

Department of Astronomy

Administration

Teresa Brainerd Chair

John Clarke Associate Chair

[Andrew West](#) Director of Undergraduate Studies

The Department of Astronomy provides a range of courses and programs for students planning careers in astronomy, space science, or related fields as well as for those wishing a non-technical introduction to this exciting field of science. A major in Astronomy or in Astronomy & Physics includes a rigorous program of physics and calculus in addition to courses in astronomy. The Geophysics & Planetary [Sciences](#) major is a multidisciplinary program that includes astronomy, earth science, physics, and calculus courses. A BA in Astronomy, Astronomy & Physics, or Geophysics & Planetary Sciences prepares students for immediate employment or further study leading to research and teaching positions in astrophysics, geophysics, and space science, or careers in science education, science management, scientific computing, or science writing.

Students have access to instructional optical and radio telescopes in the Judson B. Coit Observatory, located on the rooftop of the College of Arts & Sciences building. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in field trips to Flagstaff, AZ, in order to use the 1.8m Perkins Telescope [and/or the 4.3m Discovery Channel Telescope](#) as part of their coursework.

The Department of Astronomy maintains vigorous research programs and takes pride in the quality of its teaching and mentoring. Faculty research interests are diverse, and include extragalactic astronomy, galactic astronomy, astronomical instrumentation, planetary science, and space physics. Most [students majoring in Astronomy, Astronomy & Physics, or Geophysics & Planetary Sciences](#) participate in faculty research projects during their undergraduate program. For more information on undergraduate research opportunities, please visit the [Astronomy Department](#) website.

• Organizations

Boston University Astronomical Society (BUAS)

The Boston University Astronomical Society is open to all undergraduates in the University who have an interest in astronomy. The BUAS assists in the departmental open night program, engages in observing projects, organizes trips to observatories, and participates in other astronomical and social events.

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Peter Law 3/3/2014 11:11 AM

Comment [1]: LINK to: <http://www.bu.edu/astronomy/other-pages/buas/>