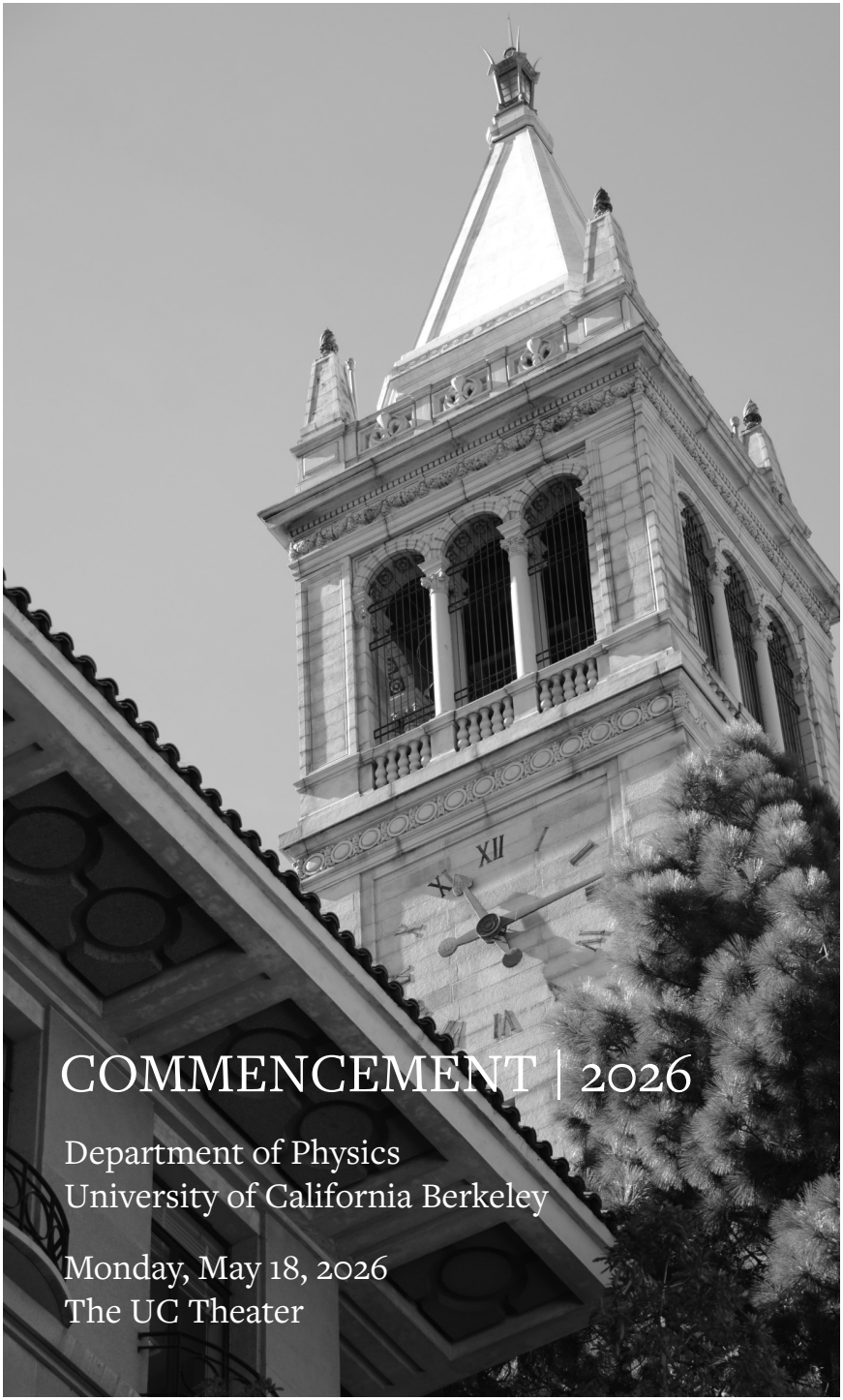


COMMENCEMENT | 2026

Department of Physics
University of California Berkeley

Monday, May 18, 2026
The UC Theater

History of Berkeley Physics

Physics at Berkeley has a long history of game-changing research, pioneer scientists, world-class students, and Nobel prizes. After World War I, the University invested tremendously in the department and helped to make the West Coast a hub for physics research. Ernest O. Lawrence had been wooed away from Yale, and in 1931, he invented a unique particle ac-celerator called the cyclotron. By charging particles to high energies and then casting them at a target, the atomic nuclei would smash open. In 1939, he became UC Berkeley's first Nobel Laureate.

