

VANESSA CARLING KWONG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Two-dimensional (2D) semiconducting materials have been of prominence in electronics development attributed to their excellent features for creating tunable devices from an easily isolable bulk state, mechanically cleaved at interlayer van der Waals (vdW) forces. I am interested in leveraging these materials, specifically transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDCs), and their unique properties to explore cutting-edge optical (e.g., correlated states) and magnetotransport (e.g., Quantum Hall Effect) phenomena for their implementation in advancing optoelectronics development.

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Interdisciplinary research consolidated with involvement in undergraduate research advocacy has deepened my commitment to teaching and effectively communicating science to all audiences. My interest lies in continuing research advocacy at the foundational level, to the extension of protecting these vital research works.

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside Riverside, CA
Doctor of Philosophy, Physics 2025 - 2031 (expected)
• Advisor: Prof. Andrew Joe

Bachelor of Science, Physics 2020 - 2025
• Senior Thesis Advisor: Prof. Andrew Joe

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Joe Lab at UC Riverside Riverside, CA
Graduate Student Researcher 2025.09 - Present

External Researcher 2025.04 - 2025.08
• Engineer Ohmic contacts to p-type monolayer WSe₂ and MoSe₂, measuring quantum magnetotransport
• Fabricate devices and study electrical tuning of triplet exciton emission through optical characterisation
• Enhance technical nanofabrication skills through training and assisting students; increase familiarity with cross-campus facilities at UCI IMRI

Undergraduate Researcher 2023.10 - 2025.04
• Develop expertise in fabricating reliable vdW devices through precise patterning and dry transfer of mechanically exfoliated 2D materials
• Perform and analyze optical and transport measurements through MATLAB programming
• Set up new laboratory space and improve lab efficiency by building equipment and training incoming lab members on technical methods

Research in Science & Engineering (RISE) Student Researcher 2024.06 - 2024.08
• Advisor: Prof. Andrew Joe
• Develop low-temperature Pt contacts to monolayer TMDs and test contact resistance
• Assist in fabrication of graphene devices for magnetotransport in search of the Quantum anomalous Hall Effect

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	UC Riverside, Department of Physics & Astronomy	Riverside, CA
	<i>Teaching Assistant I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate weekly laboratory sections and develop quiz material 	2025.09 - Present
PROJECTS	Triplet exciton light emission in MoSe₂/WSe₂ Heterobilayer Devices	
	<i>The Joe Lab, UC Riverside Dept. of Physics & Astronomy</i>	2025.07 - Present
	Magnetotransport in Monolayer TMD Heterostructure Devices	
	<i>The Joe Lab, UC Riverside Dept. of Physics & Astronomy</i>	2024.06 - Present
	Pulsed Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	
	<i>PHYS 142W, UC Riverside</i>	2024.11 - 2024.12
	Gamma Ray Emission of Radioactive Isobars	
	<i>PHYS 142W, UC Riverside</i>	2024.11
	Noise Fundamentals	
PRESENTATIONS	<i>PHYS 142W, UC Riverside</i>	2024.10
	MATLAB Laser Dispersion Program	
	<i>The Joe Lab, UC Riverside Dept. of Physics & Astronomy</i>	2024.03 - 2024.04
	Mutagenesis of KOIN and WFL in <i>A. thaliana</i>	
	<i>Dynamic Genome, UC Riverside</i>	2021.02 - 2021.03
	1. "Transport in Monolayer WSe ₂ Devices,"	
	<i>UC Riverside Dept. of Physics and Astronomy Senior Research Symposium, Riverside CA (2025.06)</i>	
	2. "Research and Advances in Transport Within 2D Semiconducting Materials",	
	<i>UC Riverside CNAS Undergraduate Student Research Presentations for Rep. Mark Takano, Riverside CA (2025. 04)</i>	
	3. Undergraduate Research Panelist,	
	<i>California State University, San Bernardino, calSWIFT'25 (California Semiconductor Workforce Development & Innovation for Future Technologies) Symposium, San Bernardino CA (2025.04)</i>	
	4. Undergraduate Advocate,	
	<i>Students Transforming Through Research (Council on Undergraduate Research's Advocacy Program), Washington DC (2025.03)</i>	
	5. "Advances in Monolayer TMD Heterostructure Devices,"	
	<i>UC Riverside PHYS 142W Capstone Presentation, virtual presentation (2025.03)</i>	
	6. "Quantum Transport in Monolayer TMD Heterostructure Devices,"	
	<i>UC Riverside Research in Science and Engineering (RISE) Symposium, Riverside CA (2024.08)</i>	
	7. "Optical Characterization of Two-Dimensional Semiconductor Heterostructures,"	
	<i>UC Riverside Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium, virtual presentation (2024.05)</i>	
	8. "Mutating AT3G08680 to Determine Functional Redundancy in <i>Arabidopsis</i> ,"	
	<i>UC Riverside Dynamic Genome, virtual presentation (2021.03)</i>	
	9. "Love Gloves?"	
	<i>Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair, Pasadena CA (2018.04)</i>	

AWARDS	• R. Stephen White Scholarship , UC Riverside Dept. of Physics & Astro.	2025.05
	• Dean's List (multiple), UC Riverside CNAS	2020 - 2025
	• Third Award in Microbiology Senior , LACSEF	2018.04
SKILLS	<p>Laboratory: Device fabrication (mechanical exfoliation, dry transfer), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), electron-beam evaporation (EBE) & lithography (EBL), atomic force microscopy (AFM), sputtering, atomic layer etching (ALE), optical spectroscopy, soldering</p> <p>Programming: MATLAB, Python, C++, HTML, CSS, JavaScript</p> <p>Other: LaTeX, CAD (KLayout, AutoCAD), Microsoft Office Suite</p> <p>Languages: English (native), Cantonese (native), Mandarin (fluent), German (elementary)</p>	
PRESS COVERAGE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "CNAS visits Washington on a 'Call to Action!'", <i>UC Riverside College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences</i>, 2025.03 2. "UCR team to participate in national undergraduate research program", <i>by Iqbal Pittalwala, Inside UCR</i>, 2024.10 	
REFERENCES	Available upon request	