



Honors Day 2011

April 26, 2011

In a couple of weeks, in ceremonies all over campus, UTK students will turn their tassels in a milestone event as they graduate with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees. And they might all benefit from the words of Dr. Richard Martin, who encouraged physics majors at the department's Honors Day ceremony to find something they love doing; something they can realistically envision loving as their life's work.

Dr. Martin and his wife Beverly were the guests of honor at the April 25 ceremony, where he received the UTK Department of Physics and Astronomy Distinguished Alumni Award for "his outstanding career in theoretical condensed matter physics and his seminal contributions to the theory of the electronic structure of solid materials." Dr. Martin earned a bachelor's degree in engineering physics at UTK in 1964 and went on to finish master's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Chicago. His career as

a condensed matter theorist includes work at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center and a professorship in the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is now a Professor Emeritus. He gave the opening talk at the ceremony, which honored physics students for their achievements in academic, research, and leadership pursuits.

Deserving students were also inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society, with Professor Emeritus Tom Callcott finally, 42 years after his induction, signing his entry in the membership book. The students in turn honored Dr. Geoff Greene with the Society of Physics Students Teacher of the Year Award. The department was honored to host several special guests, including Kay Roseberry McCarron and Steven Roseberry; and representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences including Dr. Christine Boake (Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies, & Facilities) Dr. Lynn Champion (Director of Academic Outreach and Communications) and Ms. Cathy Dodge (Senior Director of Development).

Below is a complete list of the honorees:

See the Honors Day [Slideshow](#)

Student Honors

- Outstanding First Year Student: **Jacob Clark**
- Robert Talley Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research: **Eric Martin**
- Robert Talley Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership: **George Duffy**
- Douglas V. Roseberry Award: **Cole Lillard**
- Robert W. Lide Citation: **Noah Birge**
- Outstanding GTA Award: **Robert Potts**
- Outstanding Tutor Award: **Caleb Redding**
- Colloquium Award: **Matthew Bailey**
- Stelson Fellowship for Professional Promise: **Roy Dar**
- Stelson Fellowship for Professional Promise: **George Papadimitriou**
- Fowler-Marion Award: **Olga Ovchinnikova**
- Society of Physics Students Teacher of the Year Award: **Geoff Greene**

(See the [stories](#) behind our awards.)



Dr. Richard Martin (left) accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from Professor Soren Sorensen.

Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honor Society) Inductees

Undergraduate Students

- **Steven Crawford**
- **Adam Feldbruegge**
- **Rob Goodman**
- **James Hitchcock**
- **Geoffrey Laughon**
- **Cole Lillard**
- **Eric Martin**
- **Alex Perhac**
- **Bart Weitering**

Graduate Students

- **Dirk Bartkoski**
- **Marek Chertkow**
- **Irakli Martashvili**
- **Rachel Miller**
- **Philip Mason**
- **Kyle Preece**
- **Byron Smith**
- **Nick Vence**

Other Students Acknowledged

2011 Chancellor's Honors Awardees from the UTK Department of Physics and Astronomy:

- Extraordinary Academic Achievement: **Cole Lillard**
- Extraordinary Professional Promise: **Andrew Gorman**
- Extraordinary Professional Promise: **Matthew Hollingsworth**
- Extraordinary Professional Promise: **Oleg Ovchinnikov**

EURECA Honors: **Eric Martin** (Physical Sciences Division Winner)