Thus, the era of high-energy physics and "big science" was ushered in and continued to grow as World War II loomed. Italian physicist and student of Enrico Fermi, Emilio Segrè, came to Berkeley to work in Lawrence's Rad Lab. He joined experimental forces with Owen Chamberlain in order to discover the antiproton and win a Nobel Prize. A strong and renowned tradition of theoretical physics flourished under J. Robert Oppenheimer, who also led the effort to develop the atomic bomb.

Other builders of Berkeley Physics include Donald Glaser, who invented the bubble chamber and Luis Alvarez, who tweaked Glaser's bubble chamber by substituting hydrogen for ether, thus producing an even clearer track of speeding particles. Both were Nobel Prize-winning experiments that vastly increased our knowledge of the atom, and changed the course of nuclear science. Charles Hard Townes invented the laser and won the Nobel Prize in 1964. Current Physics professors George Smoot, Saul Perlmutter and Eric Betzig joined the Laureate group – winning their Nobel Prizes in 2006 and 2011 and 2014, respectively.

"No one undertakes research in physics with the intention of winning a prize. It is the joy of discovering something no one knew before." ~Stephen Hawking

Program

Welcome

Irfan Siddiqi
Professor and Chair, Department of Physics

Student Speakers

Nadia Sun
Undergraduate Student Speaker, Department of Physics

Joseph Slivka
Graduate Student Speaker, Department of Physics

Principal Speaker

Saul Perlmutter
Franklin W. and Karen Weber Dabby Professor (2011 Nobel Laureate)

Awards

Conferral of Degrees

Participants

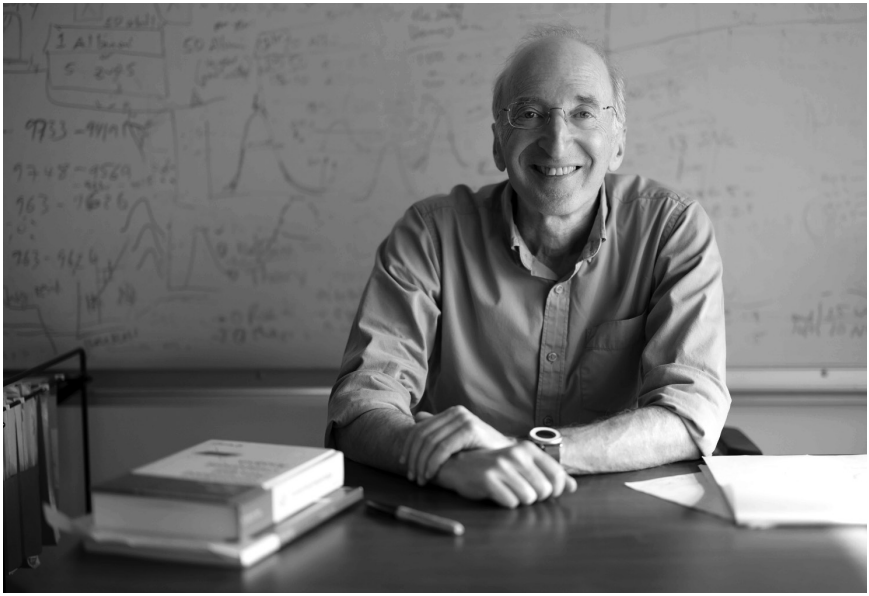
Irfan Siddiqi
Professor and Chair, Department of Physics

Steven Kahn
Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, College of Letters and Science
Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Yury Kolomensky
Professor and Vice Chair of Instruction, Department of Physics

Holger Müller
Professor and Head GSI Advisor, Department of Physics

Jeffrey Neaton
Professor and Undergraduate Faculty Advisor, Department of Physics



Saul Perlmutter

Saul Perlmutter is a 2011 Nobel Laureate, sharing the prize in physics for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe. A professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley and a senior scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, he is the leader of the international Supernova Cosmology Project, co-director of the Berkeley Center for Cosmological Physics, and was the founding director of the Berkeley Institute for Data Science. His interest in teaching scientific-style critical thinking for scientists and non-scientists alike led to the interdisciplinary undergraduate courses "Physics and Music" and "Sense & Sensibility & Science" that he has taught for over a decade. The latter of these inspired the publication of *Third Millennium Thinking: Creating Sense in a World of Nonsense*, a book that brings the course concepts to general audiences.

