



The Physics Observer

September 3rd, 2020

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UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ January 25-28, 2021:
[Axions Beyond Gen 2](#)

➤ July 8-10, 2021:
[Summitting the Unknown: New Physics, Celebrating the Legacy of Ann Nelson](#)

➤ July 11-20, 2021:
[Snowmass 2021: High Energy Physics Community Planning](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [@uwphysics](#)

Facebook: Link [here](#).

YouTube: Link [here](#).

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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)

Many noteworthy events, both scientific and political, are happening under the umbrella of "Quantum Information Science." Associate Professor Kai-Mei Fu has been appointed to the [National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee](#). Affiliate Assistant Professor Nathan Wiebe is part of the Google AI Collaboration with a paper on quantum chemistry featured on the cover of the latest issue of [Science](#) (with a nice summary [perspective](#)). Professor Martin Savage and the University of Washington are part of the [Quantum Science Center](#) led by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, one of five just-announced [National QIS Research Centers](#) funded by the US Department of Energy.

Congratulations to all involved!

Milestones

- Professor [Xiaodong Xu](#) has been reappointed to the Boeing Distinguished Professorship in Physics.
- Introductory Lab Manager [Jack Ryan Olsen](#) has completed 5 years of service with UW.
- Associate Professor [Paul A. Wiggins](#) has completed 10 years of service with UW.
- Professor [Leslie Rosenberg](#) has completed 15 years of service with UW.
- Fiscal Specialist [Huimei Wu](#) has completed 20 years of service with UW.
- Professor [Paula Heron](#) has completed 25 years of service with UW.
- Professor [Peter S. Shaffer](#) has completed 35 years of service with UW.
- Professor [Gerald A. Miller](#) has completed 45 years of service with UW.

Research Awards & Grants

[Associate Professor Boris Blinov](#) received 157K from the National Science Foundation for experimental study of quantum jumps with a single trapped ion.

[Professor Blayne Heckel](#) received 146K from the National Science Foundation for the search for an electric dipole moment of 199Hg .

[Professor Jens Gundlach](#) received 100K and 700K from the National Science Foundation for Sensors for Low-Frequency Improvements in Advanced LIGO and Probing Fundamental Physics with Gravitational Experiments.

[Professor Xiaodong Xu](#) received 820K from US Department of Energy for Programmable Quantum Materials (Pro-QM).

Department Resources & News

[COVID-19 Safety Training](#) must be completed by all University personnel before or upon returning to work on site at a University location, even if personnel have been performing critical work on site at a UW work location. University units (e.g., medical centers) may provide their own training that covers the elements of the University's COVID-19 Safety Training. University units that wish to provide their own training to personnel may download and utilize the [Back to the Workplace training slides](#). Units that provide their own COVID-19 safety training for returning to work must document and retain attendance records as required by Governor Inslee's Safe Start Plan.

[Starting Aug. 26, Zoom requires meetings to use a passcode or waiting room](#). Zoom will require you to enable the waiting room or a passcode to prevent unauthorized entry and interruption of online meetings.

[Remote instruction support for instructors on the Seattle campus](#). With the school year approaching, learn best practices, important policies and essential aspects of effective remote instruction.

[Learn and grow with autumn offerings for staff](#). Join dozens of live and self-paced online sessions covering topics ranging from diversity and inclusion to productivity, communications, fiscal procedures and leadership.

Assorted Talks

The [2020 Fall Meeting of the Division of Nuclear Physics of the American Physical Society](#) will be held **Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 2020**. The meeting originally scheduled to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana will now be a virtual meeting due to Covid-19 pandemic. **Registration rates increase after September 15th**.

[Northwest Quantum Nexus Workshop on Quantum Programming in Theory, Experiment and the Classroom](#) (Multiple speakers, University of Washington) **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 - 9:00am to Friday, September 18, 2020 - 5:00pm Virtual** (Microsoft Teams).

November 9-13, 2020, [62nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics](#). **Register by October 30th**.

November 22-24, 2020, [73rd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics \(Virtual\)](#). **Register by October 31st for the discounted rate**.

Funding Announcements

Applications open for [2021 Sloan Research Fellowships](#) for early career faculty. See [here](#). Deadline **September 15th**.

Applications open for the autumn [2020 round of UW Royalty Research Fund](#) grants. See [here](#). Application deadline: **5pm, September 28th**.

Applications open for [Facebook Research PhD Fellowships](#). See [here](#); areas of interest include machine learning, Application deadline: **October 1st**.

Applications open for [Radcliffe Fellowships](#). See [here](#). Deadline **October 1st**.

The [Provost Bridge Funding Program Awards](#) were announced and are a maximum of \$50k from the Provost, matched 50/50 with the Department and the Dean's Office, for a possible total of \$100k. The Provost's Office provides bridge funding to support faculty to span the gap in critical research programs. Bridge funding requests should be submitted to [Steve Majeski](#) by **5pm, Monday, October 26th**. The internal review process will take place and the priority list will be submitted to the Office of Research by the deadline. For information, see [here](#).

Applications open for Two Sigma PhD Fellowships. Deadline **November 6th**. See the details of the fellowship [here](#) and [here](#).

Job Opportunities

- [Head of Physics and Astronomy](#) Purdue University Department of Physics and Astronomy
 - [Assistant Professor of Physics](#) University of Chicago Department of Physics
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Selected Publications

"Hartree-Fock on a superconducting qubit quantum computer," N. Wiebe et al., [Read here](#).

"Nuclear matrix elements from lattice QCD for electroweak and beyond-Standard-Model processes," M. Savage et al., [Read here](#).

"How dynamical quantum memories forget," L. Fidkowski et al., [Read here](#).

"Discovery vs. Precision in Nuclear Physics- A Tale of Three Scales," G. Miller, [Read here](#).

"Conductivity of superconductors in the flux flow regime," M. Smith, A. Andreev, B. Spivak, [Read here](#).

"Spontaneous valley polarization of interacting carriers in a monolayer semiconductor," N. Wilson, X. Xu, et al., [Read here](#).

UW Coronavirus Response Information

COVID-19 [frequently asked questions](#).

Check [this](#) webpage for updates on the status of UW's campus. Right now, we are in Phase 2. This means that:

- [Masks are required](#) on all campuses.
- Telework is strongly encouraged for all non-critical personnel, and all in-person work must adhere to all appropriate safety measures and unit [COVID-19 Prevention Plans](#).
- In-person instruction is not allowed except for essential clinical instruction that has been pre-approved.
- Gatherings of more than five people are not permitted.

View the **Learning Spaces COVID-19 Prevention Operational Guidelines** for the Seattle campus below or [download them as a PDF](#). Guidelines last updated July 1, 2020.

[Hiking during COVID-19](#): Learn about recommended guidelines to safely navigate hiking and outdoor adventure in order to protect yourself and others on the trail.

[Questions about the UW's face covering requirements?](#): Wearing a face covering protects yourself and others. Learn about the UW's requirements, and get answers to your frequently asked questions.