

Importance of Diversity in Science

- **Diversity in classroom:**
“All students bring to a physics class unique beliefs, intelligence, and aspirations that come from their birth, upbringing, and community. ...They bring their background, ways of thinking, methods of applying physics to real world problems, and the potential to educate others through their unique perspective.” (Sam Aronson, 2015 President of American Physical Society)
- **True in larger scientific community too. Where would science be without:**
 - **Emmy Noether?** – 19th century mathematician whose theorem connects symmetries & conservation laws (e.g. of energy & momentum), who lectured w/o pay under David Hilbert’s name, as women were largely excluded from academia
 - **Albert Einstein?** – 20th century physicist who developed general relativity as a German Jew during Hitler’s rise to power, immigrated to US, and was influential in initiating Manhattan Project
 - **Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin?** – 20th century astronomer and astrophysicist who established that stars consist primarily of hydrogen, but was denied degree from Cambridge because of her sex, so moved to US to study at Harvard where she eventually received PhD degree
- **“At MSU we welcome a full spectrum of experiences, viewpoints, and intellectual approaches because it enriches the conversation and benefits everyone, even as it challenges us to grow and think differently.” – President Simon’s Statement on Diversity and Inclusion**