An author of hundreds of scholarly articles on cosmology, Professor Perlmutter has also written popular articles and appeared in PBS, Discovery Channel, and BBC documentaries. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among other awards and honorary doctorates. His AB was from Harvard and his PhD from UC Berkeley. As part of his public service work, Professor Perlmutter was a member of the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) for the Biden Administration.

With today's commencement, the spirit of discovery continues. Congratulations to all 2026 Physics graduates!

Physics Prizes and Awards

Department Citation
Nadia Sun

Jackson C. Koo Award in Condensed Matter
Ruishi Qi

The Alex Zettl Graduate Student Award in Physics
Ruishi Qi

The Lars Commins Award in Experimental Physics
Ashwin Singh

Student Services Awards
Andrés Antonio Franco Valiente
Abby Schleigh

2025-2026 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awards
Jiechao Feng
Chad Harper
Denali Alexander Jah
Alex Liebman-Pelaez
Bianca Julia Pol
Shreya Venkatanaga Puranam
Harry Qian
Dylan Joseph Raphael
Valeria Rosa Rocha
Roshni Singh
Samara Steinfeld
Spencer Tamagni Tamagni
Siddharth Tiwary
Jianjie Xu
Auden Young

Physics B.A. Degrees

Fall 2025

Edward Hou
Kavish Loomba
Rebeca Mendoza
Oscar Nogales

Spring 2026

Keon Abedi
Kylie Aboukhalil
Mustafa Abuzahriyeh
Iori Adachi
Kaelani Adcock
Garv Agarwal
Surya Ahuja
Nikita Akchyan
Andrew Alatorre
Ro'aa Alkhawaja
Jaime Alvarez
Siddhant Amberkar
Taiwei An
Aditi Anand
Omar Arakji
Veda Arikatla
Maya Basu
Tanvi Batra
Yara Bawazir
Aditya Bhargava
Gurnoor Bhatti
Matthieu Bourdeau de Fontenay
Mackenzie Cassell
Martynas Chachisvilis
Jenny Chen
Chuzida Chen
John Ciavarra
Brennan Coffey
Jack Collard
Aegean Kael Dela Cruz
Jorge Diaz Chao
Rishabh Dave
Sean Dolim
Eric Gediman
Eli Gendreau-Distler
Kevin Goguen
Navya Gupta

Hyab Habtemariam
Ethan Hall
Curtis Hu
James Huntzinger
Ryan Hwangbo
Nick Iskander
Kai Jaffarove
Shaurya Jain
Yunhee Jang
Shawn Jun
Ari Katz
Ryan Kiessling
Jaewon Kim
Gabriel Kreuzer
Carina Lee
Christopher Lee
Jason Lei
Casey Lin
Xing Liu
Thomas Lu
Mucheng Ma
Anand Menon
Eshwary Mishra
Sanaz Mizbani
Francisco Molina Benitez
Anna Molloy
Mark Moreno
Roman Nadeau
Connor Navin
Dominic Nguyen
Mey Ocali
Raiki Omori
Brianna Peck
Luke Peters
Hai Yang Harry Qian
Jyotsna Ravi
Rainer Reczek
John Reddick
Finn Reichertz
Sage Remulla
Nico Rowland
Kaung Htet San
Alonzo Sanchez
Jazline Sandhu
Jazmin Sandhu
Abby Schleigh
Cooper Schnurr
Joseph Schultz

Brandy Stokes
Meghna Subramanium
Nadia Sun
Kai Suwandi
Surya Tallavarjula
Jonathon Tordilla
Matthew Tu
Julian Vale
Ricardo Valle Navarrete
Karl Vilhelmsson Emneby
Winnie Wang
Andrew Wasielewski
Alana Paloma Waterman
Evan Williams
Lael- River Williams
Bowei Yang
Lindsey Yi
Emma Yu
Christian Zaide
Ricardo Zamora
Adam Zbriger
Josh Zhang
Viola Zhao

