

Physics@UVM

SPOTLIGHT ON PHYSICS

Physics research, faculty/student profiles and a message from the Chair, Dr. Dennis Clougherty, are featured in the CAS spotlight.

Message from the Chair:



We are privileged to live during a time of great scientific discovery. In recent years, we have witnessed enormous leaps in technology, ushering in the electronic and information revolutions that have reshaped our world. These transformational changes have their origins in fundamental research in physics.

At UVM, physicists have a long history of making important contributions to our understanding of the physical world; Dr. Wesley Nyborg, a member of the National Academy, is also a distinguished member of our physics faculty. His pioneering research over the past five decades in physical acoustics has helped make ultrasound imaging a safe and effective medical tool. In October, UVM celebrated the career of Professor Nyborg with a symposium featuring lectures by an international slate of prominent scientists. News from the symposium is featured in the [physics events spotlight link](#).

Driven by the promise of new technologies and the development of a deeper understanding of our physical world, our talented faculty and students pursue ambitious research programs; for example, Dr. Randall Headrick, a 2004 NSF CAREER Award winner, is working to make low-cost, efficient photovoltaic materials. In his laboratories in Cook, he is busy inventing

and patenting new methods of making organic thin films that could be used to harvest solar energy. You can read more about Professor Headrick and his research group in the [graduate research link](#).

Our faculty members are committed to delivering the highest quality education in physics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are fortunate to attract top students to our programs. This year, we applaud the accomplishments of Isabel Kloumann, a junior physics major from South Burlington, Vermont, who was named a Goldwater Scholar, and Kameron Harris, a 2009 physics graduate, who was awarded a Fulbright scholarship. More information on Isabel and Kameron is available in the [physics undergraduate news link](#).

At the graduate level, the physics professional master's program was cited by the American Institute of Physics as one of the nation's top programs of its kind. We point with pride to a long roster of successful UVM physics alumni who have been trained by our faculty; for example, Dr. Richard Packard, Professor of Physics at UC Berkeley and a UVM Physics alumnus, is a leader in science. On the basis of his path breaking research in low temperature physics, Professor Packard was recently awarded the prestigious London Prize by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. In recent years, many UVM physics graduates have gone on to successful careers in academia, at national laboratories and the private sector with high tech and consulting firms.

I invite you to learn more about UVM physics by following these physics spotlight links. Detailed information about our degree programs and faculty research is available at uvm.edu/physics. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to share with you some news from our department. Thank you for your interest in Physics@UVM.