Alexis Buzzell

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Education

University of Utah, PhD in Physics — Expected May 2026
- Advisor: Ramón S. Barthelemy

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), MS in Mechanical Engineering — May 2020
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), BS in Physics — May 2019
- Summa Cum Laude

Awards

APS Group on PER (GPER) Journal Publication Fee Mini-Grant Award, $500 — Dec 2024
Physics Education Research Leadership and Organizing Council (PERLOC) Domestic Travel Grant, $634 — Apr 2024
GPER Conference Support Mini-Grant,$1,000 — Dec 2023
Swigart Fellowship, University of Utah — May 2023 - Aug 2023
Clare Booth Luce Research Scholar, WPI, $6,000 — Oct 2018 - May 2019
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), WPI, $5,000 — June - Aug 2018
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Scholarship, WPI, $10,000 — Jan - May 2018

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Physics Education Research, University of Utah — Sept 2022 - Present
- Obtained skills in Physics Education Research (PER) methods
- Focused on Quantum Education Research and the undergraduate quantum curriculum offered at US institutions
- Analyzed 167 syllabi across the US to determine content taught in Modern Physics courses
- Determined quantum course time required for 4 year physics degree in US

Graduate Research Assistant, NanoEnergy Lab, WPI — May - Sept 2019
- Concluded vertically grown BiI3 crystals were the optimum crystal orientation for photovoltaic applications due to record carrier lifetime of 0.6 nanoseconds, characterized by time-resolved photoluminescence spectroscopy

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Ultrafast THz and Optical Spectroscopy Lab, WPI — June 2018 - May 2019
- Characterized nanostructured BiI3 for photovoltaic applications using photoluminescence spectroscopy and time-resolved photoluminescence spectroscopy
- Built experimental optical spectroscopy system to observe radiative lifetime of 2D semiconducting materials
- Completed Major Qualifying Project (MQP)
- Awarded Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and Clare Booth Luce Research Scholar Award

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Radiation Laboratory, WPI — Jan - May 2018
- Assisted in the development of a technique to enable high-resolution in-vivo functional imaging using neutrons

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah — Jan - May 2025
- Held regular office hours for algebra based physics I course via Zoom
- Recorded problem solving tutorials for asynchronous online course
- Graded projects and exams

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah — Aug - Dec 2024
- Held regular office hours for first-semester graduate-level Quantum Mechanics course
- Graded homework and exams
- Created solutions and grading rubrics for homework assignments

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah Jan - Apr 2024

- Held regular office hours for Advanced Electrodynamics and Quantum Mechanics course
- Graded homework and exams
- Created solutions and grading rubrics for homework assignments

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah Aug - Dec 2023

- Lead recitations for Intermediate Electrostatics and Quantum Mechanics course
- Held regular office hours
- Graded homework and exams
- Created solutions and grading rubrics for homework assignments

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah Jan - Apr 2023

- Lead recitations for Modern Physics course
- Held regular office hours
- Graded homework and exams
- Created solutions and grading rubrics for homework assignments

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah Aug - Dec 2022

- Lead recitations for Algebra based Physics I class
- Held regular office hours

STEM Teacher, Wy'East Mountain Academy, Sandy, OR Aug 2021- May 2022

- Taught STEM classes including Physics, Precalculus, Algebra, and Geometry

Long Term Substitute Physics Teacher, Hadley Public Schools, Hadley, MA Oct - Dec 2020

- Taught Introductory Physics, AP Physics I, and Geology
- Created lesson plans, laboratory experiments, homework, and classwork assignments

Peer Learning Assistant, WPI Oct - Dec 2017

- Instructed Physics II (electricity and magnetism) Laboratory Courses and graded lab reports

Publications

Published

- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R., & Atherton, T. (2025). *Quantum curriculum in the US: Quantifying the instructional time, content taught, and paradigms used*, *Physical Review Physics Education Research, 21*(1), 010102.

In Review

- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R., & Atherton, T. (2025). *Modern physics: Understanding the content taught in the U.S. Physical Review*, preprint on arXiv:2407.15951.

Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- **Buzzell, A.**, & Barthelemy, R. (2024). *Certain bodies in uncertain fields: Thinking about gender through queer theory & quantum mechanics.* Physics Education Research Conference Proceedings.

Talks

Contributed

- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R. & Atherton, T. (2025, March). *Characterization of US institution's graduate quantum mechanics curriculum* [Contributed talk]. American Physical Society Global Summit Meeting, Anaheim, CA, USA.
- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R., & Atherton, T. (2025, March). *Characterization of the four-year undergraduate quantum curriculum across US institutions* [Poster presentation]. American Physical Society Global Summit Meeting, Anaheim, CA, USA.
- **Buzzell, A.**, & Barthelemy, R. (2024, July). *Certain bodies in uncertain fields: Thinking about gender through queer theory & quantum mechanics* [Poster presentation]. Physics Education Research Conference Summer Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.

- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R., & Atherton, T. (2024, July). *Quantum curriculum in the US: Quantifying the instructional time, content taught, and paradigms used* [Contributed talk]. American Association of Physics Teachers Summer Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.
- **Buzzell, A.**, Barthelemy, R., Atherton, T., & Gerton, J. (2024, April). *Modern physics: Understanding the content taught in the US* [Contributed talk]. American Physical Society April Meeting, Sacramento, CA, USA.

Organizations

American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) 2024-Present
Quantum Education Journal Club 2023-Present
- Organized and hosted monthly meetings.

American Physical Society (APS) 2023-Present
Physics and Astronomy Society for Support and Advocacy for Gender Equity (PASSAGE) 2022-Present
Society of Physics Students (SPS) 2016-2019

Outreach

Women in STEM Club Advisor, Wy'East Mountain Academy, Sandy, OR Sept 2021-May 2022
- Provided Wy'East students with an inclusive space to gain hands on laboratory experience

STEM Started Academy Mentor, Mount Wachusett Community College, MA July 2018
- Taught newly enrolled college students about optical spectroscopy

WPI Touch Tomorrow Science Festival, WPI, Worcester, MA June 2018
- Presented physics experiments to local elementary school students through hands on activities and demonstrations

Undergraduate Projects & Thesis

Buzzell, A. T. & Mendizabal, A. (2019). *Photoluminescence Spectroscopy of BiI3, a 2D Material for Photovoltaic Applications* (Undergraduate Major Qualifying Project). Retrieved from Worcester Polytechnic Institute Electronic Projects Collection.

Buzzell, A. T., Schroeder, C. C., Strauss, J. S., & Alexander, T. D. B. (2018). *A System to Monitor Microplastics on Icelandic Shores.* Retrieved from Worcester Polytechnic Institute Electronic Publications Collection.