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Physics Digest

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

May 21st, 2021

Announcements

Physics Digest Going Biweekly for Summer 2021

The PhD Digest will go to a biweekly format (posting every other Friday) for the duration of the Summer. Weekly PhD Digests will resume in August. Please contact [Jackson Kennedy](#) with any questions.

Payroll Schedule Change Coming in July

UW System employees, including graduate students, who are paid monthly will move to a biweekly payroll schedule beginning in July 2021. Visit the [Single Payroll resources web page](#) for frequently asked questions, budget planning information and the 2021 payroll schedules. If you have automatic payments set up (for example, rent, car loan, utilities, etc.), review your monthly budget and prepare for biweekly paychecks. You may want to adjust your automatic payments to match your biweekly paycheck amounts. Watch for emails beginning in May that will provide reminders and information on contributions and withholdings that may be impacted by the new biweekly schedule. Finally, the UW System will be hosting three single payroll virtual town hall meetings in May, which can be accessed [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination & Campus Operations Update

The Office of the Chancellor [sent out an update last week](#) concerning summer building access, ongoing health protocols, testing and vaccinations, and travel and event policies. Additionally, UHS has sent out an [email about the COVID-19 vaccine and community safety precautions](#). As a reminder, University Health Services (UHS) has COVID-19 vaccine appointments available for employees and students. UHS is also now able to offer vaccines to anyone who lives, works or studies in Wisconsin, including friends and family of UW–Madison students and employees. For more information and to schedule a vaccine appointment, click [here](#).

Spring 2021 Grading Policies Updated: SD/UD Available for Grad Students Through May 21st

UW-Madison is implementing a very similar disruption grading policy in spring 2021 as it did in spring 2020, with the amendment noted below that UD (Unsatisfactory-Disruption) be changed to (University Disruption-No Credit). You can elect to convert your grades now through May 21st following [these steps](#). Feel free to contact Michelle Holland if you have any questions regarding converting grades this semester.

Summer and Fall 2021 Enrollment Happening Now!

[Summer 2021 enrollment began on April 5th and Fall 2021 enrollment began 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](#).

Thesis Defenses

Discrete Non-Abelian Symmetries Beyond the Standard Model

Date: June 3rd, 2021; 10:30 AM CST

Ariel Rock (Lisa Everett, Faculty Advisor), Physics PhD Graduate Student, will defend their thesis.

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.

Professional Development

Quantum Information for Mathematics, Economics, and Statistic Workshop

Date: May 24th-28th, 2021

The Institute for Statistical and Mathematical Innovation (IMSI) will be hosting a workshop on the creation of new quantum algorithms that are targeted toward real-world problems, e.g., in finance, chemistry, and medicine. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Hacking the Academic Job Market (In a Pandemic)

Date: May 26th, 2021; 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM CST

Karen Kelsky (from [The Professor Is In](#)) will contextualize information about the academic job search within the COVID-19 financial catastrophe in higher education. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Summer Teaching Institute at the University of British Columbia

Date: June 14th - June 23rd, 2021; 11:00 AM - 7 PM CST

The CIRTL Summer Institute is an intensive teaching development institute that combines an emphasis on learning evidence and theory-based approaches to teaching and learning with the opportunity to apply those theories in practice. In this institute, grad students and postdocs will gain foundational knowledge in evidence-based teaching and learning theory and apply insights in three mini-teaching sessions using an experiential learning based lesson planning approach. Over the course of 8 days and a mix of synchronous

sessions and asynchronous work, you will explore topics like novice/expert learning, evidence-based approaches to goals and objectives, assessment, active learning, and inclusivity.

Transforming Your Research Into Teaching Short Course

Date: Wednesdays, June 16th - July 28th, 2021; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

This is a hybrid course focused on learning the skills of course design and developing a college-level course based on the area of your research expertise. In this course, you will be matched with peers across the country who are developing courses in similar areas for peer review and inspiration. You will also have a learning community, either based out of your institution, or a cross-network learning community to have weekly synchronous meetings for discussion of your projects and what you're learning. The course runs for 6 weeks (with an additional week for project presentations), has one one-hour meeting per week, and requires around 1.5–2 hours of self-directed video and project development work per week. To register, click [here](#).

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](#).

UW-Madison Teaching Academy: 2021 TA-LEaP

Date: August 25th-26th, 2021

LEaP into teaching! Learn the basics of how we learn along with the 7 things UW-Madison students want most from their instructors! Explore the basics of syllabus, assignment and rubric design. Discuss assessment and learn the most common mistakes instructors make on exams, and how to avoid them! Learn simple active learning techniques that you can apply in your classroom immediately and start developing materials for your own course while you learn! Become part of a community of practice with colleagues in all disciplines and get connected to other teaching and learning programs across the campus through the Teaching and Learning Collaborative.

Employment Opportunities

Thermo Fisher: PhD Scientist

Thermo Fisher Scientific is hiring a scientist at their Madison site, which builds Raman, FT-IR and X-ray spectrometers and microscopes. Qualified candidates who have recently graduated with a PhD will be considered and experience in spectroscopy is not required. For more information, contact recent UW Physics alum [Julian Irwin](#) or apply [here](#).

University of Wisconsin - River Falls: Associate Lecturer

UW-River Falls will be hiring an associate lecturer position to teach algebra-based introductory physics (face-to-face) in a studio lab setting. The appointment could be for both Fall and Spring depending on the candidate. For more information, contact [Dr. Suruj Seunarine](#) or apply [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Funding Opportunities

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](#).

Useful Links

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

[Warrant Request Form](#)

[Graduate School Degree Deadlines](#)

Connect with us!



[Department of Physics](#)

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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 with any questions.