

NMU Physics Faculty in Chronological Order

The information was extracted from personal contacts, NMU directories and yearbooks, and is thus only approximate and should not be construed to represent official employment records. Only regular teaching faculty are included.

Additions/corrections are welcomed and appreciated.

The Physics Department at Northern Michigan University was established in 1962, when the former Physical Science Department was split into the various disciplines.

Donald H. Baker (1962-1973)

Department head and professor

Became Asst to Dean, School of Education 1973-77

Died in Marquette, Michigan - November 1980

Glenn Westin (1962-1963)

Instructor

Gail Griffith (1962-1963)

½ time Assistant professor (other ½ time in Chemistry department)

To Chemistry department, Northern Michigan University (1962-

Living in Marquette, Michigan, 2018

Douglas F. Williams (1963-1965)

Assistant professor

To Kyambogo Teachers College, Kampala, Uganda, (1965-1967)

To University of Texas, Austin, Texas, (1967-)

To Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama (-1990)

Died in Republic, Michigan - December 8, 2014.

Phyllis L Gildersleeve (1963-1964)

Instructor

To Michigan Tech

Duane L. Starner (1964-Jan 1966)

Associate Professor

Aaron Cohen (1965-1967)

Assistant professor

Edward C. Monahan (1965-1968)

Assistant professor

To Hobart and William Smith Colleges (1968-1969)

To University of Michigan (1969-1975)

To Sea Education Association (Woods Hole, MA),
Director of Ed. and Research (1975-1976)
To University College, Galway (now National Univ. of Ireland, Galway) (1976-1986)
To University of Connecticut, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant College Program:
Professor of Marine Sciences (1986-2005)
Emeritus Professor, Marine Sciences UConn, 2006-
Living in Connecticut 2018

Hugh Kahler (Feb 1966-1971)
Assistant professor
To Bay de Noc Public Schools 1972-1978
Died in Marquette, Michigan - August 4, 2009

Ruben R. Hoyer (1966-1967)
Instructor
To Michigan Tech

Walter J. Weller (1966-1967)
Assistant professor

Robert T. Wagner (1967 to 1975)
Department head and full professor
To University of Southern Colorado, Dean of Sciences and Mathematics (1975-1979)
To New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico (1979-1986)
Died in Staunton, Virginia - December 25, 2007

Richard W. Hohly (1967-1968)
Assistant professor

Robert Olness (1968-1969)
Assistant professor
To Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (1969-
Living in Livermore, California, 2018

Duane Fowler (1968- Fall 2005)
Assistant professor, Associate professor 1979, Full professor 1983
Department head (1979-2000)
On leave 1972-1973 University of Iowa
On leave 1987-1988 to Malaysia
Living in Marquette, Michigan, 2018

William Ralph (1968-1996)
Assistant professor, Associate professor 1975, Full professor 1982
Department head (1975-1979), Interim dept head (1987-1988)
Sabbatical leave 1980-1981 (Replaced by Joe Finck)
Sabbatical leave 1991-1992 (Replaced by Najma Hafiz)

Died in Marquette, Michigan – February 4, 2022

Temple Smith (1971-1985)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 1977, Full professor 1979
Research grant, at NMU, 1974-75 (Replaced by John Sorenson)
Research grant at NMU, 1975-76 (Replaced by Dan Richards)
Sabbatical leave 1978-1979 at Yale University (Replaced by Joe Finck)
Sabbatical/Leave of absence Winter 1981-1982 At Los Alamos (Replaced by Joe Finck)
To Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1985-1992 (Replaced by Ed Neuenschwander)
To Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, 1992-2009
Professor Emeritus at Boston University, living in Marblehead, Massachusetts 2018
<http://www.bu.edu/bme/2009/07/08/temple-smith-named-iscb-fellow/>

Fred Trentelman (1971-Dec 1999)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 1977, Full professor 1984
To Japan 1972-1973 (Replaced by Raymond Van Ausdal)
Sabbatical leave fall semester 1981-1982 (Replaced by Joe Finck)
On leave Winter 1996-1997 (Replaced by Frank Underdown)
On leave Fall 1998-1999 (Replaced by Will Slough), winter 1998-1999 (Replaced by Omar Bjarki)
Died in Marquette, Michigan - December 22, 2005

Donald T. Schnitzler (1972-73)

(Replaced Duane Fowler who was on leave)
Possible contact: Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, Laboratory Coordinator: Donald T. Schnitzler Ph.D

Ray G. Van Ausdal (1972-1973)

