



Biographical Background of Joshua Smith, Ph.D., Dan Black Director of Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy

Joshua Smith directs the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center (GWPAC) and is an associate professor of physics at California State University, Fullerton.

Josh grew up in Indian Lake, an Adirondack mountain town in upstate New York. He attended Syracuse University in central New York, graduating in 2002 with a BSc in physics. He then moved to Germany to study gravitational physics at the University of Hannover's Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics / Albert Einstein Institute, earning a doctorate in 2006 for his work on the GEO600 gravitational-wave detector. From 2008 to 2010, he returned to Syracuse University as a postdoctoral associate and worked with Professor Peter Saulson on optical technology and detector characterization for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO).

Currently, Josh conducts gravitational research, astronomy education research, and teaches physics and astronomy. His research is focused on detecting gravitational waves from astronomical sources (such as black holes, neutron stars, and supernovae) using the Advanced LIGO detectors in collaboration with colleagues in GWPAC and in the international LIGO Scientific Collaboration.

Josh is married to Felicitas Smith and they live with their daughter Kira and dog Steve in Fullerton, California.