Research

• Professor Daniel Whiteson along with others from UCI particle physics, astrophysics, and computer science are partnering with physicists at MIT, Harvard, NYU, and Northwestern to submit an NSF Science and Technology Center Proposal. This new center will attempt to solve the mystery of Dark Matter, once and for all, using advanced techniques from machine learning and statistics.

• Congratulations to Rachel Lucas and Prantik Saha for their outstanding posters at the Champ poster session. Thank you also to all the attendees! More information about the poster session can be found here, and the awardees here.

Student Spotlight

Arianna Long is a 2nd year physics grad student studying extragalactic astrophysics. Along with fellow student Katy Rodriguez Wimberly, Arianna helped found the PACE program as a response to national and departmental reports that demonstrated a serious need for mentorship among graduate students. PACE fosters discussions that focus on identifying and defining the needs of the individual and defining what holistic success means for each person. With PACE, Arianna hopes to leave a legacy of dedication to peer mentorship. She hopes the program becomes a solidified part of the departmental structure and helps improve the professional and mental health outcomes of those involved. Read the full spotlight here.

Events

• On April 6th UCI welcomed over 80 alumni back to campus and were thrilled to learn about the many professional and personal paths our alumni have taken since graduation. It was a full day of lab tours and discussions from all four departments in the physical sciences. Hope to see you there next year! Pictured is Prof. Daniel Whiteson giving a talk at Alumni Day.

• On May 6th and 10th, the department welcomed Dra. Nicole Cabrera Salazar to give a talk and workshop on strategies to increase the retention of students from underrepresented backgrounds. If you attended the workshop or the talk and would like to leave feedback you can do so here. More information about Dra. Nicole and her programs can be found here.

Department News

• Next year’s incoming class has been confirmed! The new class consists of a whopping 35 students, 15 of whom are women! Within those students 13 are interested in condensed matter physics or ChaMP, 12 are interested in particle physics, 7 are interested in astrophysics, 2 are interested in biophysics, and 1 is interested in plasma physics.

• WiPA has been awarded $5,000 to fund mentoring, outreach, and tutoring events. There were also funds allocated for the CUWiP conference. This is all thanks to a generous donation from Marilyn and Tom Sutton orchestrated by Professor Roger McWilliams.