Letter from the Assistant Chair

Greetings from the Physics Department at Marquette University! On behalf of the physics department, I’d like to congratulate you on your academic achievements, and encourage you to consider pursuing a Physics degree at Marquette University.

The physics program at Marquette stands out in many ways. As early as their sophomore year, our physics majors are invited to teach introductory labs for engineering and non-science majors. They are also invited to perform research, working directly with professors. The experience gained is incredibly valuable in going forward to graduate school or to the workplace.

Many recent graduates have pursued advanced degrees in physics as well as astronomy, biophysics, materials science and bioengineering. They have entered into many of the top graduate programs around the country including Princeton, Wisconsin, Illinois, Purdue, Notre Dame, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Each has earned a fellowship or assistantship which includes full tuition, plus a substantial salary to support their studies!

Other recent graduates have proceeded to teach high school science, and several have continued on to law school and medical school. Remarkably, Physics students scored the highest of all majors on the LSAT, and second highest on the MCAT.

Physics ensures a strong education that leads to success in a variety of fields. Students of your caliber have found much success with the discipline of physics, and an undergraduate degree in physics can open many doors for you.

We invite enthusiastic students to join us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Stockdale
Spotlight on Summer Research

Senior physics major Jesse Vogeler-Wunsch and junior majors Henry Le and Demetri Kutzke participated in an NSF-funded project to investigate the motion of domain walls in ferromagnetic nanowires with Dr. Andrew Kunz.

The research could lead to revolutionary magnetic recording devices that would be able to store more data, read and write information much more quickly, and consume less power. The group recently submitted a paper on their work to the Journal of Applied Physics. Dr. Kunz recently secured a new grant to be able to continue to hire undergraduate research assistants.

Why Marquette Physics?

The Physics program at Marquette University provides exciting research opportunities alongside faculty, fellowship in student organizations, and a stimulating curriculum to launch your career in science. Our undergraduate-only program offers unique opportunities for majors, including teaching assistant or research assistant positions.

“A highlight of the Physics program at Marquette is the numerous ways each student can get involved. Being a TA has enhanced my ability to explain introductory physics topics from different perspectives, which has solidified my understanding of it.”

-Kelsey Meinerz
MU 2014

Laboratory Teaching Assistants

Undergraduate physics majors play an important role as salaried teaching assistants in the introductory physics labs. Not only do they improve their knowledge of physics and technical writing by teaching, they also acquire valuable skills in managing people and working in groups.

Research Assistants

Undergraduate physics majors also have the opportunity to become involved in a research project with a physics faculty member as early as the summer after their freshman year! Research areas include condensed matter physics, theoretical astrophysics, radio astronomy and experimental nuclear physics.
Fast Facts About Marquette

- Almost 8,300 undergraduate students enrolled
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 14:1
- 16 NCAA Division I teams
- Over 250 student organizations to join!

Get Involved!

Physics Club

The Society of Physics Students is an active group! They provide a forum for the discussion of pertinent facts and discoveries in all branches of physics, engage in activities related to physics, and generate public interest in the physical sciences.

Last year, several students traveled to Orlando for the Quadrennial Physics Congress, where they toured NASA’s Kennedy Space Center and attended talks and workshops given by distinguished scientists. Three students also presented posters on their research.

This year, they plan to enter a rocket building competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium!

Women in Physics

Student organization Women in Physics works to foster camaraderie among women physics majors and those with interest in physics at Marquette.

Last year, Women in Physics welcomed several notable speakers, including Dr. Elizabeth Simmons, who spoke about how to promote greater diversity in science, and Dr. Megan Pickett, who discussed her research simulating conditions of the early solar system.

Women in Physics also participates in local outreach events. Last year, the 4H program connected them with a local middle school, where they educated students on physics with a project involving balloons and paper airplanes.

This active group of women works hard and plays hard, too. They have a blast bowling at The Annex on campus and hosting movie nights!
Our Mission Statement

The Physics Department is committed to excellence in undergraduate physics education, and embraces the Ignation ideal of cura personalis, or “care for the whole person.”

The Department is a community of faculty, staff and students. Faculty advance the frontiers of physics in both research and education, staff contribute their expertise in facilitating all endeavors of the department, and students participate in learning and scholarship with the guidance of the faculty.