



**UCLA**

College | Physical Sciences

**Physics & Astronomy**

UCLA

The Department of Physics &  
Astronomy

*2024 Commencement Celebration*

Sunday, June 16th, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Ackerman Grand Ballroom

*W*elcome to the Commencement Celebration for UCLA's Department of Physics and Astronomy. Physics is a foundational science aimed at discovering the laws of nature and provides an understanding of our physical world. All phenomena, ranging from the study of the nature of the universe, to subatomic interactions, to complex molecules on which life is based, are of interest to physicists.

*B*ecause it is so encompassing, physics is the foundation of all other disciplines of science. Astronomy more particularly, is the application of physics, which answers questions concerning the nature, workings, origin and evolution of the universe.

*T*he students assembled here today have risen to the challenge of this exciting field. We congratulate our students, and their loved ones who support them.

# PROGRAM

## *Welcome to the guests*

Stuart Brown, Ph.D., Chair

Andrea Ghez, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor

Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine Chair in Astrophysics

Richard Ross, Ph.D. MQST Program Director

## *Procession of Students*

## *Recognition of Awards*

### *Student Address*

Lizvette Villafaña, Ph.D. '24

Jai Israni, M.Q.S.T. '24

Jessica Pan, B.S. '24

## *Hooding of Graduate Students in Astronomy*

Andrea Ghez

## *Hooding of Graduate Students in Physics*

Stuart Brown

## *Keynote Speaker*

Andrea Ghez

## *Presentation of Master of Science Degree Recipients*

## *Presentation of Master of Quantum Science and Technology Degree Recipients*

## *Presentation of Bachelor Degree Recipients*

## *Closing*

## *Recessional & Reception*

# AWARDS

## **Rudnick-Abelmann Scholarship**

Xin Chen

Vikram Seenivasan

## **Michael A. Jura Fellowship Recipient**

Isabel Angelo

## **E. Lee Kinsey Senior Award**

Benjamin Wang

## **Charles Geoffrey Hilton Award**

Jacob Rohan Levine

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**Astronomy and Astrophysics**

Evan Jones  
Briley Lynn Lewis  
Lizvette Villafaña  
Isabella Trierweiler

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**Physics**

Kyle Jerry Callahan  
Brian Ki-Hon Chan  
Andy Chan  
Stephen Ebert  
Kyle Russell Ferguson  
Andrew Charles Fisher  
Lance Hildebrand  
Sami Saad Sabie Khamis  
Daniels Krimans  
Guanming Lao  
Gerard Lawler  
Lukas William Lindwasser  
Justin Gabriel Little  
Dylan McKenzie Neff  
Ziqi Pi  
Jessica Jean Pilgram  
Quinn Thomas Pratt  
Randall Paul Putnam  
Tiema Qian  
Jared Denali Reiten  
John Dean Rooney  
Trevor Scheopner  
Philip Travis  
Zhiwan Xu

**Master of Science**  
**Astronomy and Astrophysics**

Peyton Margaret Benac  
Emily Bailey Kehoe  
Rebecca Anne Lewis-Merrill  
Judah Rock Luberto  
Wenmeng Ning  
Hadrien Raymond Andre Paugnat  
William Sheu

**Master of Science**  
**Physics**

Mishary Kh E R E Alrashed  
J Anabi  
Havyn Skyler Ancelin  
Michael Bareian  
Johnathan Robert Bryan  
Jay Green  
Casey Li  
Jonathan Jesus Loera  
Arthur Sigfried Miltner  
Andrew Nguyen  
Asari Grisel Prado  
Jack Louis Root  
Jonathan Sanchez-Lopez  
Jacob David Schagene  
Luke Edward Sellers  
Rayner Sutardja  
Lila Ton  
Christina Sujin Yeo

## Master of Quantum Science and Technology

Manvi Agrawal  
Shashank Dharanibalan  
Yarin Heffes  
Xiuhan Hu  
Emma Claire Hughes  
Jai Anil Israni  
Renjie Kang  
Ayan Kumar  
Dongzoon Li  
Qiyu Liu  
Jason Aaron Martinez  
Mohammad-Saleh Naghdi  
Roberto Simon Negrin Bentjerodt  
Vedansh Nehra  
Shuohao Ping  
Peter Alex Shanahan  
Sarah Emily Strong  
Shrey Niravkumar Upadhyay  
Haochen Wang  
Xin'ang Yang  
Zhuoyang Ye

