Honors & Awards

John Belcher, Class of ’22 Professor of Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

A. Nihat Berker, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was named “Best Teacher of the Year,” by the KoçPost Student Newspaper, Koç University, Turkey.

William Bertozzi, Professor of Physics, received the American Physical Society’s Division of Nuclear Physics 2008 Mentoring Award.

Robert J. Birgeneau, Professor of Physics Emeritus, received the 2008 Academic Leadership Award from the Carnegie Corporation.

Adam Burgasser, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded an MIT Alumni Class Funds grant for “Bringing Interactive Learning to 8.012 Lectures.”

Janet Conrad, Professor of Physics, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Bruno Coppi, Professor of Physics, was a Distinguished Lecturer at Chubu University, Japan.

Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, received an Alumni Medal, University of Chicago; was the Emilio Segre Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley, and the Inaugural Lise Meitner Lecturer, Vienna and Berlin; received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the National Technical University, Kharkov Polytechnic Institute, Ukraine; was named an Elected Fellow of the Materials Research Society; received the Vannevar Bush Award, U. S. National Science Board; and named an Elected Fellow and Charter Member, Massachusetts Academy of Sciences.

Jan Egedal-Pedersen, Assistant Professor of Physics, received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano, Assistant Professor of Physics, received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

Nuh Gedik, Assistant Professor of Physics, received the NEC Corporate Fund Award from MIT’s Research Support Committee.
Kenneth Hewitt, Assistant Director for Human Resources and Facilities at the Laboratory for Nuclear Science, was honored by the Brockton Youth Foundation for his “ongoing leadership in supporting the city’s youth.”

Kerson Huang, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was appointed the Nanyang Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Eric Hudson, Associate Professor of Physics, received MIT’s Baker Teaching Award and the Irwin Sizer Award for Significant Improvements to MIT Education; was elected Vice Chair of the American Physical Society’s Topical Group on Instrument and Measurement Science; and received an MIT Excellence Award for “fostering diversity and inclusion” in his roles as the minority advisor and diversity representative on the Graduate Admissions Committee for the Physics Department, and extensive work with the MIT Summer Research and CONVERGE programs.

Robert Jaffe, Jane and Otto Morningstar Professor of Physics, was named an American Physical Society “2009 Outstanding Referee.”

Pablo Jarillo-Herrero, Assistant Professor of Physics, received MIT’s Wade Fund Award; was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship; and received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

John D. Joannopoulos, Francis Wright Davis Professor of Physics and Director, Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and named an American Physical Society “2009 Outstanding Referee.”

Mehran Kardar, Professor of Physics, received the 2008 Graduate Student Council Teaching Award; was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and named an American Physical Society “2009 Outstanding Referee.”

Wolfgang Ketterle, John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics; Director, MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms; and 2001 Nobel Laureate, received a Humboldt Research Award; was awarded the Leonie Wild Medal from his home town of Eppelheim, Germany; and received the James Joyce Award of the Literary and Historical Society of University College, Dublin.
Honors & Awards

Patrick A. Lee, William and Emma Rogers Professor of Physics, and Division Head, Atomic, Biological, Condensed Matter and Plasma Physics, was the Welsh Lecturer at the University of Toronto.

Alan Levine, Principal Research Scientist, MIT-Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, received the 2009 School of Science Dean’s Education and Advising Award.

Leonid Levitov, Professor of Physics, was named among the “Top 10 active physicists of Russian origin,” by Russian Newsweek.

Sheela Hulsoor Marston, Administrative Assistant to the Director, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a 2009 School of Science Infinite Mile Award.

June Matthews, Professor of Physics, was named an American Physical Society “2009 Outstanding Referee.”

John McGreevy, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship.

Ernest Moniz, Professor of Physics and Director, MIT Energy Initiative, was appointed to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

David E. Pritchard, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics, was awarded the 2008 IUPAP Senior Scientist Medal in Fundamental Metrology.

Ronald Remillard, Principal Research Scientist, MIT-Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, received the 2009 Bruno Rossi Prize of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

Arthur Scully, Senior Fiscal Officer, Laboratory for Nuclear Science (LNS), was honored by the LNS for 50 years of service at MIT, of which 47 were spent at LNS.

Sara Seager, Associate Professor of Physics and Ellen Swallow Richards Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, was named one of Discover Magazine’s “Top 20 under 40” scientists.

