

Faculty & Staff Notes

Honors & Awards



John W. Belcher



Deepto Chakrabarty

Raymond Ashoori, Professor of Physics, was awarded a five-year, \$1.7 million grant by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to support further development and enhancement of a novel condensed matter physics measurement technique, “time domain capacitance spectroscopy.”

John W. Belcher, Class of ’22 Professor of Physics and Interim Associate Department Head for Education, received the Institute’s Arthur C. Smith Award. The award is given to a faculty member in recognition of “meaningful contributions and devotion to undergraduate student life and learning at MIT.”

A. Nihat Berker, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was elected to the Academia Europaea.

Edmund Bertschinger, Professor of Physics and Head, Department of Physics, received the Luis Walter Alvarez Award for the Advancement of Latinos in Science; and MIT’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award.

Robert J. Birgeneau, Professor of Physics Emeritus and Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley, was awarded the 2012 Clifford G. Shull Prize of the Neutron Scattering Society of America for his “seminal scientific contributions, tireless leadership, and devoted mentoring in the field of neutron scattering.”

Deepto Chakrabarty, Professor of Physics and Division Head, Astrophysics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for his “pioneering research on neutron stars, including the discovery and analysis of accretion-powered millisecond pulsars.”

Bruno Coppi, Professor of Physics, received the 2012 Columbus Prize, selected by the Arcetri Observatory, Italy, and the 2011 Ghislieri Prize for Science and Technology, given to an “internationally distinguished alumnus of the Ghislieri College and the University of Pavia.”

Honors & Awards



Mildred Dresselhaus



Edward Farhi



Peter Fisher

Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor Emerita, was named co-recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award, one of the oldest and most prestigious science and technology honors given by the U. S. government, for her “leadership in condensed matter physics, in energy and scientific policy, in service to the scientific community, and in mentoring women in the sciences.” Dresselhaus was also awarded a 2011 Einstein Professorship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and named one of three MIT recipients of the seven 2012 Kavli Prizes, in recognition of her “pioneering contributions to the study of phonons, electron-phonon interactions, and thermal transport in nanostructures.”

Jeremy England, Assistant Professor of Physics, was named by *Forbes* as one of the nation’s “top 30 innovators under 30.”

Edward Farhi, the Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and Director, Center for Theoretical Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for his “seminal discoveries of new quantum algorithms and quantum computational paradigms, in particular the quantum walk and quantum adiabatic methods.”

Peter Fisher, Professor of Physics and Division Head, Nuclear and Particle Experimental Physics, received the Department’s Buechner Faculty Teaching Award for “developing 8.233; his innovations in 8.022; and his great teaching of both.”

Nuh Gedik, Assistant Professor of Physics, was named a 2012 Sloan Research Fellow by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The fellowships are given annually to early career scientists and scholars whose “achievements and potential identify them as rising stars, among the next generation of scientific leaders.” Gedik also received a Solomon Buchsbaum Research Fund Award from MIT’s Research Support Committee.

Jeff Gore, Assistant Professor of Physics and 2007-2009 Pappalardo Fellow in Physics, received a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER Award, created “to support junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research.”



Scott A. Hughes



David Kaiser



Walter Lewin

Charles Holbrow, Charles A. Dana Professor of Physics Emeritus, Colgate University, and Visiting Professor, MIT Department of Physics, was awarded the 2012 Oersted Medal of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Scott A. Hughes, Associate Professor of Physics, received a 2012 fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation to study the astrophysics of ultra-strong gravity.

Pablo Jarillo-Herrero, Assistant Professor of Physics, was appointed to a Mitsui Career Development Professorship.

David Kaiser, Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science; Department Head, Program in Science, Technology, and Society; and Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics, was named a 2012 MacVicar Faculty Fellow by the Institute in recognition of “outstanding undergraduate teaching, mentoring, and educational innovation.” Kaiser also received the Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising.

Arthur K. Kerman, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was the co-honoree of the 13th International Conference on Nuclear Reaction Mechanisms, Varenna, Italy (June 2012).

Wolfgang Ketterle, John D. MacArthur Professor Physics; Associate Director, MIT RLE; Director, MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms; and 2001 Nobel Laureate, received an honorary doctorate from Strathclyde University, Scotland; was named a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences; and was the Distinguished Lecturer at Cornell University (Bethe Lecture Series), the University of Oxford (Hinshelwood Lecture Series), Heidelberg Academy of Sciences (Annual Lecture), and A&M University, Huntsville, AL (14th Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture).