## Bachelor of Science Astronomy and Astrophysics

Justin Michael Beaurone  
Rifqi Akhyar Bin Wafi Nazrin  
Michael John Biswas  
Daniel Jairyn Campos  
Irvin Dorado  
Matthew Marc Forestiere  
Ella Friess  
Ian Paul Fu  
Jessica Gonzalez  
Jaylind Michael Gray  
Yiyu Hao  
Lauren Reed Harvey  
Jane Elizabeth Heathcote  
Brayan Hernandez  
Runa Karina Indrei  
Lawrence Anthony Javelo  
Carlos Adrian Jurado  
Jodie Asuka Mense Kiyokawa  
Jacob Patrick Laurel  
Jacob Rohan Levine  
Yunqi Li  
Nathan Patrick Magari  
Mary Helen Minasyan  
Brijesh Molala  
Henry Bosbeli Serrano  
Theodore Lone Shulsky  
Hao Tran  
Quentin Pierre Wolfe  
Michael Christopher Woo  
Mark Zhang

## Bachelor of Science Physics

Chaitanya Bashyam  
Imanol Benitez  
Zachary Berkson  
Vedang Aditya Bhelande  
Kenneth James Bruinsslot  
James Harrison Byrd III  
Christopher Sean Castaneda  
William Chang  
Ashleigh Shannon Chase  
Martin Chau  
Derek Rundle Chow  
Enrique Cisneros Jr.  
Wyatt Grey Cottriel  
Laiyin Dai  
Steven Aaron Diaz  
Jack Dickson  
Martin Duran Jr.  
Kainoa James Kealawaiole Elderts  
Abraham Enriquez-Ibarra  
Darren Fang  
Kailey Marianna Fleiszig-Evans  
Rares Andrei Mihai Fota  
John Christopher Gallagher  
Harrison James Glazebrook  
Jesus Ignacio Gonzalez  
Eliana Barrot Green  
Nicole Halawani  
Wenbo Hao  
Josh Jonathan Hassan  
Fletcher Ireland Hoppe  
Ethan Hsu

Yanwen Hu  
Nicholas Payan Inzunza  
Ernest Antione Izaret  
Melchior Jean  
Ziyue Jin  
Hailee Grace Julius  
Lucy Jude Kaff  
Anna Louise Kinderman  
Samuel Charles King  
Sasha Kononova  
Elizabeth Alexandra Latsis  
Yiming Li  
Ziteng Liu  
Patrick Liu  
Zhentao Luo  
Christy Ma  
Joseph Malham  
Issei Matsuzoe  
William Henry McDonald  
Yohannes Teshome Mergia  
Nimit Mishra  
Anna Miyakawa  
Peter Le Nguyen  
Declan James O'Mara  
Sean O'Tool  
Jessica Yiqi Pan  
Avi Parrack  
Jiawei Qiu  
Sebastian Jesus Quevedo  
Ethan Graham Reed  
Cheyanne Shariat  
Malek Smaoui  
Sophi Chen Song

Tessa J Temme  
Kian Michael Trengove  
Joseph Andrew Vera  
Amolak Singh Virk  
Ruhan Tushar Waghmare  
Alex James Walburg  
Will Wang  
Benjamin Wang  
Tunhui Xie  
Qing Xu  
Anrong Yan  
Lyra Yi  
Amanda Jane Younes  
Sarah Zhang  
Congyue Zhang  
Haiping Zhang  
Chenxi Zhang  
Xiaolian Zheng

## **Bachelor of Arts**

### **Physics**

Edgar Ol Catingub

Taylor Jean Millsaps

Kevin Alfaro Minguela

Nicholas Turner

Therese Manesia Cook

## **Bachelor of Science**

### **Biophysics**

Netta Emilia Ahmavaara

Zoe Emma Alexander Benaissa

Isabella Ameyali Edrada

Adrian Isaac Hanson

Catherine Lange

Emilio Arturo Ocampo

Alexandra Kuniko Otani

Lavanya Pandey

Anna Susanto