

# **Scholarship and Award Winners 2021**

Congratulations to all our winners of departmental scholarships and awards in 2021!

## **Physics & Astronomy Awards**

### **Outstanding Graduating Senior (Applied Physics Concentration)**

Winner: Priyadarshini Rajkumar

### **Outstanding Graduating Senior (Astrophysics Concentration)**

Winner: Heather Harbin

### **Outstanding Graduating Senior (Professional Physics Concentration)**

Winner: Bridget Mann

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

Winner: Trey Vincent

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

Winner: Tielige Mengke

### **Outstanding Teaching Assistant**

Winner: Miranda Maille

## **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:*

Gabriel Cristian Chiselenco  
Megan Cuevas  
Gage Eichman  
Amaris McCarver  
Kayla Spencer

### **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:*

Antone Amalbert  
Clive Binu  
Eric Borowski  
Mauricio Cerda  
Megan Cuevas  
Gage Eichman  
Eric Masington  
Edgar Najera  
Anthony Pearce

### **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:*

Alexandria Prather

### **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.

*Recipient:*  
Donald Grabinger

### **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.

*Recipient:*  
Avery Cook

### **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:*  
Victor Bradley

### **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:*  
Princess Vargas

### **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:*

Eric Murray

### **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:*

Antone Amalbert

Megan Cuevas

Eric Masington

### **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:*

Samuel Baker

Aryan Chugh

Darby Hanes

Maykala Hernandez

Madison Howard

Karina Kimani-Stewart

Corvus Koithan

Lucas Ridgely

### **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:*

Gage Eichman  
Amaris McCarver  
Chance Willis

### **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:*

Alexandria Clark  
Avery Cook  
Amaris McCarver

### **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:*

Imtiaz Ahmad  
Ishtiaque Ahmed  
Blessing Akah  
Arvind Balasubramanian  
Sayani Ghosh  
Yasir Iqbal  
Nafiz Jaidye  
Tanazza Khanam  
Jessica Lawrence  
Miranda Maille  
Samila Muthumuni  
Manuel Pichardo Marcano  
Bilal Siddique

### **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:*

Aaron Mankel  
Maik Reddiger

### **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.

*Recipient:*

Adil Hussain

### **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:*

Tunde Kushimo

### **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.

*Recipient:*

Gareth Ofenstein