Patrick Lee, William and Emma Rogers Professor of Physics, delivered the Einstein Lecture at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Walter Lewin, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was MIT’s sole entry, and one of just four physics faculty nationwide, featured in “The Best 300 Professors,” a recent publication of the educational services company, The Princeton Review.

Honors & Awards



Erin McGrath



Richard G. Milner

Hong Liu, Associate Professor of Physics, was awarded a 2011 Simons Fellowship in Theoretical Physics by the Simons Foundation.

Elsye Luc, Senior Administrative Assistant, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a 2012 MIT School of Science Infinite Mile Award.

Nergis Mavalvala, Professor of Physics and 2010 MacArthur Fellow, received the Department's Buechner Faculty Undergraduate Advising Prize for "enthusiastically advising her advisees, her UROP and JLab students...and humanity in general, communicating her passion for physics to all."

Erin McGrath, Director of Development for the Departments of Physics and Mathematics, received a 2012 MIT Excellence Award in the category for Serving the Client: providing consistent and exceptional service. The Excellence Awards were created to "acknowledge the extraordinary efforts made by members of our community toward fulfilling the goals, values, and mission of the Institute, and are among the highest honors awarded to staff by MIT."

Richard G. Milner, Professor of Physics and Director, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a Humboldt Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The award is granted in recognition of "a researcher's entire achievements to date, and whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future."

Jagadeesh S. Moodera, Senior Research Scientist, Francis Bitter Magnet Laboratory, was a 2011 Distinguished Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, and 2011 Distinguished Visiting Professor and Scientist, University of Waterloo, Canada.

Christoph M. E. Paus, Professor of Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for his "many contributions to the success of the CDF experiment, including his leadership and creative analysis approach...along with his hardware leadership of the level-3 trigger and Time-of-Flight system."



Sara Seager

Sara Seager, Class of 1941 Professor of Planetary Science and Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her “pioneering work on theoretical models of the atmospheric composition and internal structure of extrasolar planets, from super-Earths to gas-giant planets”; named co-winner of the 2012 Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences by Tel Aviv University for her “brilliant theoretical studies, including analysis of the atmospheres and internal compositions of extrasolar planets”; and listed by *Nature* as one of its 2011 “Ten people who mattered this year.”

Alexander Shvonski, Technical Instructor, Technical Services Group, received a 2012 MIT School of Science Infinite Mile Award.

Richard Temkin, Senior Research Scientist and Associate Director, Plasma Science and Fusion Center, received the inaugural Exceptional Service Award of the Infrared Millimeter and Terahertz Society.

Senthil Todadri, Professor of Physics, was awarded a 2011 Simons Fellowship in Theoretical Physics by the Simons Foundation.

Christopher Vidal, Senior Mechanical Designer, Laboratory for Nuclear Science and Bates Linear Accelerator Center, received a 2012 MIT School of Science Infinite Mile Award.

Lindley Winslow, Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, was awarded a 2011 Michelson Postdoctoral Prize Lectureship at Case Western Reserve University.

Martin Zwierlein, Associate Professor of Physics, was appointed to a Silverman (1968) Career Development Professorship; and named an Outstanding Referee of the American Physical Society.

Promotions



Joseph Formaggio



Joshua Winn



Martin Zwierlein

Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.

Joseph Formaggio to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.

Young Lee to Full Professor of Physics.

Joshua Winn to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.

Martin Zwierlein to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.

Retirements



George B. Benedek



Wit Busza



Erich Ippen



Roman Jackiw



June L. Matthews

George B. Benedek, Alfred H. Caspary Professor of Physics and Biological Physics, Division of Atomic, Biophysics, Condensed Matter, and Plasma Physics, 1961–2012.

Wit Busza, Francis Friedman Professor of Physics, Division of Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics, 1969–2012.

Erich Ippen, Elihu Thomson Professor of Electrical Engineering and Professor of Physics, 1980–2012.

Roman W. Jackiw, Jerrold Zacharias Professor of Physics, the Center for Theoretical Physics, 1969–2012.

June L. Matthews, Professor of Physics, Division of Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics, 1973–2012.