Welcome Back – Ixchell Ledesma!

Department Chair, Dr. Robert Nemanich asks returning staff member Ixchell; tell me about your outlook on returning to ASU Physics?

In one word, Excited! I left the Physics department to be part of a non-profit that was close to my heart and personal mission. Although, I was no longer with Physics, I always kept an eye out for faculty making the news. Its great to be back, and working with faculty and students, knowing that in a small way I help make their research and the attainment of their degree a possibility!

Dr. Quan Qing has accepted our offer as a tenure track assistant professor in Physics with a joint appointment in the BDI Center for Bioelectronics and Biosensors. His appointment will begin on Jan 1, 2013. Dr. Qing is currently finishing a post doctoral appointment at Harvard in Professor Charles Lieber’s group.

Dr. Banu Ozkan is named the interim Undergraduate director alongside co-director Dr. Robert Ros

Professional Nanoscience Masters Program (PSM)
2012 Graduates

In this issue, we highlight the current PSM graduates and the growth of the program. The program officially launched in 2008-09 with two students, this innovative Professional Science Master’s program has grown substantially.

As of August 2012, we have 21 Alumni and expect 20 new and returning students for Fall 2012. The PSM students come from a wide range of subject backgrounds, and the degree program is truly interdisciplinary.

The current cohort that started in Fall 2011 is particularly impressive, featuring not only several part-time students working with Valley industries, but also full-time students from across the USA and around the world. This year we had several firsts: our first Fulbright Scholar Angelo di Bernardo, a Chemical Engineer from Naples, Italy; our first Harvard graduate, Dan Nguyen, a Biochemical Sciences major who grew up in the Valley; our first Berkeley Physics major, Jonny Martinez, and Majid Vahayenegar from Iran. Majid has a two Materials Engineering degrees, a BS and MS and several publications.

To defend their Project, students produce scholarly report and a professional visual presentation of their research. The picture on the right features, Dan together with his Advisor, Sidney Hecht (Chemistry & Biochemistry and the BioDesign Institute). The picture on the left features, Majid who was advised jointly by Hongbin Yu and Sandwip Dey from Electrical and Materials Engineering, who were both on his three-person committee. As our student graduate from the program, it is exciting to fast forward at the opportunities are coming their way. The eight graduates from cohort Fall 2011 obtained relevant jobs; and this year, 2012, the 6 new graduates will be either in employment or obtaining their PhD. We also expect for 6 graduates in December. It is energizing to see the strides being made by our students and program.

We thank our colleagues who have supported the PSM this far, and look forward to having a similarly stimulating experience in 2012-13. In particular, we are currently asking for Advisors for Applied Project topics for the 12 new students arriving for the Fall 2012 semester.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
...with ASU Physics

Please consider supporting ASU Physics’ students, research, and programs. For more information, visit our website or call 480.965.0355.
Welcome Fall 2012 — Incoming Graduates

Ph.D. Cohort

Adam Blake
MS, Arizona State University 2008

Rong Chen
Shanghai University
MS, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
I am most interested in particle physics interacting with extra dimension ideas.

James Gallagher
BS, University of Washington 2012
I am excited to be here at ASU to study condensed matter physics. I am particularly interested in the electronic properties of materials and the interaction of light with materials. My intention is to apply the knowledge gained through research to solar energy.

John Gonzalez
MS, San Jose State University 2012

Matthew Kolopanis
BS, Arizona State University 2012
I attended Arizona State University for my undergraduate receiving bachelor’s degrees in Physics and Mathematics. In graduate school, I am most excited about the transition from studying physics history and learning about discoveries others have made to working on new problems and research in order to propel the field into new and exciting areas.

Long Lian
BS, Nanchang University 2008
I feel quite exited about how Molecular Recognition take place, specifically, ”how do proteins recognize DNA sequences ?” I wish I could make some contribution to this field one day.

Jonathan Martinez
PSM, Arizona State University 2012

Thomas McConkie
MS, Brigham Young University 2012

Dongrin Kim
PhD, University of Southern California 2001
I am very excited to meet new students and faculty members who will give me inspiration and insight into the study of physics. I am already convinced that everyone in the department that I have met are nice and welcoming to the new people. I am looking forward to having a great first year in the physics department.

Garrett Nelson
BS, Arizona State University 2011
I am most excited about doing research on microscopic liquid droplet injectors for use in serial femtosecond crystallography experiments at the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) facility.
Welcome Fall 2012 — Incoming Graduates

Ph.D. Cohort

Bryan Rock
BS, Arizona State University 2012
I am excited at the opportunity of doing depended research.

Sean Seyler
MS, Cornell University 2012
I am excited about the flexible and interdisciplinary nature of ASU's many graduate departments; the students, staff, and faculty are helpful and kind. Furthermore, and more specifically, I see graduate studies in physics at ASU as a first-rate opportunity to explore and master the frontiers of a field with the help of the very welcoming and talented faculty.

Xin Su
BS, Nankai University 2012

David Swanson
BA, Augustana College 2012

Shuo Wang
BS, Peking University 2012
I am most exciting should be getting into the new environment and making new friends.

