

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Physics Graduate Student Slack** – If you haven't already joined our Slack channel, give it a try! It's best for faster communication and cross-cohort messaging. If you don't see a channel you want or need, add it and invite others to join the convo. See you over there ;)

**Movie Nights** – Look out for announcements about ~ monthly virtual movie viewings. Get in touch with Charlie ([charles.prior@duke.edu](mailto:charles.prior@duke.edu)), Aitor ([aitor.bracho@duke.edu](mailto:aitor.bracho@duke.edu)), or Erik ([erik.r.peterson@duke.edu](mailto:erik.r.peterson@duke.edu)) on email or Slack with any film choice ideas.

**Cookie Time!** – Every **Wednesday at 4:30pm** on Zoom. BYOCookies and get to know folks over virtual games and conversation.

## GENERAL UPDATES & NEWS

**Welcome to the new cohort** of current first-year grads – give them an extra warm hello when you get the chance:

Johnny Chiles, Will Delooze, Isabella Goetting, Michael Higgins, Matthew McEneaney, Connor Pecar, Emma van Nieuwenhuizen, Gregory Matousek, Mingyu Kang

**Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Elected Leadership 2019-2020:**

**Executive:** Elise Le Boulicaut (President), Baran Bodur (Vice President), Charlie Prior (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Class Representatives:** Isabella Goetting & Emma van Nieuwenhuizen (1<sup>st</sup> Years, Co-Reps), Aitor Bracho (2<sup>nd</sup> Years), Yikang Zhang (3<sup>rd</sup> Years), Jay Runge (4<sup>th</sup> Years), Ryan Kozlowski (5<sup>th</sup> Years), Collin Malone (6<sup>th</sup>+ Years)

**GSO All-Hands Meeting** – All physics graduate students are members of GSO, an organization run by grads, for grads. The **first meeting is being planned** within the next couple weeks to discuss goals for the semester/year. Vote on the time here (<https://doodle.com/poll/r66eusqcxtzuvk9y>) or in the #general Slack channel.

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

## SEMINARS

**COLLOQUIA** – *Joint UNC-Duke virtual talks*

**Sept. 30:** Bob Jaffe (MIT)

**Oct. 7:** Amy Nicholson (UNC)

**Oct. 19:** Christoph Schmidt (Duke)

**Nov. 4:** Nicholas Law (UNC)

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (GSS) TALKS** –  
*virtual, no pizza this semester*

**Oct. 5 (12pm):** Elise Le Boulicaut

**Oct. 15 (12pm):** Utsav Patel

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.

## OUTREACH

Interested in outreach? Join other grads in Physics Outreach @ Duke! Contact Erin Conley at [erin.conley@duke.edu](mailto:erin.conley@duke.edu) for more info. Also, join us on the #outreach channel in the Physics Grad Student Slack workspace!

## WORKING REMOTE TIPS

**Zoom pro-tips:** You can change your meeting settings by visiting [duke.zoom.us](https://duke.zoom.us). Some settings you can adjust: Mute participants upon entry. Add polls if desired. Also switch off the "host-only" screen sharing by default if that's appropriate for your events.

(Have any helpful suggestions for grads during this time? Send them to [adryanna.major@duke.edu](mailto:adryanna.major@duke.edu).)

## SUMMER 2020 PHD GRADUATES

Congratulations to the newest group of Duke Physics PhDs who successfully defended over the summer! We thank each of you for your tremendous example of mentorship, friendship, and scholarship. You will be missed, so stay in touch. We cannot wait to hear how you take on the next chapter.

**Christian Moritz Binder** [Advisor: Thomas Barthel] – *Novel Tensor Network Methods for Interacting Quantum Matter and Its Dynamical Response*

**Pak Hong (James) Leung** [Advisor: Ken Brown] – *Robust Ion Trap Quantum Computation Enabled by Quantum Control*

**Ronald Malone** [Advisor: Calvin Howell] – *Measurement of the Neutron-Neutron Quasifree Scattering Cross Section in Neutron-Deuteron Breakup at 10.0 and 15.6 MeV*

**Qixin Shen** [Advisor: Maiken Mikkelsen] – *Manipulation of Nonlinear Optical Processes in Plasmonic Nanogap Cavities*

**Hershdeep Singh** [Co-Advisors: Roxanne Springer and Shailesh Chandrasekharan] – *Exploring Quantum Field Theories Using Qubit Lattice Models*

**Yuchen Zhao** [Advisor: Joshua Socolar] – *Characterization and Mechanics of Rigidity in Columns of Star-Shaped Granular Particles*



## TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS 2019-2020

**Mary Creason Memorial Fellowship:** *Ryan Bouabid*

Awarded annually for excellence in lab instruction. \$1,000 prize given to the recipient.

**AAPT Outstanding Teacher Assistants of the Year:** *Son Nguyen and Erik Peterson*

Recipients receive AAPT gift membership which includes electronic access to premier journals: *The American Journal of Physics*, *The Physics Teacher* and *Physics Today*

**Professor of the Year:** *Dr. Harold Baranger (Quantum Mechanics)*

## FALL 2020 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

**J. Horst Meyer Fellowship:** *Ethan Arnault*

**Goshaw Family Endowment Fellowship:** *Minyu Feng, Samuel Hedges, and Brodie Popovic*

**Charles Townes/Perkins-Elmer Fellowship:** *Dripto DeBroy and Lalit Yadav*

**Henry W. Newson Fellowship:** *Peifan Liu and Jingyi Zhou*

**Chemistry GPNANO Fellowship:** *Jordan McCourt and Jon Yuly*

**John T. Chambers Fellowship, Fitzpatrick Institute:** *Mingyu Kang*

**U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science Graduate Student Award:** *Brodie Popovic*

**Jefferson Science Associates Graduate Fellowship Award:** *Drew Smith*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR OUTSTANDING GRADS THIS YEAR