Summer 2026

Cameron Brown*
Isabella Erickson*
Jon Goker*
Arin Manohar*
Jacob Martin*
Yuki Wang*

Fall 2026

Brock Bass*
Barbara Borcherds*
Kirin Chanteloup*
Pengyu Chen*
Julien Ducarroz*
Nathan Fontanilla*
Mito Funatsu*
Aliza Hameed*
Raniya Hassan*
Kayla Marie Kosirog*
Yihua Li*
Kevin Peng*
Jesus Ramirez Jr*
Robert Woodward-Hartman*

Engineering Physics B.S. Degrees

Spring 2026

Keshav Deoskar
Cole Dunn
Sanjana Goyal
Liam Joyce
Shreya Nandyala
Kirtana Romfh
Sanjit Shirol
Amy Xiao

Summer 2026

Siddharth Sahu*

Physics M.A. Degrees

Fall 2025

Siddharth Tiwary

Spring 2026

Dana Griffith

Physics Ph.D. Degrees

Summer 2025

Livia Belman-Wells ..... Advisor: Naomi Ginsberg
Solving the Puzzle of In Situ Imaging of Solute Transport in Electrochemical Cells

Fall 2025

Larry Chen .....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
Addressing Key Scaling Challenges in Fixed-Frequency Transmon Architectures

Jonathan Reichanadter..... Advisor: Jeffrey Neaton
First Principles Studies of Emergent Magnetism in Layered Quantum Materials

Spring 2026

Burhan Ahmed.....Advisor: Holger Müller
Microscopy of Bioelectric Potentials using Electrochromism

Shao-Wen Chang.....Advisor: Dan Stamper-Kurn
Ultracold bosons and fermions in triangular optical superlattices

Jonathan Dolde.....Advisor: Shimon Kolkowitz
A Multiplexed Strontium Optical Lattice Clock

Andrés Franco Valiente.....Advisor: Petr Horava
The Tropical Geometry of Nonequilibrium String Theory

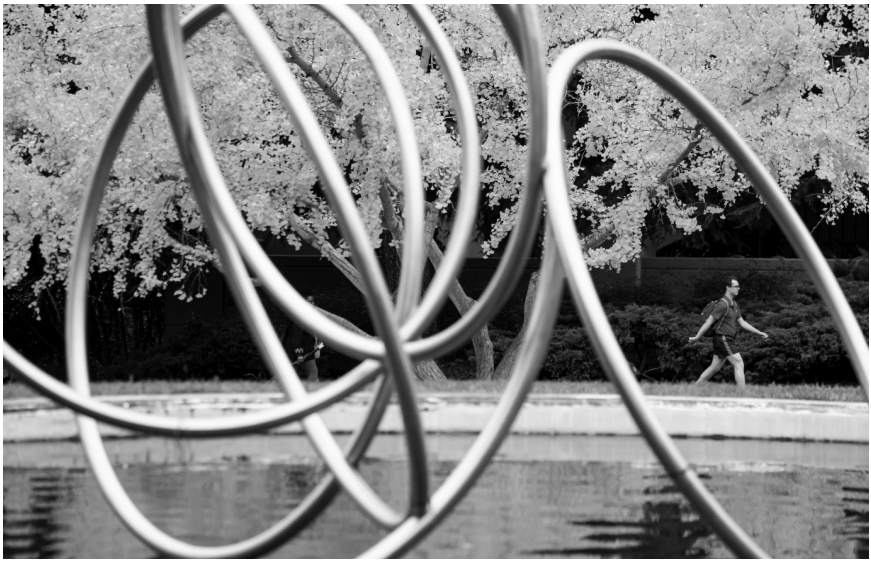
Noah Goss.....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
Beyond Qubits: Qudit Quantum Computing and Many-Body Simulation in Superconducting Circuits

Ahmed Hajr** .....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
Efficient Microwave-Photons Wave-Mixing with Superconducting Quantum Circuits

Jacquelyn Ho.....Advisor: Dan Stamper-Kurn
Collective Cavity QED with Mesoscopic Atom Arrays

Linus Hyunseong Kim.....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
The Superconducting Grid States Qubit

Brian Marinelli .....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
High Connectivity in Quantum Superconducting Circuits



