

The American Physical Society Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics

The University of Arizona Physics and Astronomy departments will host the APS Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) 2022, 21-23 January 2022. The conference will take place at the beautiful Biosphere 2, which is about 20 miles north of campus. APS' CUWiP events are three-day regional conferences held simultaneously throughout the USA and Canada for undergraduate physics, astronomy, and associated majors. You can read more about this event at <http://cuwip.arizona.edu> and see all of the simultaneous locations at <http://cuwip.arizona.edu/#content>.

This is a great opportunity for you to present your research in a talk or poster, hear panel discussions about careers, network with peers, hear great presentations from leading scientists, learn more about graduate school, and so forth. All undergraduate students are encouraged to attend and participate in this conference. The 2022 Millie Dresselhaus Keynote Presentation will be given by [Dr. Donna Strickland](#) (see Fig. 1), professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Strickland is one of the recipients of the [2018 Nobel Prize in Physics](#) for developing [chirped pulse amplification](#) with Dr. Gérard Mourou, her Ph.D. supervisor at the time. They published this Nobel-winning research in 1985 when Strickland was a Ph.D. student at The Institute of Optics, University of Rochester (hey – that is my alma mater).



Figure 1. Dr. Donna Strickland (from <https://aps.org/programs/women/cuwip/speaker.cfm>).

All of the simultaneous locations of CUWiP will bring together successful female physicists and over 2,000 undergraduate women in physics and related areas to highlight career opportunities for women in physics and the contributions of women in physics. Many additional physicists, scientists, and engineers will be attending the event, including graduate students, faculty, postdocs, industry representatives, and so forth will be there. The meeting will provide ample opportunities for interacting with fellow scientists. The conference will include the following activities:

1. Presentations by professional physicists on their cutting edge research and personal career paths;
2. Panels featuring career opportunities outside academia;
3. Workshops or panels offering guidance on how to get involved in summer research, the graduate school application process, applying to transfer to a four-year college from a community college, and preparing for and applying for jobs in industry; and
4. An **opportunity for undergraduate attendees to present their research.**

How do you register? The application site for undergraduate students opened on Monday, 30 August 2021 and will close promptly at 5 PM EST on Monday, 4 October 2021. You can access the application page via the CUWIP@UArizona website <http://cuwip.arizona.edu/>. Note the following:

- All the meals will be provided free of charge at the conference.
- There is a \$45 one-time registration fee once you receive the acceptance from the APS and decide to participate in the conference. The Wyant College of Optical Sciences will cover this registration fee for Optical Sciences' undergraduate majors and minors in the BSOSE program, working in the College, and so forth. Essentially, we will cover undergrads who want to attend the conference and have a connection to the College.
- Note all undergraduate students in physics and associated disciplines (OPTICS!) are encouraged to register and attend.
- Basically CUWiP 2022 is free to undergraduate students!

For those individuals reading this Photon Snacks column, who are no longer undergraduate students, but are interested in attending CUWiP, on the 26 October 2021 for regular registration will open. This allows everyone who is not an undergraduate student to register for the event. The Academic Programs office in OpSci will send out an email to remind everyone on 26 October.

More information on the University of Arizona CUWIP conference can be found on their website: <http://cuwip.arizona.edu/>. Websites for the other conference sites are given on the APS page at www.aps.org/cuwip. If you have any question or would like to volunteer to help, please contact the Local Organizing Committee at cuwip@arizona.edu. This conference series has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, and it is sponsored by the American Physical Society.

In conclusion this is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the exciting field of physics / optics, and that there are many questions still remaining to explain the universe around us. Additionally, by being diverse and inclusive, we do better and allow everyone the opportunity to realize their dreams. I hope to see you at CUWiP 2022 at Biosphere 2.

Continuous Survey

I have a survey that remains open in Google Forms at: <https://forms.gle/ibC9LhPemeniJwhv9>, and there are three questions:

- Give your preferences for topics in the Photon Snacks' column of Light Bytes,
- Suggested columns in the above or any other topic areas, and

- Suggested individuals (and topics) who could write a column - including you!

Note that I will keep this survey open “forever” so that if you want to provide your opinion, your opinion changes over time, or you have suggestions for authors and/or topics, you can submit them at any time.