(Replaced Fred Trentelman who was on leave)
(also performed with three NMU music faculty in a string quartet while there.)
To Kalamazoo College (1973-74)
To University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pennsylvania (1974-1989), ending as Dept chair
“Career change” to Medical Physics in 1989:
A. Columbus, Ohio, also covering at times Chillicothe, and Mansfield, Ohio
B. Erie, PA also covering at times Olean, NY.
C. York, PA
D. Charlottesville, VA
E. Miami Beach, FL
F. Asheville, NC
G. Charlottesville, VA at the University of Virginia. (-2014)
Living in Charlottesville, Virginia, 2015

John Sorenson (1974-1975)

(Replaced Temple Smith, who was on a research grant)
To Defense Department (1975-1978)

To University of Minnesota, Duluth (1978-2014)

Living in Duluth, Minnesota, 2018

Dan Richards (1975-1976)

(Replaced Temple Smith, who was on a research grant)

To Westwood High School, Ishpeming, Michigan

Living in Republic, Michigan, 2018

Donald Chodrow (1975-76)

(Replaced Bill Ralph, who became dept head when Bob Wagner left) (1975-1976)

Assistant professor

To Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 1976-1978

To California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, 1978-1979

To James Madison University, Staunton, Virginia, 1979-2012

Died in Staunton, Virginia - June 20, 2012

Alan Spero (1976-1981)

(Replaced Don Chodrow)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 1980

To Lawrence Livermore Labs (1981-2000)

To Aerojet, Director of R & D, (2000-Oct 2001)

To Northrop Grumman Corp, Dec (2001-May 2006)

To General Atomics (2006-2007)

To Thermal Storage Systems (Aug 2010-2015)

Living in Ramona, California, 2018

Joseph Finck

(Replaced Temple Smith 1978-1979, who was on leave)

(Replaced Bill Ralph 1980-81, who was on leave)

(Replaced Fred Trentelman 1981-1982 Fall, and Temple Smith 1981-1982 Spring)

To Central Michigan University 1982-

Living in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, 2018

Dwight Edward "Ed" Neuenschwander (1985-1986)

(Replaced Temple Smith, who left to Dana Farber Cancer Institute)

Assistant professor

To Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma

2000 award winner, Halliday and Resnick Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching:

"Conversations with Ghosts" website: <http://snu.edu/dr-ed-neuenschwander>

Died in Bethany, Oklahoma - March 28, 2017

David Lucas (1986-2015)

(Replaced Ed Neuenschwander)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 1990, Full professor 1997

Sabbatical 1992-1993 (Replaced by Najma Hafiz)

Department head 2000-2015

Died in Marquette, Michigan - December 16, 2015

Manfred Kluckner (1987-Dec 1991)

(Replaced Duane Fowler in 1987-1988, who was on leave)

Assistant professor

To Institut für Kernphysik, Darmstadt, Germany (moved to Darmstadt in February 1992)

Died in Germany, about 2011?

Najma Hafiz (1991-1993)

Sabbatical replacement for: Bill Ralph (1991-1992), and Dave Lucas (1992-1993)

Assistant professor

David Donovan 1992- (New tenure track position)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 1997, Full professor 2003

Sabbatical leave (2000-2001) (Replaced by Frank Underdown in spring semester)

Department Head 2016-

Living in Marquette, Michigan, 2019

Mark Jacobs (1996-

(Replaced Bill Ralph, on his retirement)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 2002

Sabbatical leave 2009-2010 (No replacement; department taught overloads)

Living in Negaunee, Michigan, 2019

Frank Underdown (Winter 96-97) (Winter 2001 and Summer 2001)

(Replaced Fred Trentelman who was on leave, Winter 96-97)

Sabbatical replacement Dave Donovan (winter 2001)

Omar Bjarki (Winter 98 - 99)

(Replaced Fred Trentelman, who was on leave)

Will Slough (Summer 98, Fall 98)

(Replaced Fred Trentelman, who was on leave)

To Michigan Tech University, Houghton, Michigan

Neil Russell (1999-

(Replaced Fred Trentelman, on his retirement)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 2004, Full professor 2010

Sabbatical 2006-2007 (No replacement; department taught overloads)

Sabbatical 2013-2014 (Replaced by Matthew Steele)

Living in Marquette, Michigan, 2019

Will Tireman (2005-

(Replaced Duane Fowler, on his retirement)

Assistant professor, Associate professor 2011, Full professor 2017

Sabbatical 2018-2019 (Replaced by Yunhua Ding)

Living in Negaunee, Michigan, 2019

Matthew Steele (2013-2014)

(Replaced Neil Russell, who was on leave)

To Michigan State University, E. Lansing, Michigan, 2014

Patrick “Rick” Mengyan (2016-

(Replaced Dave Donovan who became department head)

Assistant Professor (3-year term appointment)

Living in Marquette, 2019

Yunhua Ding (2018-2019)

(Replaced Will Tireman who was on Sabbatical)

Assistant professor

To Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 2019