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# Physics Digest

News, info, and updates for Ph.D. students in Physics at UW–Madison

April 9th, 2021

## Announcements

### Fill out EGARS for Summer 2021!

*Deadline: April 16th, 2021*

The Department of Physics expects 9, 50% TA positions to be available for the eight-week summer session in 2021 (June 14-August 8) in Physics 103, 104, and 202. Fill out EGARS [here](#) before the April 16 deadline to let us know if you are doing an RA for the summer or if you are requesting a TA position.

### Spring 2021 Grading Policies Updated: SD/UD Available for Grad Students

UW-Madison will implement a very similar disruption grading policy in spring 2021 as it did in spring 2020, with the amendment noted below (see #2) that UD (Unsatisfactory-Disruption) be changed to (University Disruption-No Credit).

Change to description of spring 2020 “UD” grades: The UD grade, used on the transcript for the spring 2020 term, will remain as “UD”. In public facing documents, such as the transcript legend and the Guide, the UD grade will be defined as “University Disruption-No Credit”.

Pandemic transcript notation: In the transcript memorandum section for any student enrolled at UW-Madison during spring 2020-spring 2021, this standard statement will be applied: “A global public health emergency in spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 required marked changes to university operations that may have significantly affected student enrollment, learning and grading.”

### Fall 2021 ESL Courses

The ESL Program will be offering several oral skills support courses for international graduate for whom English is not their first language: [ESL 345: American English Pronunciation](#), [ESL 344: Academic Presentations and Discussion](#), and [ESL 370: International Teaching Assistant Training](#). There are no credits or fees for ESL 370 and you can enroll in it as you would for other classes. For questions, contact [Joe Nosek](#).

### Summer and Fall 2021 Enrollment Happening Now!

[Summer 2021 enrollment began on April 5th and Fall 2021 enrollment will begin on April 12th](#). If you need to enroll in Physics 990, please review the instructions for adding by course number and the Physics 990

course numbers for Summer 2021 [here](#) and Fall 2021 [here](#). The Graduate School maintains a policy page on [minimum enrollment requirements](#). For questions, contact [Jackson Kennedy](#).

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Updates**

The following website details vaccination eligibility and how to make an appointment through your MyUHS account.

### **2020-2021 Department of Physics Student Awards**

*Deadline: April 18th, 2021*

Every year the department offers a variety of awards and scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. To apply for awards, students must use WiSH - Wisconsin Scholarship Hub - in their [student center](#) and submit a statement of purpose and letter of support from a mentor. Awards typically range from \$250-\$5,000 and the list of awards can be found [here](#).

### **WISL Award for Communicating Ph.D. Research to the Public**

The Wisconsin Initiative for Science Literacy (WISL) offers financial support to encourage Ph.D. students to include a chapter in their thesis describing their research to non-scholarly audiences. WISL offers the assistance of an editor to help you hone your chapter and an award of \$250 for each chapter completed. For further information, contact [Professor Bassam Z. Shakhashiri](#).

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## **Thesis Defenses**

### **Stellarator Beta Limits with Extended MHD Modeling Using NIMROD**

*Date: April 14th, 2021; 1:00 PM CST*

Torrin Bechtel (Chris Hegna, Faculty Advisor), Physics PhD Graduate Student, will defend their thesis.

### **Overlapping Aluminum-Gate Quantum Dots for Valley-Orbit Based Qubits in Si/SiGe**

*Date: April 14th, 2021; 4:00 PM CST*

JP Dodson (Mark Eriksson, Faculty Advisor), Physics PhD Graduate Student, will defend their thesis.

### **Explorations of the Heterostructure, Fabrication, And Measurement of Si/SiGe Quantum Dots for Quantum Computation**

*Date: April 27th, 2021; 9:00 AM CST*

Thomas McJunkin (Mark Eriksson, Faculty Advisor), Physics PhD Graduate Student, will defend their thesis.

### **The Role of Chaos and Magnetic Fields in the Cosmic Array**

*Date: April 27th, 2021; 3:00 PM CST*

Vanessa Lopez Barquero (Francis Halzen, Faculty Advisor), Physics PhD Graduate Student, will defend their thesis.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Department of Physics Event Calendar**

See the departmental events calendar to be sure you don't miss any of the upcoming seminars, workshops, or journal clubs, workshops!

### **Student Affairs: Campus Happenings**

See the UW Student Affairs news website and scroll to the "current happenings" listing each week.

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## **Professional Development**

### **AAPS Workshop: Communicating in Science**

*Date: April 12th - 26th, 2021*

[Dr. Bassam Shakhashiri](#) will host two, two hour sessions which will be interactive and require you to participate in discussions about topics in various forms of science communication and in short oral presentations about your current research. Read a detailed description [here](#) and complete the following [poll](#) to register.