Nicole Neto Godry Farias.....Advisor: Adrian Lee
Instrument Development and Data Analysis for the Simons Array and LiteBIRD Cosmic ... Microwave Background Polarization Experiments: Detector Arrays, Readout Electronics, and Optics

Ruishi Qi..... Advisor: Feng Wang
Correlated exciton physics in van der Waals elctron-hole bilayers

Bingcheng Qing.....Advisor: Irfan Siddiqi
Quantum computing with superconducting Kerr-cat qubits

Kyle Ritchie.....Advisor: Yasunori Nomura
Entanglement and Complexity in Gravity and Holography

Jose Soria..... Advisor: Daniel McKinsey
Lightly Ionizing Particle Search and Improving Accidental Handling for LZ

Bethany Suter..... Advisor: Hitoshi Murayama
Dark Matter, Supersymmetry, and Chiral Gauge Theories: New Tools and Phenomenology

Weichen Tang..... Advisor: Steven G. Louie
First-Principles Study of Electronic, Magnetic and Optical Properties of Low-Dimensional Materials

Kohtaro Yamakawa.....Advisor: James Analytis
On the road to realizing topology in correlated, magnetic materials

Summer 2026

Emil Albrychiewicz*.....Advisor: Ori Ganor, Petr Horava
Supersymmetric Adventures in Class S theory

Ivan Mauricio Burbano Aldana*.....Advisor: Raúl Briceño and Christian Bauer
Formal Developments for Nuclear Scattering Through Quantum Computers

Irian D'Andrea*.....Advisor: Christian Bauer
The mixed-basis digitization approach, Hamiltonian large-N_C, and other tools for simulating gauge theories on a quantum computer

Elizabeth Donoway*.....Advisor: Mike DeWeese
Awakening Sleeping Giants: An Information Theory of Learning in Large Language Models

Kai-Isaak Ellers*.... Advisor: K. Birgitta Whaley (physics co-sponsor: Yasunori Nomura)
Towards New Laboratory Tests of Classical and Quantum Gravity

Stephen Gant*.....Advisor: Jeffrey Neaton
Predictive Methods for Calculating Excited-State Properties in Complex Materials at Finite Temperatures

Nicholas Gravina* ..... Advisor: Hernan Garcia
Quantitative Predictions of Transcriptional Regulation: From Binding Affinity to Cell Fate

Donez Horton-Bailey* ..... Advisor: Frances Hellman
Tunneling two-level systems in amorphous oxide films

Sijia Ke*# ..... Advisor: Jeffrey B. Neaton
Non-empirical ab-initio calculations of spectroscopic properties of complex energy materials

Mark Maus* ..... Advisor: Martin White
Cosmological Analysis Methodology using Large-Scale Structure Surveys and CMB Lensing

Jakob Robnik* ..... Advisor: Uroš Seljak
Probabilistic Exoplanet Search in the Kepler Data

Johannes Wagner* ..... Advisor: Heather Gray
Transforming Higgs to Charm Measurements at the ATLAS Experiment

Fall 2026

Malcolm Lazarow* ..... Advisors: André Walker-Loud and Raúl Briceño
Hadronic Interactions from QCD

Ashwin Singh* ..... Advisors: Holger Müller
A buffer-gas-loaded, deep optical trap for molecules

Joseph Slivka* ..... Advisors: Ahmet Yildiz
Nanoscale fluorescent tracking of cytoskeletal motor mechanism and regulation by MAPs

* *Requirements for the degree are virtually all, but not fully met in May 2025. Conferral of degree in this case is symbolic of what is anticipated in the near future.*
** *Earned a PhD in Applied Science and Technology*
\# *Earned a PhD in Materials Science & Engineering*
~ *Earned a PhD in Electrical Eng & Comp Science*

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Friends of Physics Fund

Asking deep questions about the world we live in and how it works is the fundamental drive behind the pursuit of physics. Every year students come to Berkeley Physics, as one of the top physics departments in the world, to learn from our brilliant faculty and become part of an amazing scientific community. These interactions enrich our students' academic experience and help prepare them to be leaders in their field. Your donation to Friends of Physics will support our continued ability to offer a world-class education to our students who will one day pioneer new research territory and help solve the great mysteries of our world.