
Institute Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The workshop focused on gravitational waves and their implications for astrophysics and cosmology.

Sydney VanWinkle, a senior at Princeton University, presented a poster on behalf of the LIGO and Virgo collaboration about their work in the category of Photo-Optical Instrumentation and Design. The collaboration is responsible for the construction and operation of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and Virgo, which are detectors for gravitational waves. VanWinkle's poster highlighted recent findings and future plans for these groundbreaking experiments.

The collaborative research team, led by Manuela Campanelli and Carlos Lousto, has made significant contributions to our understanding of gravitational waves. Their work has yielded new insights into the dynamics of black hole mergers and the emission of gravitational radiation. By analyzing data collected by LIGO and Virgo, they have confirmed predictions of Einstein's theory of general relativity and provided evidence for the existence of black hole mergers in the early universe.

The research team's efforts in the field of gravitational wave astronomy have not only advanced our knowledge of the cosmos but also have implications for the development of new technologies in related areas such as seismology, navigation, and precision synchronized clocks. The collaboration's ability to detect and interpret these elusive waves opens up new avenues for scientific exploration and technology innovation.

Our new Human Resources Manager is Natosha McDonald, who will be assisting with JoAnn's transition effective immediately. Natosha brings a wealth of HR experience from a variety of roles at organizations including Rochester Regional Health System, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Xerox. She will be leading the college’s Human Resources efforts, supporting the mission of the college.

Our college community may have been on break from classes to begin this cold winter month, but the time was utilized to reconnect with family and friends and prepare for the busy semester ahead. The Finger Lakes Region was announced as a Top Performer in the review of regional clusters, which means that the region will be eligible to receive up to $20 million in federal funding for various projects, including those that focus on the growth of diversity in physics, which is already the least diverse of the STEM fields.

The college presented the Faculty Awards for Professional Development 2019-20, honoring three groups with Best Grant Proposals, three groups with Best Posters, and three groups with Best Presentations. The grants were awarded to support professional development activities for adjunct and non-tenure track faculty, including interdisciplinary grants in three of the four areas: faculty, faculty mentoring, and leadership development. COS faculty received grants in two of the areas: faculty and faculty mentoring.

At the 41st Annual Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) Conference, faculty members presented research on a variety of topics, including a study on the effects of Polyethersulfone (PES) with Ozone, reviewed journal articles, and published researcher contributions. The conference provided a platform for sharing innovative teaching methods and educational strategies in the life sciences.

Our college’s Imaging Science professors are using remote sensing and artificial intelligence to enhance navigation, imaging, and other sensory technologies. Their work together has yielded significant scientific observations and the potential for new applications in fields such as autonomous vehicles and space exploration.

Anthony Vodacek, an assistant professor of physics, received the Homer L. Dodge Citation for his efforts in fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion. The citation recognizes his commitment to promoting equity and accessibility in the classroom and his contributions to the field of teaching and learning.

Research opportunities are being pursued in many areas, including Data Science, Comparative Molecular Dynamics, and Photonics for Quantum Computing. Our college’s research environment is supported by the creation of new networks and important results, and the support of research projects. The college aims to continue to strengthen its research capacity and to prepare for the busy semester ahead.

Faculty members have been granted research and development grants in support of their work. The grants include funding for a project titled "High-fidelity scene modeling and vehicle tracking and in enhancing navigation, imaging and other sensing technologies." Our college’s professors have been awarded grants in three of the four areas: faculty, faculty mentoring, and leadership development. COS faculty received grants in two of the areas: faculty and faculty mentoring.

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Student & Alumni News: "Color scientist helps make top films look vibrant. Joseph Slomka is vice president and principal color scientist at Fotokem, a color science company that works with major Hollywood studios to create high-quality color images for movies. Since graduating with a BS in chemistry last spring, Slomka has been working on a range of projects, from color correction for television shows to color grading for feature films. His work has contributed to the vibrant and visually stunning images seen in popular movies."

Student Government president. A ceremony to recognize all of the award recipients was held on October 31st. The event celebrated the achievements of students in various categories, including academic excellence, leadership, and community service. A guest speaker shared insights into the importance of recognizes and award recipients, including the role of diversity and inclusion in student success.

Find a new way to identify the next generation of scientists. A new study published in the peer-reviewed journal, "Science," examined the role of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in predicting student success in graduate school. The study found that the GRE does not accurately predict completion and hurt efforts to identify and recruit diverse student populations. The college is committed to finding new methods to identify and support talented students, including those from underrepresented backgrounds. The college has been awarded funds to support a new initiative focused on the topic of Student Engagement.

The college’s College of Science (COS) has been awarded a grant through the New York State Higher Education Visions of Excellence Initiative (NY-HERVEX). The grant will support the development of new academic programs and facilities, as well as improvements in the student experience. The college is committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive academic community, and the grant will support efforts to achieve this goal.

The college has also been awarded a grant through the New York State Board of Regents to support the college’s efforts to improve agricultural outcomes in Peru. The grant will fund a project titled "Ultrafast sensing and clocks." The project will focus on developing new technologies for measuring and tracking the environment, with applications in agriculture and other fields.

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