

**Your support goes
a long way!**



Your gift to the department will:

- **Support talented undergraduate and graduate students**
- **Recruit and retain strong faculty members**
- **Enhance learning opportunities for our students**
- **Increase outreach impact**

Contact the Department of Astronomy
<https://astro.illinois.edu/giving/give>

*Backdrop: The South Pole Telescope. Students in
Joaquin Vieira's group use SPT to study lensed
galaxies at high redshift.*

Department of
ASTRONOMY
I ILLINOIS

CONTACT US

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Department Highlights

- Our program is booming - over 150 majors!
- Highest rate in LAS of majors continuing to graduate school
- Second highest starting salaries for new graduates among LAS majors
- Gautham Narayan hired as Assistant Professor
- Newly-formed Survey Science Initiative
- Degrees granted in 2018-2019: 12 BSs, 5 PhDs
- ~120 refereed publications in 2018
- ~80 science meetings attended
- 40 active grants

Backdrop: The Milky Way center, photographed by graduate student Alex Gagliano at the South African Large Telescope (SALT).

Our Students



Lina Florez is an undergraduate senior. With Joaquin Vieira, she helped build parts of the focal plane array camera for the South Pole Telescope. "Since [Lina] was a little girl, physics and astronomy have been mind-blowing topics."



Patrick Mullen is a 4th year graduate student. Together with Charles Gammie, he simulates impact scenarios for the formation of the Moon. Patrick believes that the ability to simulate these phenomena is a "powerful, yet humbling feeling."



Rachel Harrison is a 3rd year graduate student working with Leslie Looney. She uses radio observations to study dust polarization in star and planet formation, a topic she is passionate about because of its "potential to teach us about our own origins."

Projects

Research

- Continue to grow Survey Science Initiative
- Increase high performance computational astrophysical simulations
- Expand Illinois-owned telescope facilities
- Enhance participation in new astrophysical science opportunities

Outreach

- Monthly Astronomy on Tap events
- Community astronomy classes through the Educational Justice Program
- Observatory Open House
- Girls' Astronomy Summer Camp
- Society for Equity in Astronomy

Communication

- Organize Illinois AstroFest, a research showcase for local students
- Host the Icko Iben Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series in Astronomy
- Attend national and international conferences and workshops