### **Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator**

*Date: April 13th, 20th, & 27th, 2021; 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM*

Join the UW-Madison Delta Program to discuss and crowd-source possible solutions to the challenges of bringing anti-racist teaching into a STEM community and classroom in this three-session workshop.

### **Quantum Ideas Virtual Summer School**

*Deadline: April 15th, 2021*

Software-Tailored Architectures for Quantum Codesign (STAQ) at Duke University is hosting an online summer school in the field quantum computing. The summer school will be held from June 7-11, 2021 and student support is funded by NSF. [Registration is required.](#)

### **Chicago Quantum Recruiting Forum**

*Date: April 23, 2021: 12:00 – 4:00 PM CST*

The Chicago Quantum Exchange will be hosting a recruitment forum for trainees interested in exploring quantum career opportunities and CQE partners to share workforce opportunities and access attendee resumes. This event will bring together current quantum experts in industry and academia with undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs from across the CQE. The program will include a panel of experts from various quantum industries, including JPMChase, Microsoft, TOPTICA Photonics, and Verizon. You can learn more about the event and register [here](#).

### **Morgridge Entrepreneurial Bootcamp for Grad Students**

*Deadline: May 13th, 2021*

The Morgridge Entrepreneurial Bootcamp for graduate students will be online for 2021. During the weeks of June 7-11 and June 14-18, students will have the opportunity to participate in a daily session from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. that will include case analyses, lectures, and class exercises for which there will be readings, class assignments and lively interaction with instructors and classmates. [Sign up here to apply.](#)

### **Dissertation Writing Camp**

*Date: May 24-28, 2021*

Make significant progress on your dissertations by drafting a substantial amount of writing in a structured, collegial virtual environment. Applications are due by Friday, April 9, 2021 and require an advisor endorsement. Visit the [Graduate School Dissertation Help website](#) to apply.

### **Summer Computational Physics Program: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

*Date: June 23rd - July 16th, 2021*

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute will be hosting a boot camp and summer school on computational physics with particular emphasis on applications that require high performance computing. This program will be held entirely online and is open to advanced undergraduates and all levels of graduate students. you can apply for the program [here](#).

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## **Employment Opportunities**

### **Q-Next Quantum Information Science Postdoctoral Appointees**

The [Q-NEXT Center](#) will be hosting quantum information science postdoctoral openings with start dates in 2021. The postdoctoral scholars will have the opportunity to work at Argonne National Laboratory on projects of strategic national importance in quantum information science. For questions contact [Martin Suchara](#) and to apply, visit [here](#).

### **Ohio State University: John Wilkins Postdoctoral Fellowship**

The Center for Emergent Materials (CEM), an NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center at The Ohio State University, seeks motivated candidates for the John Wilkins Postdoctoral Fellowship. For questions contact [P. Chris Hammel](#) and to apply, visit [here](#).

### **Princeton University Data Scientist**

Princeton Computer Science is seeking a Data Scientist to work with its world-renowned faculty and students to solve biomedical research questions using novel computational approaches. For questions contact [Ellen DiPippo](#).

### **Azimuth Corporation Research Scientist**

Azimuth Corporation in Dayton OH is searching for a research scientist to apply machine learning solutions to problems in quantum information science. Please email any questions, or forward a resume to [Dr. Perry Rice](#).

### **Zurich Instruments Internship Opportunities**

*Date: Summer 2021*

We are happy to share that Zurich Instruments will be offering two internship opportunities exclusively for [CQE students](#) starting summer 2021. You can contact [Maja Lang](#) for more information.

### **Chicago Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship in Theoretical Quantum Science, UChicago**

*Deadline: July 15th, 2021*

Fellowships are awarded for a duration of two years to outstanding young scientists and engineers, with the possibility of a third-year support. Please submit your application [here](#).

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## Funding Opportunities

### The Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR)

*Deadline: May 5th, 2021*

The SCGSR program supports supplemental awards to outstanding U.S. graduate students to conduct part of their graduate thesis research at a DOE national laboratory/facility.

### Spring 2021 Student Research Grant Competition awards

*Deadline: June 30th, 2021*

Funding for these awards generously comes from the Vilas Trust. Award levels are \$1,200 to \$1,500 for Research Travel and \$1,200 for Conference Presentation funds. Please apply [here](#).

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## Useful Links

[Dates and Deadlines from the Office of the Registrar](#)

[Warrant Request Form](#)

[Graduate School Degree Deadlines](#)

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**Connect with us!**



[Department of Physics](#)

1150 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706

*This newsletter is for Ph.D. students in Physics at UW–Madison; we update the mailing list at the start of each semester. Please contact [phddigest@physics.wisc.edu](mailto:phddigest@physics.wisc.edu) with any questions.*