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 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.
Holliday 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 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
Erik Peterson
4th Year
4th 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 Luiza Ferrari
1st Year
1st 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.

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.

Elise Le Boullicaut
5th Year
5th 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!