ASU Faculty Achievement Award: Young Investigator Award for Outstanding Research.

Dr. Ozkan was recognized for her pioneering theoretical research in biophysics that has explored the relationship of protein folding dynamics and protein function, and explored the role of protein-protein and protein-peptide interactions in defining functions in a cell.

Banu leads a dynamic group and she has many collaborations across campus.

The Provost’s Office notes “The Faculty Achievement Awards were conceived as a way of celebrating the top intellectual contributions at ASU annually in a number of specific fields of scholarship. This year will be the seventh year of the award.”

ASU Faculty Achievement Award: Presidents Professor Award—2013

It is a pleasure to bring you the news that Professor Ricardo Alarcon will be recognized as an ASU President’s Professor.

“President’s Professorships honor faculty members who have made substantial contributions to undergraduate education at ASU. This nomination notes that Professor Ricardo Alarcon is committed to excellence in teaching in traditional and online courses and mentoring undergraduate students in research. He has been innovative and creative in engaging students in a rich online format. His research is in the area of experimental nuclear physics and is a crucial component of several high profile projects where the experiments are conducted at national laboratories. He is a fellow of the American Physics Society, and he has been a leader in the field of nuclear physics and recently served on the National Research Council committee on the “Assessment and Outlook for Nuclear Physics.” He has been internationally prominent in maintaining ties with his native Chile and other South America programs, and he has been a member of the Committee on Education (of the Division of Nuclear Physics of the American Physics Society) and the Committee on Minorities (American Physical Society).

On behalf of ASU Physics it is a pleasure to extend our most heartwarming congratulations to Ricardo for everything he has done for ASU, for Physics and for our many students.

The Geology Museum was relocated to a new building and this became a great opportunity to create a modern learning center for physics students within close proximity to the lecture courses. General Studies physics students now have a new and improved area where they may study as well as receive support for their physics courses. They also have an opportunity to study alongside SESE students. The Physics/SESE Student Success Center opened its doors March 18th to students enrolled in lower-level Physics, Geology, and Astronomy courses. Lee Lambert, freshman, has stated that the SSC has helped him “get better grades on tests and to really understand concepts more” since opening its doors. Students and Teaching Assistants make use of equipment in the room in order to study, show demonstrations or pull up course information for a group. Oftentimes, students can often be seen helping classmates. “People are always working on the [white]boards...If you are doing something wrong, someone will come up and help you” stated Frances Janowiak, junior. The SSC encourages collaboration among classmates, not just students requesting support from a TA.

The Physics/SESE Student Success Center is unique in a few ways. It allows students from two departments to interact alongside each other that may not traditionally have the opportunity to interact. Students in Physics courses can be seen at a table with students in SESE courses and sometimes interacting with each other. Also, the room is available after hours to Physics majors and SESE majors. The SSC allows for the majors to come together to collaborate and study amid each other as well as the two units. Also, unlike many success centers, our SSC is staffed by Physics and SESE Teaching Assistants assigned to the courses in which the SSC provides support for. This ensures that when students are seeking support in their courses, they are receiving support from TAs that are familiar with the course material. Students seem to appreciate this fact as Soren Michaelsen, freshman, says the SSC is “interactive and you get one on one time with the tutor that knows the material.” Physics and SESE is excited to have the doors open of the Physics/SESE Student Success Center. We will be providing support to students during the academic year as well as during the summer. Please contact the Physics/SESE SSC if further information or conference room reservations at physics.sese.ssc@asu.edu.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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ASU Physics | p.o. box 871504 | tempe, az 85287 | 480.965.3561 | http://physics.asu.edu/
Meet our Students

Zachary Kovach

For the past few years, the academics halls of ASU have given me a gift that I had previously thought was unattainable...not only a degree in Physics but the Outstanding Graduating Senior award as well. There were many sleepless nights (Thank you PHY 201 and PHY 302) and alongside my fellow physics students we have laughed, studied, smiled, complained, and fought a good fight. Now we have made it and I couldn’t be any prouder of what my fellow graduating seniors and I have accomplished. Because my experience in the Physics Department has been so rewarding, I thought I would share a few notions for the new crop of incoming physics students.

