

My name is Ian Schwartz and I am a mentor in the LTC. I earned a B.S. in mathematics and physics from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA) in 2018, where I worked in a particle physics lab searching for sterile neutrinos. Though I prefer working with hardware and equipment, most of my undergrad research involved simulations and programming. During my final summer of undergrad, I interned at an optics lab at Nanyang Technological University (Boon Lay, Singapore) that was much more hands on, and really enjoyed it. This caused me to transition from particles to AMO.

I came to Stony Brook in spring 2019 as a physics master's student (MSI). I joined the LTC during my first semester, during which I studied the polarization of light through single-mode fibers. The following summer I began as a mentor in the LTC while also working on a project to transform a Gaussian beam into a flat-top beam using a spatial light modulator. Since then, I have joined the Metcalf Research Group studying adiabatic rapid passage (ARP), where I am happy to say I get to work with physics equipment regularly.

The LTC is a terrific resource for students who want to get involved with optics. It is a great opportunity for students to break out of a classroom setting and develop their own projects, or for somebody like me who wanted to learn more about AMO but had little experience. I am proud to be an LTC mentor and anticipate continuing as one until my graduation.