

# **Scholarship and Award Winners 2023**

Congratulations to all our winners of departmental scholarships and awards in 2023!

## **Physics & Astronomy Awards**

### **Outstanding Graduating Seniors**

*Winners:*

[Applied Physics] Lavonne Mack  
[Astrophysics] Clive Binu  
[Professional Physics] Gage Eichman

### **Outstanding M.S. Student**

*Winner:* Kunal Deshmukh

### **Outstanding Ph.D. Student**

*Winner:* Maik Reddiger

### **Outstanding Teaching Assistant**

*Winner:* Eric Stringer

### **Outstanding Student Innovator**

*Winner:* Zachary Brown

### **Outstanding Professor**

*Winner:* Dr. Mahdi Sanati

## **Physics & Astronomy Scholarships**

### **The Bucy Undergraduate Scholarship**

Established by J. Fred Bucy, former President and CEO of TX Instruments and one of the most distinguished alumni of Texas Tech University's physics program, and his wife Mrs. Odetta Greer Bucy. This scholarship is awarded to physics majors who demonstrate high academic performance in high school or college and show potential for contributing to the field of physics.

*Recipients:*

Darby Hanes  
Enzel Pulparambil Aravind  
Ruben A. Martinez

### **The C. C. and Alma K. Schmidt Award in Physics**

Established to honor the memory of C. C. Schmidt, a longtime physics faculty member and department chairman who passed away many years ago, and his wife, Alma K. Schmidt. This scholarship was created by the Schmidts' son, Bob Schmidt, by their friends, and by many other members of the Schmidt family and is awarded to incoming or current physics majors with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

*Recipients:*

Adrian Saldivar  
Aryan Chugh  
Odin Schneider  
Sabrina DeBreau

### **The Gangopadhyay Undergraduate Scholarship for Physics**

Established by Shubhra Gangopadhyay, a former faculty member in physics who studied semiconductor materials and devices and who cared deeply about student welfare, and her husband, Dr. Keshab Gangopadhyay. This scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen majoring in physics.

*Recipient:*

Jazlyn Aguirre

### **The Glen Mann Scholarship in Physics**

Established to honor the memory of Glen A. Mann, a longtime faculty member in the physics department who was interested in the experimental infrared spectroscopy of molecules. The scholarship was created by Mrs. Glen Mann, the Mann family, and friends of Glen Mann and is awarded to incoming freshmen with outstanding high school records.

*Recipients:*

Enzel Pulpambil Aravind  
Zachary Rodriguez

### **The Gott Gold Tooth Award**

Established by Preston F. Gott, a longtime faculty member in the physics department whose research interests were optics and astronomy. The Gott Gold Tooth Award is meant to encourage young scholars to study astronomy and is typically awarded to a student who has already successfully completed several courses in astronomy.

*Recipients:*

Amaris McCarver  
Ruben A. Martinez

### **The Hastings Family Scholarship in Physics**

Established by Dr. Jeffrey Hastings and is awarded annually to a physics major interested in undergraduate research in theoretical condensed matter physics or nanoscience. The scholarship recipient is selected based on a nomination by the student's research advisor and at the recommendation of the department chair. Matching funds for this scholarship were made available by the J. T. and Margaret Talkington Foundation.

*Recipient:*

Gabriel Chiselenco

### **The H. C. Thomas Scholarship**

Established by Dr. Henry C. Thomas, a retired faculty member who studied experimental nuclear physics and who served as department chairman for 18 years, and by his wife, Martha Thomas. This scholarship is awarded to incoming freshman with high academic potential or continuing physics majors with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

*Recipient:*

Xander Delashaw

### **The J. W. Day Memorial Scholarship**

Established to honor the memory of J. W. Day, a longtime physics faculty member who passed away many years ago. This scholarship was created by Mrs. J. W. Day, the Day family, and friends of J. W. Day and is awarded to a physics major classified as a junior with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

*Recipient:*

Aryan Chugh

## **The Kenneth Sterne Scholarship in Astronomy**

Established in the memory of Kenneth Sterne, a longtime friend of the physics department, by his wife Mrs. Sarah F. Sterne. The scholarship is awarded to students who show an interest in astronomy or to any deserving undergraduate physics major.

