POINTS OF PRIDE
- The number of Physics majors is steadily increasing. In May, the department had the largest ever graduating class, and this year there are over 200 students enrolled as majors.
- Biophysicist Nikhil S. Malvankar ’10 PhD, now a postdoctoral researcher in the department, received a coveted five-year, $500,000 career award from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.
- Michael Ramsey-Musolf has established the Amherst Center for Fundamental Interactions and is a member of the DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee Long Range Plan working group.
- Jenny Ross won the Early Career Award from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.
- Jun Yan, who received $20,000 to support promising new research, won the UMass Amherst’s Armstrong Fund for Science Award.
- Andrea Pocar was named as one of the “9 scientists who are changing the way we view space” by Business Insider for his research with the Borexino experiment.

EDUCATION
- The multi-track undergraduate program for majors includes many undergraduate research opportunities.
- Last year, physics made the first-year sequence for majors more interactive, utilizing the team-based learning studios in the new Integrative Learning Center on campus.
- Comprehensive graduate program offers opportunities for doctoral studies in most recent forefront areas of physics research.
- Recent PhD graduates have taken postdoctoral positions at Arizona State, Brown, Duke, Harvard, MIT, NC State, Northeastern, Syracuse, Virginia Tech, UNM, and UT Austin.
- The department offers BA/BS, MS, and PhD degrees.

STUDENT AWARDS
- Daniel Hoak ’13 MS,’16 PhD won the Fulbright U.S. Student Award.
- Javier King ’15 won the UMass Rising Researcher Award.
- Aaron Dunbrack ’17 (double major in Astronomy and Physics) won the Barry Goldwater Scholarship in Education.

LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH
- Bob Hallock recently chaired the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission on Low Temperature Physics and is a board member emeritus of the Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement.
- Stephane Willocq served from 2012 to 2014 as convener of the Exotics Physics Group for the ATLAS experiment at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider.
- Mark Tuominen leads projects in NanoEducation Curriculum Development and K-12 teacher workshops. He uses CHM funds with Morton Sternheim, professor emeritus and P.I. of a $967,000 NSF ITEST grant, to organize nanotechnology workshops for teachers. Sternheim also has a state Department of Higher Education grant to train informal science educators.