

## Joshua Colwell Bio

Joshua E. Colwell, Ph.D., is Pegasus Professor of Physics and Interim Dean of the College of Sciences at the University of Central Florida, where he has also served as Chair of the Department of Physics. He joined UCF in 2006 and has since held a series of increasingly senior academic leadership roles within the College of Sciences and the university.

Dr. Colwell earned his Ph.D. in Astrophysical, Planetary, and Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Colorado Boulder and his bachelor's degree in physics, with a minor in mathematics, from Stetson University. He was a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées in Toulouse, France, where he conducted research on the evolution of comets. Prior to joining UCF, he was a Research Associate at the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

Since arriving at UCF, Colwell has served as Associate Chair and Chair of Physics, Assistant Director of the Florida Space Institute, Founding Director of the Stephen W. Hawking Center for Microgravity Research and Education, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Sciences, and currently as Interim Dean of the College of Sciences. His administrative work has focused on academic planning, faculty and staff support, research development, and student success initiatives.

As an administrator in the Department of Physics and in the College of Sciences, Dr. Colwell has led efforts to support timely degree completion, strengthen undergraduate curricula, and improve research and professional development infrastructure. These efforts include the development of seed-grant and professional-development grant programs, an interdepartmental and intercollegiate seminar series, and proposal-development support programs. As Chair of Physics, he oversaw expansion of the faculty ranks, curricular updates to support student progress to degree, renovation of the university's observatory, and upgrades to instructional laboratory facilities for physics majors.

Dr. Colwell's scholarly work focuses on planet formation, asteroids, planetary rings, comets, the lunar surface, and interplanetary dust. His experimental research has flown on the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station, suborbital rockets, and parabolic aircraft flights. In collaboration with commercial spaceflight partners such as Blue Origin, he has worked closely with undergraduate and graduate students on the design, development, and execution of spaceflight experiments, providing hands-on experience across the full mission lifecycle.

He worked on NASA's Cassini mission to Saturn for the duration of the mission and served as a Co-Investigator on the Ultraviolet Imaging Spectrograph, where he contributed to the design and implementation of observations of Saturn's rings. He is the author of *The Ringed Planet: Cassini's Voyage of Discovery at Saturn*, now in its third edition, which presents the scientific results of the mission for a general audience. His research publications have received more than 7,300 citations, and his work has been recognized with two Research Incentive Awards in the College of Sciences.

In recognition of his scholarly and professional contributions, Dr. Colwell was named a Pegasus Professor in 2019, UCF's highest faculty designation, and has been recognized as a UCF Luminary. He is the recipient of eight NASA awards for contributions to the Cassini, Voyager, and Rosetta interplanetary missions. Asteroid 29605 joshuacolwell was named in recognition of his work on asteroid surface evolution.

Dr. Colwell is also committed to education and public engagement. His teaching and mentoring at UCF have been recognized with two Teaching Incentive Program Awards, an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, Mentor of the Year, and an Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award. He is co-creator and host of the podcast *Walkabout the Galaxy*, which features non-technical conversations about space exploration, astronomy, and astrophysics for a broad public audience.