*Recipients:*

Ashley Cleveland  
Ruben A. Martinez  
Shelby Courreges

## **The Little Dolores Ranch Physics and Astronomy Scholarship**

Established by anonymous donors. This scholarship will support two undergraduate students in the Department of Physics and Astronomy who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, have a junior or senior standing, and are recommended by the department.

*Recipients:*

Gabriel Chiselenco  
Shelby Courreges

## **The Michael Clingan Memorial Scholarship in Physics**

Established in the memory of Michael Clingan, a physics student who passed away shortly before he could complete his master's degree at Texas Tech and who was awarded a posthumous degree in December 2018. This scholarship was created by a friend of Michael Clingan, Mr. Ray Robbins Jr., and is awarded to physics majors in good academic standing.

*Recipients:*

Ashley Cleveland  
Mikaela D'Onofrio-Cantu

## **The Roland Menzel Memorial Scholarship**

Established in the memory of E. Roland Menzel, a longtime faculty member in the physics department who was well-known in the scientific community for inventing laser detection of latent fingerprints. The scholarship in Dr. Menzel's name was created by his wife, Terry Menzel, the Menzel family, and his many friends and is awarded to undergraduate physics majors with high academic potential.

*Recipients:*

Justin Higgins  
Michael O'Donnell

## **The Sidney Sundell Astrophysics Scholarship**

Established by Roger and Esther Lichti to honor the memory of Esther's father, Sidney M. Sundell, a self-taught astronomer who became a member of the Montreal Center of the Royal Astronomy Society of Canada. The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students actively pursuing research in astrophysics, and each of its recipients pursues a project supervised by a faculty member or postdoctoral fellow.

*Recipients:*

Amaris McCarver

## **The Abdul Hakeem Khan Lodhi Graduate Fellowship**

Established by Dr. Arfin Lodhi, a long-time faculty member in the department. The purpose of this graduate fellowship is to recognize excellence in research in nuclear theory or particle physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Students are eligible for this award after they have completed the first year of doctoral coursework and passed the preliminary exam, with preference being given to a student from Pakistan.

*Recipients:*

Imtiaz Ahmad  
M. Bilal Siddique  
M. Umer Farooq

## **The Bucy Scholarship in Applied Physics**

Established by J. Fred Bucy, former President and CEO of TX Instruments and one of the most distinguished alumni of Texas Tech University's physics program, and his wife Mrs. Odetta Greer Bucy. This scholarship is awarded to new or continuing graduate students in applied physics with high academic potential or accomplishments.

*Recipients:*

Aaron Mankel  
Adil Hussain  
Avery Eddins  
Corey Bradshaw  
Eli Pattie  
Gabriela Hamilton Ilha Machado  
Imtiaz Ahmad  
Jessica Lawrence  
Kyle Wipfli  
Megan Cuevas  
Miranda Maille  
Nasir Siddiqui  
Niramay Gogate  
Sandeep Puri

Tanazza Khanam  
Yasir Iqbal  
Yelbir Kazhykarim  
Zachary Brown

### **The David Howe Graduate Fellowship in Physics**

Established in memory of David Howe, a physics faculty member who researched experimental nuclear physics and the observational search for gravity waves, by his wife, Dr. A. Isabella Howe, his friends, and the Howe family. This fellowship is awarded to outstanding graduate students.

*Recipients:*  
Miranda Maille  
Victor Ethan Bradley

### **The Peter Seibt Memorial Scholarship**

Established in memory of Peter J. Seibt, who received his Ph.D. in experimental molecular spectroscopy from Texas Tech and was promoted to Head Technician in the machine shop after many years as a staff member in the physics department. This scholarship was founded by his wife, Tamara Seibt, and his many friends and is awarded to outstanding graduate students working in experimental physics.

*Recipients:*  
Conner Dempsey  
Dhruvanshu Parmar

### **The Ron and Nancy Miller Physics Scholarship**

Established by Dr. Ron E. Miller and Nancy E. Miller with the purpose of providing scholarships to graduate students pursuing an M.S. or Ph.D. in the Department of Physics & Astronomy. This award is given to a student who has financial need or has been specifically recommended by a faculty or chairperson. The donors have requested that this scholarship be accompanied by a statement that declares: "The motivation for this award and endowment is Christian beliefs in aid, comfort, and support to all mankind."

*Recipient:*  
Muhammad Usman Ghani