfeiffer/Maltby Scholarship

Recipients: **Yuanzheng Wen, Jodie McLennan**

Goertz/Nicholson Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: **Rui Huang**

John and Stacey Wahl Scholarship

Recipients: **Hossein Zandipour, Hassan Bukhari**

Acevedo Family Graduate Poster Prize

Recipient: **Hank Hammer**

Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Recipient: **Colin Packard**

UI Grad College Summer Fellowship

Recipients: **Kevin Hall, Ian Masson**

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Recipient: **Brady Martin**

NASA FINESST Award

Recipient: **Jodie McLennan**

Outstanding Student Presentation Award (OSPA)

Recipient: **Yuanzheng Wen**

2024-2025 Staff Awards

Longevity Awards

25 Years: **Scott Bounds**

25 Years: **Chris Piker**

30 Years: **Danielle Crawford**

30 Years: **George Hospodarsky**

45 Years: **Michael Miller**

Nancy Roman Grace Technology Fellowship

Recipient: **Dustin Swarm**

2024-2025 Faculty Awards

CLAS Dean's Scholar Award

Recipient: **Casey DeRoo**

CLAS Collegiate Teaching Award

Recipient: **Casey DeRoo**

Iowa Mid-Career Faculty Scholar Award

Recipient: **David Miles**

Nancy Roman Grace Technology Fellowship

Recipient: **Casey DeRoo**

Student Presentations

Avi Kaufman

Quantum Computation of Thermodynamic Quantities

Faculty Mentor: **Professor Yannick Meurice**

Aden Hageman

Resonant Spectroscopy of GaSb Quantum Dots

Faculty Mentor: **Professor Ravitej Uppu**

Will Meiners

Lifetime Characterization of Long-Wave Infrared Detectors

Faculty Mentor: **Professor John Prineas**

Aditya Venkatesh

Resonances in Double Well Potential: Classical & Quantum Approach

Faculty Mentor: **Professor Yannick Meurice**

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