

# Department of Physics & Materials Science

## Holiday 2021-2022-Winter Newsletter

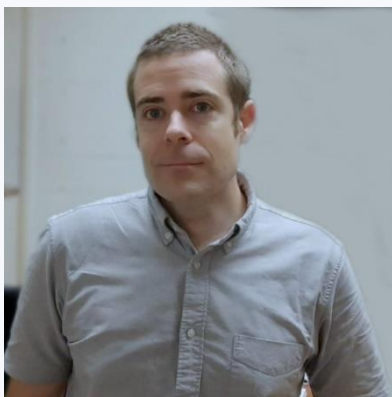
### Chair's Corner



My name is Dr. Firouzeh Sabri, an experimental materials physicist, and I have had the privilege of serving as the Chair of the Department of Physics and Materials Science (DPMS) since January 2020. While these have been challenging times, the department has continued to grow, and move forward with its mission. This newsletter captures a few of our more recent department highlights. We will also remember esteemed colleagues who have served the department before us, and we welcome new additions to our Physics family. We strive to create and nurture an environment for excellence in education and state-of-the-art research. I am honored to lead the effort of our department to provide exemplary service to our community. I invite you to explore our [department's news](#) and connect with us. On behalf of our department, I wish you the very best.

*Firouzeh Sabri, Professor-Chair*

### Welcome to Dr. Shawn Pollard!



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Shawn Pollard as the newest faculty member. Dr. Pollard earned his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University and was previously working at National University of Singapore. He joins us as an Assistant

Professor and his research involves magnetic materials and skyrmions. Dr Pollard's research is currently funded by the NSF where he will investigate *Compositionally*

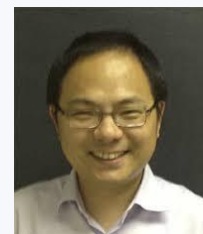
*modulated ferrimagnets for spin-orbitronic devices.*  
Welcome and congratulations, Dr Pollard!

### Accepted Proposals on First JWST Cycle



UofM DPMS faculty member, Dr. Francisco Muller-Sanchez has two accepted proposals that will permit his research group to carry out research on the *James Webb Space Telescope*, which is expected to be launched on or after December 24, 2021. The sensitivity into the infrared range and light-gathering capabilities will make it possible to see new features and details in galaxies and other celestial objects. Congratulations, Dr. Muller Sanchez, and the clear skies are guaranteed at the L2 point!

### Two Physics Faculty Recipients of the Ralph E Powe Award



Two of our outstanding faculty Dr. Thang Ba Hoang and Dr. Xiao Shen received the [Ralph E. Powe Jr. Faculty Enhancement Awards](#) from Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) in 2018 and 2016 respectively. We are very proud of both of you!

### We Now Offer PhD in Applied Physics!

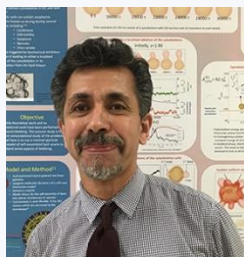
We are pleased to report that the DPMS at the UofM now offers the degree of Ph.D. in Applied Physics and have an excellent cohort of students who are working towards their Ph.D. Major milestone for the department!





## **Dr. Mohamed Laradji Recognized as an APS Fellow**

Dr. Mohamed Laradji was selected as a Fellow of the American Physical Society. We wish continued success for Dr Laradji and his research program!



## **Alumni Spotlight**

One of our joys is to see the Alumni of the DPMS and the UofM advance in their lives and careers. As such, we have started a new initiative titled *Alumni Spotlight Series* to showcase their accomplishments. To see these stories and either catch up with old friends or make new ones, please visit our [Alumni Spotlight page](#).

## **Faculty Gathering**

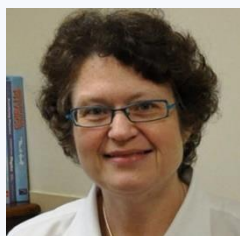
In December 2021 we were able to hold our first faculty holiday gathering in person since 2019! It was great to



be able to get together and celebrate the coming Holiday Season. It was indeed a

welcomed change compared to remote and virtual meetings of the past 1.5 years.

## **The Voyage Scale Model Solar System**



A scaled model of the solar system is coming to the University of Memphis main campus! Thanks to Joanne Rhodes for spearheading this initiative! Please check

back for further details and exact implementation date at the [Voyage Solar System website](#).

## **Remembering Emeritus Professor Dr. Don Franceschetti**

It is with regret and sorrow that we communicate the



passing of Dr. Don Franceschetti which occurred on July 1, 2019. Unfortunately, due to issues related to the pandemic the memorial had to be postponed. Dr. Franceschetti left his mark on the

department and the university through his leadership, service, and excellent research contributions. The Department is grateful to him for his dedication to the success of our students and years of service in leadership roles. There will be a memorial for Dr. Franceschetti on January 28, 2022.

## **Remembering Emeritus Professor Dr. Narahari Achar**



It is with great sadness that we also inform you of the passing of Dr. Narahari Achar which occurred on April 23, 2021. He was one of the pioneering chronologists working on the dating of the Mahabharata and served the department and

university faithfully. He will be greatly missed. There will be a memorial for Dr. Narahari Achar on April 22, 2022.

For more information on the memorials including options for Zoom attendance, please visit our [Department Seminar](#) page or use the QR code below.

For content-related questions please contact Dr. G. Borstad at [gustav.borstad@memphis.edu](mailto:gustav.borstad@memphis.edu)