I am by far not the smartest person graduating with a physics degree; however I am one of the people that have worked the hardest over the past years to achieve the high marks and understanding of the content. So to all you newbies:

- Work harder than you ever have before and prepare to lose a little sleep.
- Always work/study with others. While a select few may be able to go at this degree alone, for most (including myself) the course load will necessitate working with others.
- Office hours are your friends. Go to them and go often...i.e. bug the heck out of your professors!
- Join the Society of Physics Students.
- Most importantly, bring your lunch.

Not only am I graduating with a BS in Physics, but I am also receiving a BAE in Secondary Education. While I love physics, my heart is not in becoming a physicist. So for those of you who may have the same thoughts, I urge you to consider the field of teaching. Good science comes from great science teachers. If I can mold even a handful of my future high school students to pursue the sciences as a course of study, then I think I will have made my mark.

Recent student achievements....

P.E.O

PhD Candidate: Brianna Eller was recently awarded and outstanding scholar award by P.E.O this outstanding organization is true to their mission of promoting higher education among women.

Ms. Brianna Eller received this award based on her current academic standing and evidence of scholarly activities, publications, presentations.

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

Undergraduate Student: Matthew Brown won the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, a national scholarship for sophomores and juniors in science, math, and engineering that was established by Congress in 1986. Universities across the country may nominate four students each to the national committee. The national committee then chooses scholars from this pool. After going through a competitive application process with other ASU students, I was chosen as one of the four ASU nominees. I was then selected by the national committee as one of 271 scholars from a pool of 1107 highly qualified applicants from across the United States.

2013 Undergraduate Symposium

Alex Ward has been awarded The John and Richard Jacob Award for 2013. Alex presented his undergraduate research, “Combined AFM and Fluorescence Measurements for the Investigation of Nanophotonic Effects on Single Fluorophores.” Of several undergraduates that presented their research during the Tenth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, Friday, April 13th. The Physics Faculty in attendance decided Alex’s focus and presentation represented the spirit of John and Richard Jacob.
THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO ATTENDED OUR 2013 AWARD AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
Celebrating the Success of our Students

This is a time to celebrate with our graduating students as they punctuate their journey with this significant achievement. Many of our Physics students are committed to learning, and they work long hours solving challenging physics problems. It sometimes takes time to realize their success and to set the path for their future. Graduation celebrations play an important role in defining success and setting the stage for something new.

This year we had what appears to be the largest graduating class in the history of ASU Physics with students being recognized for Bachelor of Science, Professional Science Master in Nanoscience, Master of Natural Science in physics education, and Doctor of Philosophy (or PhD). It was an honor to congratulate each student as they walked across the stage in the CLAS Convocation.

ASU Physics students have learned the foundations of physics in a rigorous program that gives them the confidence to take on challenging careers or to extend their studies in a graduate program. In each case their daily challenges will change.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Chris Allgower, one of our former PhD students back to ASU for the Awards and Graduation Celebration. Chris worked with Professor Joseph Comfort in completing his PhD in nuclear physics, and he is now Senior Medical Physicist at the Indiana University Health Proton Therapy Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the IU School of Medicine. Chris gave a wonderful presentation at the ceremony noting how his studies and career have had many changes and opportunities. His career path was a demonstration that the combination of an education in physics and a willingness to seek new opportunities could lead to an exciting career.

It is interesting to think about what our current students will describe when they return to ASU in the years ahead. Proton therapy was very new when Chris seized the opportunity, and I am sure our students will tell us about exciting opportunities that develop in the years ahead.

We wish each of our students the best as they move to the next stage, and we look forward to hearing their stories about their challenges and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Robert Nemanich
Chair's Note

MNS Degree Program is a New Member of the Western Regional Graduate Programs

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) recently announced that ASU’s Master of Natural Science (Physics) degree program is a new Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). The Western Regional Graduate Program offers residents of 16 western states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the Northern Mariana Islands) the opportunity to enroll in unique graduate programs in member states and pay in-state tuition. Beginning in the Summer 2013 Semester, applicants in any of these states will be offered the opportunity to participate in our MNS degree program while paying in-state tuition. Our MNS program is primarily a summer program that provides physics content and pedagogy training for in-service science teachers. We are hopeful that our acceptance into WRGP will result in attracting more applicants to our degree program. The goal, after all, is to not only increase the number of physics teachers we produce, but also to improve the quality of existing physics teachers through innovative education.

http://wiche.edu/wrgp

ASU Physics Group

As part of the PAAFO initiative. We hope you that you will join the professional network group via Linked-In.

You may find the ASU-Physics group by simply searching for ASU-Physics Alumni group.

Thank you.