

Physics Ph.D. Graduates



Sheh Lit Chang

Ph.D. in Physics



Sheh Lit Chang specialized in physics education research. He is keen to discover students' difficulties in understanding physics and help them to learn physics better. He would like to express his gratitude for the support from the faculty and fellow graduate students whom he had worked with all these years. He appreciates their guidance and have learnt a lot from them. He will continue to work hard in his future endeavors.

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Lisa M. Goodhew
Doctor of Philosophy
Physics – Physics Education Research
Summer 2020

As an undergraduate at Seattle Pacific University, Lisa decided to major in physics and minor in studio art in order to gain a solid foundation for the career in architecture she planned to pursue after graduation. After a few physics classes, she realized how much she enjoyed thinking about physics and working with classmates to solve problems. After a summer REU in physics education research and a year as a Learning Assistant, Lisa decided to pursue a PhD in PER.

Lisa found a home with the University of Washington PER group in the fall of 2015, and was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to support her work with Dr. Paula Heron and collaborators in spring 2016. Lisa is incredibly grateful for Paula's support, advice, and flexibility throughout her graduate school career, and for the time and mentorship given by many members of the PEG. She looks forward to collaborating with Paula and the UW PEG after graduation. Lisa would also like to thank Stamatis Vokos, Rachel Scherr, and most especially Amy Robertson for their continued support, care, and mentorship, along with family and friends who have helped to make the graduate school journey joyful.

Alaina Green

Ph.D. in Physics

In theoretical physics there are partial differential equations, and for those we have Green's functions to help us find the solution. In experimental atomic physics, we have unilluminated atoms and stationary electrons. To solve this problem, we have our own Green's function: Alaina Green.

Alaina has been a kernel for the progress of the mixtures project by building lasers and electronics. In the spirit of her alma mater Lewis and Clark College, Alaina explores uncharted territory to understand the formation of ultracold molecules.

In addition to having the spirit of a pioneer, Alaina is compassionate, adaptable, accepting, devoted, and imaginative, and for that, we were very lucky to have her! Outside of the lab, Alaina might be found biking to or from the lab, or gardening to prepare food that she will take into lab. Let me remind the reader that it's the Age of the Pisces, therefore we anticipate great things from Alaina.



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William M. Holden

Ph.D. in Physics

Graduation quarter:
Autumn 2019

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH



William Holden started in the Seidler group Autumn 2015, where he immediately began work on extending the laboratory x-ray spectroscopy techniques to x-rays of lower energy. His work culminated in the world's first laboratory-based, high-resolution spectrometer capable of measuring sulfur and phosphorus x-ray emission spectra at count rates and resolution comparable to synchrotron performance. He continued development and improvement of the low-energy spectrometer, and utilized it to complete novel studies of sulfur- and phosphorous-containing samples, such as a recent study of InP quantum dots.

After graduating, William will be working with easyXAFS, LLC, a local startup company created to increase access to laboratory x-ray spectroscopy techniques through commercialization of the technology.

William would like to thank his wife Izumi for her support and encouragement, as well as his labmates Evan, Alex, Ryan, Oliver, and John, and his advisor Jerry.



Natalie Klco

PhD in Physics Spring 2020

Natalie has spent recent years pursuing the basic questions: Is a controllable quantum system sufficient to efficiently simulate the subatomic world? And if so, how do we make this vision a reality?

For many intellectually inspiring interactions, Natalie thanks her advisor, Martin Savage,, the Institute for Nuclear Theory, and the community of physicists at UW.

In the Fall, Natalie is excited to join the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter (IQIM) as a Burke Fellow at Caltech.

