

# PHYSICS AND ASTROPHYSICS

Physicists study and apply the laws of nature to answer fundamental questions about the evolution of the universe, the nature of light and matter, and the behavior of the natural world. The Physics and Astrophysics Department engages students in a rigorous academic environment in graduate and undergraduate education. The undergraduate major provides the depth and breadth required for graduate study in physics, related or interdisciplinary areas, or for applied programs such as engineering, electronics, and optics. A major factor in our success in preparing students for advanced degrees and rewarding careers is the high level of cooperation and interaction we maintain between faculty and students. Our classes are small, often laboratory-oriented, promoting serious learning in a friendly environment. Students are encouraged to participate in research with faculty and are frequently co-authors of articles in physics journals. Many students are supported as research assistants by funds from the College of Science and Health or by external grants.

In addition to its strong undergraduate program with concentrations in standard physics and computational physics, the department offers a joint engineering program in conjunction with Illinois Institute of Technology, and a master's degree in Applied Physics.

## Faculty

Jesus Pando, PhD  
Associate Professor and Department Chair  
University of Arizona

Bernhard Beck-Winchatz, PhD  
Professor  
University of Washington

Susan M. Fischer, PhD  
Associate Professor  
University of Notre Dame

Christopher G. Goedde, PhD  
Professor  
University of California , Berkeley

John Goldman, MS  
Adjunct Faculty  
Penn State University

Gabriela Gonzalez-Aviles, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Northwestern University

Mary Bridget Kustus, PhD  
Associate Professor  
North Carolina State University

Eric C. Landahl, PhD  
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director  
University of California, Davis

Jignesh Mehta, PhD  
Professional Lecturer  
Purdue University

Anuj P. Sarma, PhD  
Associate Professor and Joint Engineering Program Director

University of Kentucky

James Scheidhauer  
Adjunct Faculty  
University of Illinois

## Associated Faculty

Anthony F. Behof, PhD  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
University of Notre Dame