

# Graduate Student Organization

# October Newsletter

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Cookie Time!** — Every **Wednesday at 3pm in PHYSICS 275**. Grab cookies and get to know folks in person!

**Halloween Party** — Be on the look out for an email with dates and details soon!

## GENERAL UPDATES & NEWS

**Flu Shots** — Duke students can sign up for an appointment to get their **flu vaccine through November 4**. No appointment necessary and you can find the various locations with [this link](#).

**Applications for The Graduate School Fellowships** — The fellowship application period for summer 2022 and the 2022-2023 academic year opens **October 1 and runs through November 11**. Click [here](#) for instructions and details. Additional funding opportunities can be found in [this Duke compilation](#).

**Voting resources** — Check out [vote.duke.edu](http://vote.duke.edu) for information and resources on participating in the upcoming elections.

**Do you have a great story to tell?** Contact [Marie Claire Chelini](#), Science Communication Specialist at the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, with a brief description of what you would like to see published on the Duke Physics website and social media channels. It could be a fun research or teaching experience, an award, a paper with broad appeal, or something new happening with the Duke Physics graduate students.

**Traveling for the Upcoming Holidays?** Take a look at the [Time-off Vacation Policy](#) and be sure to [register your trip](#).

**Save the Date:**

**Department Annual Meeting** – Wednesday, October 26.

**Holiday Dinner Party** – Wednesday, December 7.

**Women in Physics Dinner** — At the end of September, WIP held their first meeting to discuss classes and life in Durham to welcome the new first years. Thank you to Katherine and Maria for hosting!

## SEMINARS

**COLLOQUIA** – Joint UNC-Duke talks at 4:30PM in PHYSICS 128

**Oct. 12:** Jake Lindale (Improved Modeling of Dynamic Quantum Systems)

**DUKE ALUMNI TALK SERIES** – Virtual talks from Duke Alumni in industry

**Oct. 7 @ 3PM:** Prof. Andrew Seredinski

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (GSS) TALK** – 12PM in PHYSICS 298

**Oct. 19:** Mingru Li

**Nov. 2:** Mingyu Kang

Contact Erik ([erik.r.peterson@duke.edu](mailto:erik.r.peterson@duke.edu)) or via Slack) If you're interested in giving a talk to your fellow grad students as a practice talk or about anything that strikes your interest.

## PRELIMS & DEFENSE

**Peibo An** – Defense on October 24, 2022

**Mingru Li** – October date

**Mingyu Kang** – Prelim Exam, November 11, 2022

**Graduating in December?** Please note the following Graduate School deadlines:

**Saturday, October 15:** Apply to graduate

**Monday, November 14:** Initial submission of electronic doctoral dissertation

**Monday, November 28:** Last day to defend dissertation

**Monday, December 12:** Final submission of electronic dissertation

# Grad Students Spotlight



## Erik Peterson

4<sup>th</sup> Year  
4<sup>th</sup> Year Rep  
Research Area:  
Cosmology  
Fun Facts: Erik is currently watching *The Office* and his childhood dream job was an Astronaut.

Erik's hometown is Lakewood, WA, and his alma mater is Notre Dame. Some of the highlights of his time at Duke are soaking up the omnipresent Duke Basketball hype and getting delicious tacos from La Vaquita. You should ask him about his time TA-ing for the Physics of Sports class—the students loved it as much as he did! Erik is fluent in English and Spanish and is a middle child of 3 (excluding the beloved family cat Ollie). Find Erik to learn which of these statements are his two truths and one lie:

I have been nationally ranked in paintballing.  
I've been scuba diving in Easter Island.  
I have never gotten a hole in one in golf.

Ana is from a small town in Brazil called Araraquara where they have a pretty significant orange juice factory, and as a consequence, the whole town smells like oranges. She studied her BSc. only 40min away from home, at the University of São Paulo. For her MSc., she moved to Cologne, in Germany, and absolutely loved her time there. Leaving Germany was not easy, but it helps that people in Durham are very kind, and Downtown has a beautiful small town look at night.

## Ana Luiza Ferrari

1<sup>st</sup> Year  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Rep  
Research Area:  
Computational Many Body Physics  
Fun Facts: Her dream job as a child was to be a graphic designer. She is currently watching *Malcolm in the Middle*.



## Elise Le Boulicaut

5<sup>th</sup> Year  
5<sup>th</sup> Year Rep  
Research Area:  
Experimental High Energy Physics  
Fun Facts: Elise's favorite movie is *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* and she is currently watching *Shadow and Bone*.

Elise works with Mark Kruse on particle physics as part of the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN. Her thesis will focus on testing new theories that could extend the Standard Model by analyzing data from run 2 of the LHC (2015-2018). She spent a year at CERN for research in 2021-2022, which was an awesome experience. But Elise is glad to be back at Duke and hang out with all her physics friends! In her free time she likes to go climbing and hiking, as well as cooking/baking (she has her own sourdough starter!) and playing the piano. She loves going to grad student cookie time and is realizing she will miss it when she graduates!