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**Washington, DC** - 12<sup>th</sup> District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Georgia has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$276,091 from NASA's Astrophysics Theory Program.

This grant will help fund university research into the development of the basic theory needed to guide NASA's space astrophysics programs.

"NASA's space science programs are a valuable investment in our nation's future," Congressman Barrow said. "And America's universities will always play a vital role in the research and innovation that fuels space exploration. This grant will help make sure that UGA is closely involved in the developments and breakthroughs in future physics and space research."

The UGA Physics Department is one of only 21 research centers chosen to receive funding for Astrophysics Theory investigations into space science. Using these funds, Dr. Phillip Stancil and Dr. Steven Lewis, Associate Professors of Physics at UGA, will research their proposal, "Towards Accurate Microphysical Modeling of Star-Forming and Photodissociation Regions."

For additional information about the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Georgia, please visit: <http://www.physast.uga.edu/>

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