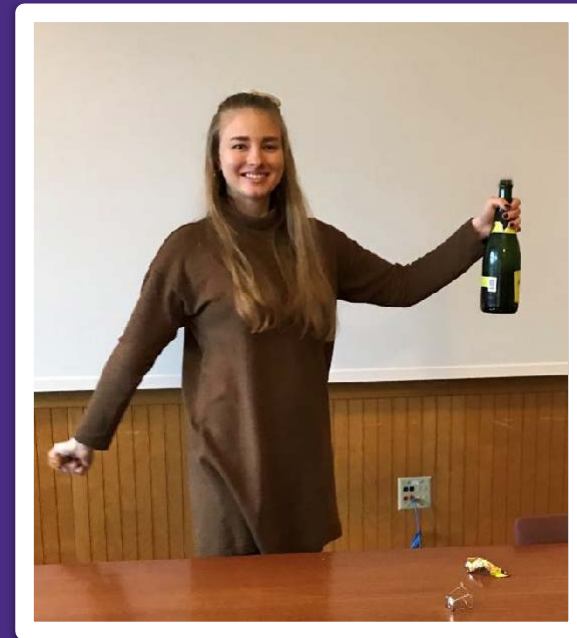


Katie McAlpine

Ph.D. in Physics

Katie McAlpine is experienced in optics and quantum sciences. Katie joined Subhadeep Gupta lab after moving to rainy Seattle from sunny Florida. Before moving to Seattle, she also studied physics at New College of Florida, a school known for narrative evaluations and barefoot students. While Katie has since used her impressive collection of sweaters and beanies to blend in with the locals, her Floridian upbringing remains salient as her radiant personality brought sunshine to the physics lab.

Katie graduated from the University of Washington's physics PhD program in Autumn 2019, where she did theoretical and experimental work in the sub-field of atom interferometry. At UW, Katie helped found a student organization called Physicists for Inclusion and Equity (PIE), focusing on making the physics department a welcoming space for all.





Adam Richie-Halford

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

Spring 2020

Adam studied the BCS-BEC crossover and infinite neutron matter using quantum Monte Carlo simulations on the world's largest supercomputers. He feels tremendously fortunate to have worked alongside brilliant and caring people, both in his cohort and in the faculty and staff. He is starting a postdoctoral position at the nexus of machine learning and neuroimaging at the UW eScience Institute.

Adam thanks his advisor, Aurel Bulgac, for his guidance and patience, his collaborators Joaquín Drut, Gabriel Wlazłowski, Jeremy Holt, and Kenny Roche for sharing their own physical intuition, his supervisory committee for their hard work in making his dissertation and defense better, and his friends and family for their love, support, and humor over many years of study.

Michael P. Ross

Ph.D. in Physics

Michael Ross received his PhD with the Eöt-Wash group working on inertial rotation sensors for the LIGO gravitational wave observatories and torsion balance tests of gravity. His dissertation work has allowed the LIGO observatories to operate during high winds increasing the number of detected gravitational waves. He has also worked on novel calibration techniques for LIGO, rotational seismology, low-frequency gravitational wave detection, and cryogenic tests of the equivalence principle.



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Jesse Stryker

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics:
Quantum Field Theory
Summer 2020

Hometown: Palm Springs, California

Jesse has always been fascinated with learning about the underlying structure of matter and energy. He excelled as a physics major at Arizona State University, which compelled him to further deepen his understanding of Nature as a graduate student. At the UW, he has enjoyed the ability to use quantum mechanics daily as a tool for interpreting the microscopic behavior of particles, as well as for the future of computation. Next fall, he will start as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Maryland, working at the interface of nuclear physics and quantum information.

Jesse thanks David Kaplan and Martin Savage for instilling in him a high research standard to strive for, and for encouraging him to pursue projects that nurtured both his imagination and his persistence in finding intuitive physical interpretations; Dorota G., Natalie K., and Michael W. for providing him with key stabilizing interactions; and his family and friends for their role in making his life balanced.

Additional Ph.D. Graduates

Kyle J. Aitken

Andrew Baumgartner

Emily Clark

Daniel Dylewsky

Charles S. Fieseler

John G. Lee

Jennifer F. Lilieholm



Ying-Ting Lin

Xiayu Linpeng

Rachel Osofsky

David Sommer

Tun Sheng Tan

Nathan Wilson

Bert Xue

Wenjin Zhao

Master of Science Graduates





Michael A. Esuabana

Casey Ferris

Michael Greiner

Aziz A. Khan

Kris Knutsen

Thomas Erik Loop

Christopher Michael Provencher