

IOWA

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY AWARDS COLLOQUIUM

April 28, 2026

Schedule

Recognition of Graduates
Recognition of Award Recipients
Student Presentation

2025-2026 Graduating Seniors

Fall 2025

Ryan Dunn	B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics (Program C), B.S. Astronomy <i>Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; Iowa State University</i>
Celia Gebel	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Physics
Maxwell Roberts	B.A. Astronomy, B.A. Physics
Brett Wasick	B.S. Physics

Spring 2026

Zoe Ault	B.S. Physics, B.S. Astronomy
Steven Austin	B.S.E. Electrical Engineering (Computer), Minors in Physics, Computer Science, and Mathematics
Olivia Colloton	B.A. Linguistics, Minor in Physics
Owen Fiedorowicz	B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics (Program C), Minor in Computer Science <i>Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; UCLA</i>
Augustin Heitman	B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics (Program C), Minors in Anthropology and Psychology
Fiona Holmes	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Applied Physics, Minor in Geoscience
Hunter Kimura	B.S. Physics, B.A. Mathematics (Program A), Minor in Computer Science
Ashley Lindquist	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Physics, Minor in Mathematics <i>Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; North Carolina State University</i>
Jaden Luong	B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics (Program C), B.S. Astronomy
Logan Moore	B.A. Physics
Grace Paxton	B.S. Astronomy, B.S. Physics, Minor in French
Isolina Quinones Anderson	B.A. Physics
Joseph Spielbauer	B.S.E. Electrical Engineering (Electrical), B.S. Physics
Charlie Thomas	B.S. Applied Physics, Minor in Urban Studies <i>Pursuing a M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning; Virginia Tech</i>

2025-2026 Advanced Degrees

Summer 2025

Michael Connolly	Ph.D. Physics <i>Physics Teaching Assistant Professor; University of Wisconsin - La Crosse</i>
-------------------------	---

Patrick Langer M.S. Physics
Kian Maleki Sanukesh Ph.D. Physics
Anas Saleh M.S. Physics

Fall 2025

Kenny Buffo Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)
Philip Griffin M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Zheyue Hang Ph.D. Physics
Luke Kupari M.S. Physics

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Jodie McLennan M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Aidan Moore M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Colin Packard Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)
Rachel Pauline M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Jacob Payne M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Mohit Pradhan M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Yuanzheng Wen M.S. Astronomy
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics (Astronomy); University of Iowa

Spring 2026

Cole Armstrong M.S. Astronomy, Certificate in College Teaching (Physical and Mathematical Sciences)

Sarah Choate Ph.D. Physics
Laksha Das M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

David Fehr Ph.D. Physics
Postdoctoral Researcher; University of Iowa

Kevin Hall Ph.D. Physics (Astronomy)
Nicholas Harshman M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Yogendra Limbu Ph.D. Physics
Daniel Pette Ph.D. Physics
Brendan Powers M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

Blake Senseman M.S. Physics
Pursuing a Ph.D. in Physics; University of Iowa

2025-2026 Undergraduate Student Awards

James A. Van Allen Award

Recipients: **Owen Fiedorowicz, Ryan Dunn**

Acevedo Family Academic Scholarship

Recipient: **Minou Emmad**

Myrtle K. Maier Scholarship

Renewal: **Sydney Tune**

Recipient: **Mallory Weber**

Distinguished Service Award

Recipient: **Arissa Khan**

Undergraduate Scholar Award

Recipients: **Augustin Heitman, Charlie Thomas**

Edward & Martha Althaus Smith Award

Recipient: **Sydney Tune**

Van Allen Research Grant

Recipients: **Nikolas Vinovich, Darren Timmerman**

Charles A. Wert Scholarship

Recipients: **Brendyn Little, Mitchell Buhl, Landen Freeman, Yatharth Sirohi**

Acevedo Family Research Scholarship

Recipients: **Landen Freeman, Carson Bantz**

Andrew Nelson Undergraduate Poster Prize

Recipients: **Brett Wasick, Darren Timmerman**

Acevedo Family Undergraduate Poster Prize

Recipient: **Minou Emmad, Alexi Michanicou**

Phi Beta Kappa

Invited Members: **Caleb Benson, Braden Carne, Minou Emmad, Owen Fiedorowicz, Meredith LeFevre, Charlie Thomas, William Walters**

Volunteer Recognition

Recipients: **Arissa Khan, Braden Carne, Charlie Thomas, Fiona Holmes, Griffin Carroll, Landen Freeman, Megan Murphy, Meredith LeFevre, Rebekah Brown, Sydney Tune**

2025-2026 Graduate Student Awards

G. William Pfeiffer and Marilyn M. Maltby Scholarship

Recipient: **Philip Griffin**

Goertz/Nicholson Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: **Alberto Felix**

John and Stacey Wahl Scholarship

Recipients: **Blake Senseman, Chhatra Tamang Lama**

Acevedo Family Graduate Poster Prize

Recipients: **John Momberg, Eudes Gomes da Silva**

Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Recipients: **Yuanzheng Wen, Jonatan Posligua**

UI Grad College Summer Fellowship

Recipients: **Ohannes Koseyan, Ramachandra Bangari, Jonatan Posligua**

Graduate Research Excellence Award

Recipient: **Jodie McLennan**

Outstanding Teaching Assistant

Recipient: **Kaitlin Krivak**

Volunteer Recognition

Recipients: **Alexa McKeay, Cole Armstrong, John Silva, Kaitlin Krivak, Laksha Das, Nathan Helvy, Noah Wessels, Zach Andersen**

2025-2026 Staff Awards

Staff Service Milestones

25 Years: **Ivar Christopher**

25 Years: **Jeff Dolan**

35 Years: **Marcia Rogers**

ALT Executive Committee Improving Our Workplace Award (IOWA)

Recipient: **Heather Mineart**

2026 Distinguished Research Professional Award

Recipient: **Rich Dvorsky**

International Union of Radio Science General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (URSI GASS) Young Scientist Award

Recipient: **Shannon Hill**

University of Iowa International Scholarship - Nagoya, Japan

Recipient: **David Hartley**

University of Iowa International Scholarship - Bern, Switzerland

Recipient: **David Hartley**

2025-2026 Faculty Awards

Iowa Mid-Career Faculty Scholar Award

Recipient: **Casey DeRoo**

Scholar of the Year Award

Recipient: **David Miles**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Harriet Wenger Crafton Research Funding

Recipient: **Allison Jaynes**

University of Iowa International Scholarship - Lisbon, Portugal

Recipient: **Allison Jaynes**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Old Gold Summer Fellowships

Recipients: **Matheus Hostert, David Nataf, Dustin Swarm, Elizabeth Tolman**

Student Presentations

Darren Timmerman

High-Throughput Analysis of Single-Emitter Thermal Activation Dynamics Form

Faculty Mentor: **Professor Ravitej Uppu**

Yatharth Sirohi

Probing Lepton Number Violation and Neutrino Mass via Particle-Antiparticle Oscillations

Faculty Mentor: **Professor Matheus Hostert**

Additional funding provided by the Larry D. Travis Fund and the Physics and Astronomy Gift Fund from the University of Iowa Center for Advancement.