

# Stephen E. Zepf

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
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## Professional History

- 2018 - present **Chairperson**, Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Michigan State University
- 2009 - present **Board of Directors**  
Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) 4.1m Telescope
- 2021 - 2023 **President**, Board of Directors  
SOAR Telescope
- 2009 - 2018 **Associate Chair for Astronomy**, Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Michigan State University
- 2013 - 2015 **President**, Board of Directors  
SOAR Telescope
- 2004 - 2009 **co-Director**, Center for the Study of Cosmic Evolution  
Michigan State University
- 1999 - 2001 **Director of Graduate Studies**, Department of Astronomy  
Yale University

## Academic Appointments

- 2004 - present **Professor**, Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Michigan State University
- 2001 - 2004 **Associate Professor**, Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Michigan State University
- 1997 - 2001 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Astronomy  
Yale University
- 1993 - 1997 **Hubble Fellow & Assistant Research Scientist**  
University of California, Berkeley
- 1991 - 1993 **Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Durham University

## Education

- Ph.D.**, Physics Johns Hopkins University
- M.A.**, Physics Johns Hopkins University
- B.S.**, Physics University of Notre Dame

## Awards & Fellowships

- 2024 **Fellow**, American Astronomical Society
- 2016 **Osgood Teaching Award**, MSU Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
- 2014 **Faculty Mentoring Award**, MSU College of Natural Science
- 2013 **Distinguished Faculty Award**, Michigan State University
- 1999 **Hellman Family Fellowship**
- 1993 - 1996 **NASA Hubble Fellowship**

## Accomplishments as Department Chair

- Doubled the endowed funds held in the department to a total of \$20M.
- Successfully achieved all of the major goals of the department strategic plan developed just before COVID hit.
- Increased the department federal grant funding and IDC by more than 50%.
- Led department in winning American Physical Society's national Advancing Physics Education Award in 2022.
- Facilitated launch of MSU's quantum initiative, renewed the agreement between MSU, UNC, and the national observatories of the U.S. and Brazil to run the \$40M SOAR Telescope, and completed other initiatives to enhance department's position as one of the highest ranked departments at MSU.

## Selected Academic Service

2014 - present	Co-organizer, Biennial Meeting of U.S. Astronomy Chairs
2009 - present	SOAR Telescope, MSU representative on Board of Directors
2021-2023	SOAR Telescope, President, Board of Directors
2020	Chandra X-Ray Telescope Proposal Review Panel
2020	Chair, External Review Committee, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Alabama
2019	Big10 Academic Alliance Department Executive Officer Program
2017-2018	Chair, Faculty Search Committee in Astronomy/Computational Science, MSU
2016	Chair, Hubble Space Telescope Cycle 24 Proposal Review Panel
2014, 2016	Chair, Biennial AAS Astronomy Chairs Meeting
2015, 2017	NSF AAG proposal review panels
2014, 2016	Chair, NOAO Telescope Allocation Committee Extragalactic Panel
2015	Chair, NASA ADAP proposal review panel
2014	Invited panelist, National Academy Meeting, Irvine, CA

## Publications

- 138 refereed journal publications, over 1/2 with my students and postdocs or myself as first author
- NASA ADS: 7599 citations, 14 papers > 100 citations, h-index 47, [link to full ADS list](#)
- Google Scholar: 10609 citations, 24 papers > 100 citations, h-index 54, [link to Google Scholar site](#)

## Grant Funding

- Continuous federal funding for twenty-five years, including NSF AAG, NASA ADAP, Hubble GO and AR, and Chandra GO and AR
- Total amount as PI over \$4M.

## Teaching and Mentoring

- Taught every academic year from 2004-2018
- Recognized for teaching excellence with Osgood Teaching Award in 2016
- Served as formal faculty mentor for three MSU faculty - Megan Donahue, Ed Brown, and Jay Strader
- Received MSU College of Natural Science Faculty Mentoring Award in 2014
- Mentored nine postdoctoral fellows, who have gone on to a range of careers in academia and industry, five PhD students, Katherine Rhode, Chris Waters, Matt Steele, Kristen Dage, and Erica Thygesen, served on 21 thesis committees, and advised more than 20 undergraduate majors.