

# Duke Physics Graduate Student Organization

## March Newsletter



### SOCIAL EVENTS

**Cookie Time!** – Every **Friday at 3 pm** on Zoom. BYOCookies and get to know folks over virtual games and conversation.

**Trivia Night** – Come play trivia online with our grads ☺ Join the #trivia channel on Slack for details

**Walk, Run, or Bike with a Grad** – Now that the weather's getting beautiful and we're a year in to this pandemic, it's might be time to **enjoy an outdoor walk with another grad** if you're comfortable. ☺ We have a [sign-up sheet](#) for folks to **coordinate any availability or location** preference. Take a look and enjoy the convo!

**Taking requests!** Do you have an idea for an in-person outdoor event? Let someone in GSO know (on Slack, an email, or a text)! We would love to see as many faces as Duke guidelines permit this spring.

### GENERAL UPDATES & NEWS

**ZAG Awards** – Get yourself some **free pizza by attending Duke and Physics Zooms!!** Earn 4 points by going to 4 GSO, Physics Department, or Duke events or talks **by the end of March to qualify**. Write your name on our [scorekeeping page](#) & keep tally. Three winners are chosen each month! The competition begins again in April. See Adryanna's original email \*keyword: ZAG\* for all the details and FAQ.

**New Department Program: Connect with Faculty Mentors** – Looking for more support and perspectives on the contours of grad life?? Wish you could connect with more faculty than just your advisor and profs? Do you have questions about how to approach a new research project or presentation, how to TA more effectively, how to act when conflict or tensions arise with advisors or profs or instructors, how many conferences to attend each year, etc?? Many **faculty across our physics department have volunteered as contacts and mentors** to help connect with and support graduate students. View the up-to-date list of faculty mentor volunteers [here!](#) They're friendly and ready to talk or email. ☺

**GPSG Emergency Travel Fund** – Program to help you travel in times of family emergencies or bereavement. For more information, visit the GPSG website.

### SEMINARS

**COLLOQUIA** – 3:30pm, *invited speakers*

**March 31:** Xiaoming Mao (U Michigan)

**April 14:** Kwang-Je Kim (Argonne Nat'l Lab)

---

#### GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (GSS) TALKS

**March 8 (12pm):** Dripto Debroy

**April 2 (12pm):** Matt Ennis

Contact Baran ([baran.bodur@duke.edu](mailto:baran.bodur@duke.edu) or via Slack) if you're interested in giving a virtual talk to your fellow friendly grad students. Grad students of all years are able to present at a GSS, as fun or as practice for a conference, prelim, or defense.

### OUTREACH

**Physics Circles** – An easy and fun way to share physics with local high schoolers! Give a 30-60 minute talk about your research or another physics topic of interest over Zoom to North Carolina School of Science and Math students. Contact Jon Bennett at [bennett@ncssm.edu](mailto:bennett@ncssm.edu) to schedule your talk.

**HBCU outreach** – If you or your research group would like to get involved in reaching historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), email Erin ([erin.conley@duke.edu](mailto:erin.conley@duke.edu)) for more information

**Join the Physics Outreach at Duke email list** by following [https://dukegroups.com/PhysicsOutreach/club\\_signup](https://dukegroups.com/PhysicsOutreach/club_signup) or keep an eye on the #outreach channel in Slack for future opportunities and meeting announcements!

*“Despite the storms, beauty arrives like it was always going to. Despite the darkness, the light returns.”*