Welcome

The Physics Observer is a periodic bulletin of happenings in and around UW Physics. Our goal is to share information of notable happenings, events, and news associated with the department. Please feel free to pass this newsletter to anyone who may be interested. Readers wishing to subscribe, or unsubscribe, may do so here. Previous newsletters may be found on the physics website at The Physics Observer Newsletter. Information for future editions may be sent to the editor, Alexis Hall.

Chair's Corner (L. Yaffe)

The department is fortunate to have recently received multiple significant donations, some from long-time generous donors supporting graduate student recruitment, our Frontiers of Physics public lecture series, and the Ann Nelson professorship, as well as several new donors. Daniel L. Cox, UW Physics B.S. alumnus (class of ’79) has established a new gift fund dedicated to undergraduate student support, especially those who are first generation to college or have experienced educational disadvantage. And Melanie, Constance and Bruce McDermott have established a new gift fund in honor of their mother Lillian, dedicated to the support of our Physics Education Group. I am deeply grateful to all our donors.

I am also pleased to note the recent completion of renovations on our “hbar lounge”, next to the Physics main department office and now available for small gatherings and study groups, office hours, etc., as well as a new small classroom which will be used for graduate and special topics classes, oral exams, and seminars.

Research Awards & Grants

❖ Professor Subhadeep Gupta received $12K from the National Science Foundation for support for students to attend the 2022 APS-DAMOP Conference.
❖ Professor Henry Lubatti received $217K from Brookhaven National Laboratory for Maintenance and Operation of the WBS 3.6 TDAQ Subsystem.
❖ Professor Gerald Seidler received $65K from Argonne National Laboratory for Machine Learning in X-ray Spectroscopies.
Department Resources & News

**February is Black History Month** and serves as a reminder for an ongoing process of learning, dialogue, and celebration of the African American and Black community. Start off your celebration with the following resources:

- Read AIP Black History Month News
- Check out upcoming National Society of Black Physicists Profiles
- Attend virtual and local events celebrating Black History Month
- Read the CFDs blog post honoring Black History Month

**Title IX course rolling out to existing employees:** Husky Prevention & Response is a new online course on preventing and responding to sex- and gender-based violence and harassment. UW employees will be assigned to take it on a unit-by-unit schedule throughout 2022.

**Attend an email deleting party:** This is your chance to finally get those ROT (redundant, obsolete and transitory) emails out of your inbox in a live, hands-on event with Records Management Services’ ROT SQUAD on **Feb. 15 at 1 p.m.**

**Refund of WA Cares Fund premiums:** Recent state action means WA Cares Fund implementation has been delayed until July 1, 2023. UW employees will begin receiving refunds of collected premiums in the **Feb. 25 paycheck.**

**Proposed changes to parking rates and funding model:** Join a public hearing on Feb. 22 with UW Transportation Services to share your feedback.

**UWCFD raises nearly $2 million to support nonprofits:** This past fall, faculty, staff and retirees came together to contribute $1,958,811 to the UW Combined Fund Drive’s Giving for Good 2021 campaign. Learn more about how our community has benefited from your generosity.

**Colloquia**

For the first six weeks of this quarter, the physics department is hosting **Colloquia** twice each week, on **Mondays and Wednesdays**; the speakers will be attending the SPS Lunchbox at 12:30 on the day of their colloquium. Some of these speakers will be candidates for a faculty position in the department.

**Provost’s Town Hall, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 3–4 p.m.** (Livestream lecture, special guest and Q&A): Join UW Provost and Executive Vice President Mark Richards as he discusses excellence in teaching and learning; advancing diversity, equity and inclusion; and post-pandemic challenges and opportunities.

Registration open for the **APS April meeting**, “Quarks to Cosmos”, April 9-12, NYC.

**Funding Announcements**

Applications open for **Idaho National Laboratory Graduate Fellowships in clean energy and nuclear energy development**. Application deadline **February 13, 2022**.

Pre-proposals solicited for **Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering**, 875K, early career applicants. Internal deadline **February 18, 2022**.

Applications solicited for **Transatlantic collaboration proposals to the Thomas Jefferson Fund of the FACE Foundation**. The Thomas Jefferson Fund issues a yearly call for proposals to fund projects led by pairs of young American and French researchers at the beginning of their careers. Grants of $20,000 over two years are split equally between the French and the American teams. Deadline **February 24, 2022**.
Applications open for Northwest Nanotechnology Infrastructure seed grants. Up to 10K in laboratory/equipment time. Deadline March 1, 2022.

**Job Opportunities**

- **Visiting Professor in Physics**, New York University Abu Dhabi Division of Science.
- **Tenured/tenure track faculty**, School of Applied and Engineering Physics, Cornell.
- **Program manager**, Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, DOE Office of Science.
- **Laboratory director**, Undergraduate Quantum Education, U. Chicago.
- **University Professor** in Mathematical Physics, Johannes Gutenberg Univ., Mainz.

**CERN Switzerland:**

- CERN-HITRIpplus Doctoral Studentship
- Technical Studentships in Applied Physics
- Scientific Associateship
- Agile Team Lead
- Specialist for Simulation and Modelling of Radiation Detection
- Senior Fellowship in Quantum-HEP
- Senior Research Fellowship in Theoretical and Experimental Physics
- Postdoc Fellowship in Theoretical Physics (Non-Member State)
- Junior Fellowship in Experimental/Theoretical Physics
- Project Leader of the CERN Neutrino Platform
- Senior Applied Fellowship in Experimental/Theoretical Physics
- Applied Superconductivity Scientist
- Applied Physicist in R&D of Advanced Gaseous Detector Technologies

**Selected Publications**


**UW Coronavirus Response Information**

**Where to pick up free, high-quality masks:** The UW is expanding the distribution of high-quality masks to the University community beginning Jan. 31. These include KN95, KF94, N95 and surgical masks, all of which have been approved by the Dept. of EH&S.

**COVID-19 public health requirements and guidance for UW personnel and students**
Follow a flowchart from UW Environmental Health & Safety to learn when you should get tested for COVID-19, how to report COVID-19 illness and close contact exposure, and when to stay home.

**Omicron testing: What test to use when, how and why**

UW Medicine laboratory medicine expert Dr. Geoffrey Baird breaks down the data to give you straightforward answers on how and when to test for COVID-19 during the Omicron surge.

**Free COVID-19 home test kits available**

Each household can receive four individual rapid antigen test kits from the federal government, delivered by the U.S. Postal Service starting in late January.

IHME: **COVID-19 will continue but the end of the pandemic is near**, Christopher J L Murray, Published: January 19, 2022.