

## **Brief Biography of John Belz**



John Belz received the B.A. degree in physics from Temple University in 1987 and the Ph.D degree in physics from Temple University in 1993.

From 1992 to 1998 he was a postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers University in Piscataway New Jersey. From 1998 to 2002 he was a research assistant professor and adjunct instructor at Montana State University in Bozeman. From 2002 to 2005 he was an assistant professor at the University of Montana in Missoula. He came to the University of Utah in 2005 as a visiting faculty member, then held a research faculty position until he was appointed to the tenure track in 2014. He currently holds the title of Professor of Physics.

Professor Belz's research interests span the scale from elementary particles to black holes and the origin and fate of the universe. He studied rare weak interaction processes at Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY) and at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Batavia, IL). He devoted two decades to particle astrophysics research at the High-Resolution Fly's Eye and Telescope Array cosmic ray observatories in Utah, specializing in the study of cosmic ray chemical composition and an NSF and Keck Foundation funded study of the use of radar technology in particle astrophysics. He currently leads a project based on the serendipitous discovery that cosmic ray detectors can shed light on gamma ray production mechanisms in atmospheric lightning. Recently he has developed an interest in applying computational techniques to the study of gravitational collapse and the foundations of general relativity.