

### ***Doctor of Philosophy in Physics***

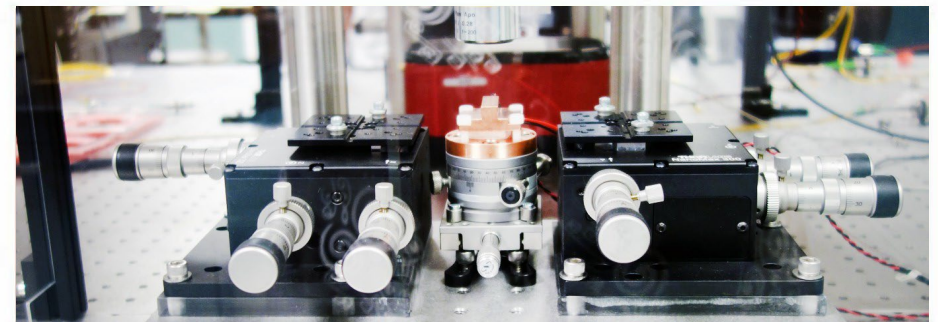
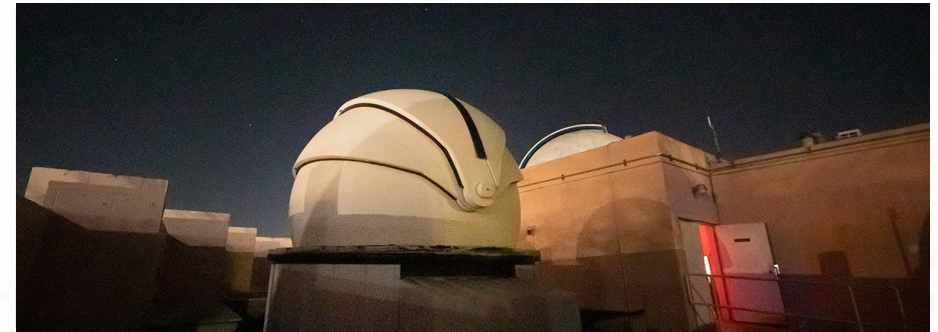
Maxwell Aiello	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Victor Acosta</a>
Rajorshi Bhattacharya***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ylva Pihlstrom</a>
Grant Block***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Mousumi Roy</a>
Vikas Buchemmavari***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ivan Deutsch</a>
Zachary Castillo***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ivan Deutsch &amp; Matt Eichenfield</a>
Logan Cordonnier*	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Gregory Taylor</a>
Andrew Forbes	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ivan Deutsch</a>
Mallory Harris***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Diana Dragomir</a>
Ismael Mireles	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Diana Dragomir</a>
Dominic Oddo***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Diana Dragoimir</a>
Sankara Sai Chaithanya Rayudu***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Milad Marvian</a>
Mason Rhodes***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Andrew Baczewski</a>
Bryan Richards***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Victor Acosta</a>
Evan Sheldahl	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Gregory Taylor</a>
Josef Sorenson	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Sally Seidel</a>
Craig Taylor	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Gregory Taylor</a>
Tyler Thurtell***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Akimasa Miyake</a>
Elizabeth Tilly***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Dinesh Loomba</a>

### ***Doctor of Philosophy in Optical Science and Engineering***

Arjun Aryal***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Tito Busani</a>
Noelle Collins***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Daniel Feezell</a>
Jackson Kock*	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Alex Albrecht</a>
Li Liu***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Viktoriia Babicheva</a>
Duncan McGraw***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Tito Busani</a>
Meagan Parker***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ganesh Balakrishnan</a>
Bisweswar Patra*	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Terefe Habteyes</a>
Lala Rukh	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Tara Drake</a>
Abu Shami Md Zadid Shifat***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Tito Busani</a>
Jared Tolliver***	Dissertation Director: <a href="#">Ganesh Balakrishnan</a>



## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY



# CONVOCATION

May 16, 2026

## Master of Ceremonies

Richard Rand, Chair, Department of Physics and Astronomy

## Processional Marshall and Announcer of Degrees

Rouzbeh Allahverdi, Chair of Undergraduate Majors Committee  
James Thomas, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies

## Awards

**The Chair's Award for Best PhD Dissertation in Physics:**  
Logan Cordonnier & Craig Taylor

**The Mansoor Sheik-Bahae Award for Best PhD Dissertation in Optics:**  
Maxwell Aiello & Jackson Kock

**The Award for Best PhD Dissertation in Optical Science and Engineering:**  
Bisweswar Habteyes

**Department Excellence in Teaching Award:**  
Niklas Mueller

**The William G. Larsen, Ph.D., Memorial Award for Best Teaching Assistant:**  
Rajorshi Bhattacharya, Grant Block, Mallory Harris, & Sarah Stamer

### **Departmental Honors:**

Yifu Chen	Honors Thesis Director: Darcy Barron
Seth Medina	Honors Thesis Director: Sally Seidel
Sara Pezzaioli	Honors Thesis Director: Gregory Taylor

**Eoin Gray Scholarship Award for Best Graduating Senior:**  
Sol Samuels

**The Feynman Award for Best Student in Contemporary Physics:**  
Adam Dilks

We gratefully acknowledge generous support for our undergraduate programs  
from the Rayburn Reaching-Up Fund

## Convocation Address

Kathrin Spendier, PhD UNM; Senior Lead of Platform Ecosystem Strategy, Quantinuum

## Conferring of Degrees

### **Bachelor of Arts in Physics & Astrophysics**



Sydney Brown\*\* (*Cum Laude*)  
Jacqueline Privette (*Cum Laude*)

William Mann

### **Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics**



Mark Burch  
Sharleen Espinoza\*\*  
Sara Pezzaioli (*Summa Cum Laude*)

Yifu Chen (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
Dylan Henderson

### **Bachelor of Science in Physics**



Kelsey Adler (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
Omar Carrillo (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
Jordan Hernandez (*Cum Laude*)  
Seth Medina (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
Colton Purdy (*Magna Cum Laude & Dual Degree – BS in EE / Physics*)  
Skailar Sovereign  
Sebiyam Werdin-Kennicott (*Dual Degree – BS in EE / Physics*)

Miguel Berkopec (*Cum Laude & Dual Degree – BS in EE / Physics*)  
Tristan Duggan (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
Mark Meana (*Summa Cum Laude*)  
Himal Pandey  
Sol Samuels\*\* (*Summa Cum Laude*)  
Ethan StClair (*Dual Degree – BS in EE / Physics*)

### **Master of Science in Physics without thesis:**



Morteza Darvishi\*\*  
Hector Hernandez\*\*  
Tristan Larkin  
Faruq Oyediran  
Srinidhi Pawar\*\*  
Brandon Stone\*\*

Wilber Dominguez\*\*  
Eleanor Hort  
Matthew Marshall\*\*  
Saheed Oyeniran  
Shravan

Alejandro Garcia\*\*  
Evan Johnson\*\*  
Georgia McDowell  
Rishi Pathak  
Sarah Stamer

### **Master of Science in Optical Science and Engineering without thesis:**



Atia Islam Ankhi  
Yves Ngenzi

Mark Dietrich  
Keerthana Silvy\*\*\*

Michael Goulette

\* Summer 2025 Graduation // \*\* Fall 2025 Graduation // \*\*\* Summer 2026 Graduation