

SOCIAL EVENTS

Cookie Time! – Every **Wednesday at 3:30 pm in PHYSICS 275**. Grab individually wrapped cookies and get to know folks in person!

Valentine's Day Event – Come out to this year's Valentine's Day celebration to socialize with your peers and enjoy Valentine's Day themed snacks and beverages! The festivities will start at **3:30pm on February 18th at the TUNL patio**. We will provide handwarmers, but please dress warmly if needed. See you there!

GENERAL UPDATES & NEWS

Duke Graduate Student Open House – Open House is scheduled for February 23-25. Volunteers are needed for this in-person event if you're interested, please contact Isabella Goetting at isabella.goetting@duke.edu.

Talk to SPS Undergrads – Looking for graduate students from any year to speak to undergraduate SPS members about their research and PhD journey. The presentations are informal with a focus on your path through research as an undergraduate and what you do now in your field as a graduate student. A significant portion of the event following the presentation is Q&A and discussion. Time commitment is about 1.5 hours, and date scheduling for the talk is very flexible. Please email gregory.matousek@duke.edu if you are interested! There is a specific call for any students conducting research in Cosmology.

Conference Travel Fund – The Graduate School provides up to \$525 for domestic and \$700 for international travel for students who have passed all parts of their prelim and are presenting a paper or poster at a regional, national, or international conference. The application and additional details can be found at [Conference Travel](#).

Ph.D. Stipends – There is a recent initiative from the GSO about Ph.D. stipends. Changes are made through the Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG) and to help the GSO, encourage friends in other departments to get involved and broaden the coalition of PhD students that share this issue. Please encourage them to submit concerns through this [GPSG Contact Us form](#).

Reporting Harassment, Discrimination, and Other Concerns – The Graduate School has developed an [interactive guide](#) to help Graduate students understand the options and processes for reporting harassment, discrimination, and other concerns. This guide also provide information for those seeking mental health support or dealing with immediate crises.

SEMINARS

COLLOQUIA – 3:30pm, Zoom

Feb 2: Elke-Caroline Aschenauer
(Brookhaven National Laboratory)

Feb 9: Andrei Seryi (Jefferson Laboratory)

PRELIMS

Congrats to Duane Byer & Masaya Yamamoto and Dr. Connor Awe for passing their prelim and defense exams, respectively, in Jan.

Upcoming Prelims: Kevin Wang (Feb 11), Ge Chen (Feb 18), Bo Yu (Feb 21), & Rebecca Chen (Feb 28)

Upcoming Defense: Ethan Arnault (Feb 18), Shobhit Sharma (Feb 18), Long Li (Feb 21)

Reminder: Third year students have until **April 13** to complete their Prelim Exam and the Committee Approval form must be turned in to Katherine Siler at katherine.siler@duke.edu no later than 4 weeks prior to the date of your exam.