Robert Simcoe, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship.
Marin Soljačić, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded a 2008 MacArthur Fellowship.

Eve Sullivan, Senior Editorial Assistant, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received an MIT Excellence Award for “creating connections.”

Iain Stewart, Associate Professor of Physics, received the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Award of the Humboldt Foundation.

Washington Taylor, Professor of Physics, was named a Class of 1960 Fellow.

Senthil Todadri, Associate Professor of Physics, received the Outstanding Young Physicist Award of the American Chapter of the Indian Physics Association.

Alexander van Oudenaarden, Keck Career Development Professor in Biomedical Engineering and Professor of Physics, received a 2008 National Institutes of Health Pioneer Award.

Xiao-Gang Wen, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics, received a Visiting Scholar appointment as the Perimeter Institute’s Distinguished Research Chair.

Frank Wilczek, Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics and 2004 Nobel Laureate, was awarded Honorary Doctorates from Maria-Sklodowska University and The Ohio State University; received the Julius Wess Award from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, and the Casimir Funk Natural Science Award.

Joshua Winn, Assistant Professor of Physics, received the Department’s 2008 Buechner Teaching Award.
Promotions

Adam Burgasser to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.
Nergis Mavalvala to Full Professor of Physics with tenure.
Krishna Rajagopal, Professor of Physics, appointed Associate Department Head for Education, effective September 1, 2009.
Iain Stewart to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.
Bernd Surrow to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.
Max Tegmark to Full Professor of Physics.
Walter Lewin has been one of the world’s leading experts in X-ray studies of neutron stars and black holes for over 40 years. He came to MIT in 1966 as a postdoc in the X-ray astronomy group and was appointed Assistant Professor of Physics later that year, with promotions to Associate Professor in 1968 and Professor in 1974. Through a series of high-altitude balloon and satellite experiments during the 1960s and 1970s, Lewin conducted pioneering studies demonstrating the time-variability of Galactic compact X-ray sources.

His work has spanned a wide range of X-ray phenomena from neutron stars and black holes in interacting stellar binaries, including thermonuclear X-ray bursts, quasi-periodic oscillations and relativistically broadened spectral emission lines. In addition to publishing over 300 refereed papers in astrophysics, Lewin was lead editor for a series of three textbooks on Galactic X-ray sources (in 1983, 1995, and 2006), which have been standard research references in X-ray astronomy for a quarter-century.

Lewin is a legendary teacher and lecturer at MIT and beyond. Videos of his physics lectures on mechanics (8.01), electricity and magnetism (8.02), and vibrations and waves (8.03), have been available for many years through broadcast on UWTV in Seattle and MIT Cable TV, as well as on the internet via MIT’s OpenCourseWare, Apple “iTunes U,” and YouTube (where they are among the most popular educational downloads).

Professors around the world have made extensive use of these videos as lecture supplements for their own courses. Lewin’s unique style of teaching has captured the attention of a broad range of students, educators, and self-learners, and he has been featured in a wide variety of national publications, including the New York Times, US News & World Report, and Time Magazine.
Dick came to MIT as a freshman in 1953 and by 1963 he had earned a Ph.D. in Physics and was working with Larry Rosenson and Irwin Pless on accelerator physics at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Harvard’s Cambridge Electron Accelerator. By 1986 he’d published over 145 papers on strong interaction physics—a very impressive record in this time before large collaborations.

In 1986, Dick joined the SLAC Large Detector (SLD) experiment at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), which made many important measurements. Dick and his group had a major impact in the measurement of the interaction strength of a new heavy force-carrying particle called the Z boson. They resolved a key discrepancy between measurements in SLD that strengthened the physics results.

After SLD, Dick participated in a new project at SLAC called BaBar that made the very best measurements of time reversal asymmetry in nature. In recent years, Dick has been active in developing a new way of looking for cosmic dark matter. One especially nice idea he has had is to contaminate one of the detectors with radon to study in detail what the experimental backgrounds are like. This was a return to Dick’s roots in instrumentation and working with students.

“I’m very grateful to have had Dick Yamamoto as a mentor in my early years at MIT. His generous support, coupled with his sound advice, helped me in so many different ways. My appreciation for Dick only increased after I joined the faculty, when I saw the full extent of his dedication to physics and to our Department.”

Gabriella Sciolla, Cecil & Ida Green Career Development Professor and Associate Professor of Physics