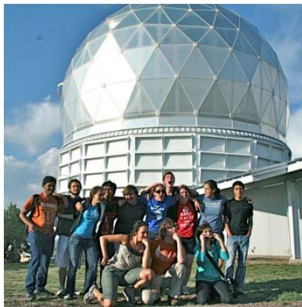


# The Physics and Astronomy Experience



**Planetarium**  
Each year during Explore UT, ASA exhibits an inflatable planetarium that allows hundreds of people to experience outer space up close.

**Hex Rally**  
Since 1986, physics students have lit the torch at the Hex Rally – a traditional spirit event before the Thanksgiving Day football game. For one bright moment each year, the light of Physics shines on the whole University.



**McDonald Observatory**  
ASA goes to UT's very own observatory in the Davis Mountains every spring and active members get to use research telescopes to explore the universe.

Department of Physics

Website: [www.ph.utexas.edu](http://www.ph.utexas.edu)

Email: [ugaffairs@physics.utexas.edu](mailto:ugaffairs@physics.utexas.edu)

Department of Astronomy

Website: [www.as.utexas.edu](http://www.as.utexas.edu)

Email: [studentinfo@astro.as.utexas.edu](mailto:studentinfo@astro.as.utexas.edu)

Math, Physics, and Astronomy Advising

Website: [cns.utexas.edu/mpa-advising](http://cns.utexas.edu/mpa-advising)

Email: [mpaadv@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:mpaadv@uts.cc.utexas.edu)

College of Natural Sciences

Website: [cns.utexas.edu/students](http://cns.utexas.edu/students)

Email: [cnsadmissions@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:cnsadmissions@austin.utexas.edu)



*The Physics and Astronomy community defines the undergraduate experience at the University of Texas at Austin. Organizations in Physics and Astronomy unite students and provide a wealth of enriching activities. Let's take a look!*



**Open House**  
 During the fall semester, we open the Physics Department to everyone. Many research labs provide tours, while undergrads present research posters.

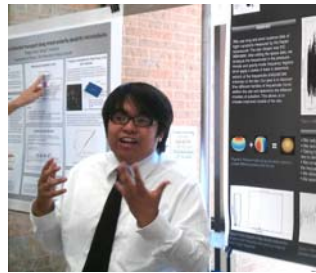
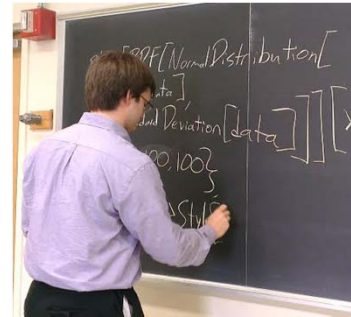
**Star Parties**  
 The Department of Astronomy hosts weekly, on-campus star parties with the 16" and 9" telescopes.



**Camping**  
 Every semester ASA goes camping outside Austin to visit dark skies and spend time getting to know each other under the stars.



**Student-led Courses**  
 Undergraduate leaders in physics teach seminars and for-credit courses such as: Data Analysis, Machining, Programming with Python, and Electronics. Students learn useful skills in a collaborative environment from seasoned upper-division students.



**Research Posters**  
 Each year, undergraduate research posters and presentations give you the chance to see what epic Physics research your peers are doing. Make sure you attend and take advantage of this great opportunity.

**Physnic**  
 Twice a year, meet up with your favorite Physics professors, share some barbecue, and maybe join a game of Ultimate Frisbee.



**Explore UT**  
 Every spring semester we join the "Biggest Open House in Texas." Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream and other Physics demos inspire, inform and entertain visiting students.



**Outreach**  
 ASA and uWiP actively participate in community outreach with local schools where we show people how awesome science is through demonstrations of various physical phenomena.

## Testimonials from UT Physics

*How did you end up in physics?*



“Everything else seemed too simple comparatively – physics was the biggest challenge.” ~Hayley Manning 2011

“I ended up in physics because I get a kick out of describing actual things with math. Nowhere is the real world so well quantified as with physics.” ~Dawson Baker 2013



*What's something you do outside science?*



“I've practiced card magic since high school. It's a surprisingly interesting challenge to devise a new trick, and even more fun to perform it.” ~Alex Reinhart 2013

“I started playing Ultimate Frisbee my junior year and loved it. I love challenging myself and pushing myself to get better. It helped me learn how to get focused and stay focused.” ~Hayley Manning 2011



*What advice do you have for freshmen?*



“Always challenge yourself. The most difficult problems are usually the most rewarding.” ~Rikki Garner 2013

“It's never too early to start getting involved in research. Don't be scared to ask professors what opportunities are available in their labs.” ~Nalin Ratnayeke 2015



## Physics and Astronomy Student Organizations

Society of Physics Students  
SPS chiefly promotes community-building, research, and scholarship for students interested in physics. Join us for undergraduate presentations, potlucks, tutoring, student-led courses, and more.  
Website: <http://www.ph.utexas.edu/~sps/>  
Email: [spsofficers@gmail.com](mailto:spsofficers@gmail.com)



Astronomy Students Association  
ASA focuses on spreading interest in astronomy throughout the University. We welcome students of all majors and strive to create a scientific learning community. We also serve as an academic resource in promoting research, departmental opportunities, events, and more!  
Website: <http://www.as.utexas.edu/~asa/>  
Email: [utexasastronomy@gmail.com](mailto:utexasastronomy@gmail.com)



Undergraduate Women in Physics  
UT Undergraduate Women in Physics works to promote equality in the sciences, especially physics, both at UT and in the general community. We welcome all students interested in furthering that goal!  
Email: [ut.uwip@gmail.com](mailto:ut.uwip@gmail.com)



Sigma Pi Sigma  
ΣΠΣ lets you get more involved in the inner-workings of the Physics Department. This honors organization is dedicated to service and the betterment of the Physics community.  
Email: [spsofficers@gmail.com](mailto:spsofficers@gmail.com)