Gejian Zhao
BS, Beijing University 2012
As a new International graduate student, all the things I see are very fresh. I have not had much research experience in my undergraduate university. But through the projects I've had and the courses I've learned, I think nanoscience and optics interest me very much. I think physics, especially nanoscience and optics, can be widely used in our daily life. So if I can discover, make, or even create some new materials that can change our life, I would feel very exciting.

Seyedi Salman
MS, Sharif University of Technology 2012
I am excited about working in a lab and meeting new friends and learning from faculty.
Welcome Fall 2012 — Incoming Graduates

PSM Cohort

Induja Arulprakash
M. Tech, Anna University 2011
The very thought of me being a sun devil and to learn new stuff is exciting, ASU, being one of the best universities in the country and a chance to study here is even more enthralling.

Charles Hood
BIS, Arizona State University 2012
I received my bachelor’s in interdisciplinary studies at ASU and I am most excited about the use of nanotechnology in the medical industry and the impact it will have on society.

Yiyan Liu
BS, Nankai University 2011

Aruna Manoharan
B.Tech, Anna University 2012

Joe Margetis
BS, University of Illinois 2007
I have been working in the semiconductor and optoelectronics industries for the last five years. I was really attracted to the interdisciplinary nature of the Nanoscience program. I’m looking forward to adding depth to my materials science and solid state electronics background and expanding into biological sensing and molecular electronics.

Nick Polich
MS, Arizona State University 2011
Boeing

Kyle Witt
BS, Arizona State University 2012
I am excited to be doing research and working with new faculty.

Diana Khusnutdinova
MS, Kazan State Tech 2012

Summer Mora
BS, DeVry 2009
I am excited to be given the opportunity to make a great impact in the fusion of nanoscience and the healthcare industry.

David Richardson
BSE, Arizona State University 2012
I am most excited about networking with other professionals who are interested in nanotechnology and joining a field that appears to be a “frontier” in modern technology.
Welcome Fall 2012 — Incoming Graduates

PSM Cohort

Sriharsha Uppalapati  
B.Tech, Sundernaga RM University 2012  
I am very excited about the courses and research in state of art laboratories at ASU!! Watching the Asu football team performing!!

Xingye Wang  
BS (2012), Wuhan University  
This is a brand new life style and study environment that make me excited

Spencer Staples  
4+1, Arizona State University

Alex Ward  
4+1, Arizona State University
Looking to the past & future of ASU Physics

The strides in Physics are noteworthy! The picture below was taken from our 70’s program brochure which was used to recruit MS & PhD students. At that time, we had eleven faculty dedicated to the Physics department with an approximate student enrollment of one hundred. While, the vision and philosophy of the program continue to focus on student and research success, this Fall 2012 we will serve 5,335 students.

Our walkways and classrooms will be filled with eager students and innovative research. This Fall 2012 we welcome 17 new PhD students for a total enrollment of 106 students, 39 freshman for a total of 145 majors, 14 new PSM students for a total of 21 students, 10 MNS students, and 5,094 general studies students. Additionally, we continue to make changes to incorporate current research and industry needs. Dr. Robert Ros and Dr. Robert Culbertson are both actively working on introducing two new undergraduate programs. Dr. Culbertson is collaborating with the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College to develop a certification program for Physics majors, to develop a dual certification programs (such as physics/math, physics/chemistry, physics/engineering physics/earth-space science) for future teachers. Dr. Ros is developing a undergraduate major with emphasis on bio-physics research and fundamental’s. This program has stemmed from industry and student interest.

We are excited to enter a new academic year and celebrate the strides in student interest and research!

Chair’s Note

Welcome to the Physics 2012-2013

As the ASU Tempe campus has filled with students our faculty, staff, and graduate students are energized to welcome each new and returning student to ASU Physics. The crescendo of physics extending from small and large classes and on-line students started months ago as undergraduate and graduate students were applying to our programs. We welcomed many students during summer orientation sessions and again on the week before classes began. Now it is down to the work of teaching and learning.

We are pleased to report that all of our programs have grown. We have welcomed about 80 first year and transfer students into our undergraduate Physics BS program. It may be the largest class ever. Our graduate programs also had a large group of enthusiastic new students. The Professional Science Masters in Nanoscience welcomed 14 new students and the research intensive PhD program had 17 new students. The students come from many states and countries including a great group from Arizona.

Our physics program includes about 140 graduate students, 300 undergraduate physics majors and about 5000 students from across campus learning the concepts of physics. It is one of the largest and most dynamic in the US. Our 40 faculty bring the same welcoming spirit to each class as they challenge our students to learn the concepts of physics in topics ranging from quantum physics to the structure of matter and the science of energy.

Our students are being challenged to solve problems and to complete complex experiments that describe or produce unanticipated phenomena. It is just great to see the smiles when students use calculus to solve a problem or reproduce a measurement of a fundamental constant of nature. Our classes are some of the most inspiring in the university and students, faculty and staff enjoy the fun of learning and demonstrating all things physics.

Sincerely,

Robert Nemanich

Upcoming Dates & Events

September 6th: Colloquia
September 15-25th: PeopleSoft Upgrade
September 25th: Faculty Meeting
October 1st: Apply for Graduation
November 21st: Last day to hold an oral thesis

Faculty Trivia

How well do you know your physics faculty? Try your hand at the trivia question below:

These professor's spent part of their vacation in San Diego boogie boarding.

Click here to submit your guess and discover the answer