

# Welcome to the Physics and Astronomy Graduate Program!

-Matt Dawber, GPD, August 21, 2023

# The Programs

**PhD and MSI** students are supported by Teaching Assistantships. This is a serious commitment of time and energy. We will be spending some of this week on training you for your role as TAs.

Besides teaching, **PhD students** should concentrate on fulfilling the course requirements and getting to know the research groups in the department and aim to work with one of them in their first summer.

As **MA students** do not generally teach they should pursue a balance of courses and research. Be careful not to overstretch yourself by taking too many demanding courses!

**MSI students** follow a specific program, you should work with Prof. Hal Metcalf to build this.

# The Department

## Governance

Chair: Chang Kee Jung

Committees: Admissions Committee, Graduate Committee, Mentoring Committee, Exam Committee, Diversity Committee

Undergraduate Program Director: Dominik Schneble

Graduate Program Director: Matt Dawber


Faculty Meetings: meets 4-6 times a year



## Chang Kee Jung

7 mutual friends



 Friends

 Message



# The Department

## Staff

### Main office

- Don Sheehan (Assistant Director of the Graduate Program)
- Diane Diaferia (Assistant Director of the Undergraduate Program)
- Jin Bentley (Business Manager)
- Vicky Grove (Grants Manager)
- Nathan Leoce-Schappin, Assistant to the Chair
- Frank Chin, Director of the Physical Laboratories
- Rich Berscak, Building Manager

### Instructional Laboratories

- Bent Nielsen
- Kanishka Wijesekara

# The Department

## Faculty

Regular Faculty – the ones you are most likely to encounter teaching your courses and conducting research on-site in our department

Adjunct Faculty – people whose primary appointment is outside Stony Brook, frequently at BNL, but have an appointment to allow them to supervise graduate students

Affiliated Faculty - people whose primary appointment is at Stony Brook but not in our department, but have an appointment to allow them to supervise graduate students

## Students

What this is really all about. Your education is our mission and we need you for our research!

# The University

## Graduate School

- Dean: Celia Marshik
- Assistant Deans: Thomas Schoenthaler (Finance), Melissa Jordan (Student Services)
- Student Services: Ally Brasino, Colin Carron, Coleen O'Toole
- Graduate Student Advocate: Alexandra Checkers

## International Services

- Assistant Dean: Lindsy Walker
- VIS Director: Meghan Gambino

## Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

- President: Adithya Muralli
- P&A Senators: Karol Dyro, Sabina Sagynbayeva

## Graduate Student Employee Union

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## Stony Brook Research Assistants Union

# The University

## University Senate

- President: Richard Larson
- Graduate Council: Approves all the rules you will be living by

## Executive

- President: Maurie McInnis
- Provost: Carl Lejuez
- CAS Interim Dean: Axel Drees (P&A)



# Research Groups

- Accelerator Physics
- Astronomy
- Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics
- C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics
- Condensed Matter Physics
- High Energy Physics (Experiment)
- Institute for Advanced Computational Science
- Nuclear Physics - Experiment
- Nuclear Physics - Theory
- Physical Biology - Laufer Center
- Simons Center for Geometry and Physics

## Other Opportunities

Laboratories outside Stony Brook at which you might do your thesis research

- Brookhaven Laboratory (BNL): RHIC, NSLS-II, Center for Functional Nanomaterials
- Cold Spring Harbor (CSH): biological sciences
- CERN: Atlas
- Neutrinos: DUNE, multiple experiments in Japan, IceCube

# Your role

- **Student:** Pass exams, register for courses, do homework, pass tests, keep grade point average, watch for deadlines.
- **Teacher:** Teach undergraduate lab courses (occasionally recitations), grade exams and homework.
- **Researcher:** Focus your interest, find an advisor, learn a specialized field, do your own research
- **Citizen:** Be involved socially, vote at elections, help other students, be supportive and understanding, do not tolerate academic or scientific dishonesty.
- **US Citizens or Permanent Residents:** Become a NY State Resident as soon as possible! Otherwise you will be responsible for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.
- **Keep your eye on the ball.** Your main goal is to get your degree as soon as possible

# Mentoring Program

We have a mentoring program to provide guidance and support. Kick off on Thursday!

## Information

Webpage: Look at degree descriptions and FAQs

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/grad-physics-astronomy/degrees/>

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/grad-physics-astronomy/resources/FAQ.php>

Course Webpages can be found from the table at

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/grad-physics-astronomy/courses/>

Past comps exams

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/grad-physics-astronomy/resources/Comps.php>

# Questions

Ask Don or me if you have any questions. Tell us if you have any problems. The sooner we know about something the better we can deal with it, especially at the beginning of semester when we are busy and there are a lot of deadlines.

Visa problems usually will require you to consult with VIS. You can tell us about the problems, but there is little we can do without VIS action.

# Orientation Videos

There are 7 videos from the Graduate School at:

[https://grad.stonybrook.edu/current\\_students/orientation\\_videos.php](https://grad.stonybrook.edu/current_students/orientation_videos.php)

- Introduction
- Policies and Procedures (2 parts)
- Health Insurance
- Sexual Harassment and Discrimination
- Library and Technology
- Graduate Student Life

If you have not watched these do so as soon as possible

# Grad School Training

The Graduate School, in collaboration with CELT, will again offer virtual TA training and virtual new student success workshops for new graduate students joining us this Fall semester. New grad students can see an overview of the Graduate School's onboarding steps in our [New Student Roadmap](#).

**1. TA Training:** As a reminder, the Graduate School expects all doctoral students to participate in TA training once during their graduate tenure, as well as any Master's students who will TA. TA training will open in Brightspace on July 10th this year to give students even more time to complete the one-time, approximately 6-hour training.

**2. A Roadmap to Success in Grad School:** These student success workshops are open to any new grad student. They are not required but highly recommended, and this year will be offered twice on Wednesday, August 23rd, once for Master's students at 12pm ET and once for doctoral students at 10am ET.



# IT

The [Solar System](#) is a WEB portal for many of the University's services. It is used for class search and registration, to access course grades and an unofficial transcript, housing requests, to manage personal information, etc. Your Solar account is created when you get your Stony Brook ID number.

[Brightspace](#) is a class management interface. Using this system, instructors can post homeworks and mid-semester grades, send emails to the students, among other functions. Graduate students will most likely also have to learn to use Brightspace as instructors of laboratory courses.

Email at Stony Brook is run by the Google email system. Details can be found on the [Google Mail Website](#). All students get an email account in the format [firstname.lastname@stonybrook.edu](#).

# IT

- The University has "SINC sites" with computers installed for use by the students (these sites are used mostly by undergraduates).
- There is free file storage space up to 2GB on the University's servers ( [MySBfiles](#) ).
- Various software is available for free or at reduced cost, please consult the [DOIT Software Catalog](#) to find if something you need is available and the best way to get it
- For general productivity software, [Microsoft Office](#) can be downloaded for free or you have access to unlimited storage on [Google Apps](#) through your Stony Brook Google account. Of course the open source purists among you can just go and get [LibreOffice](#) and leave the University out of it!
- If you want to make a website the easiest way is probably to use [SB You](#).

# IT

## First Steps

WolfieNet is the campus wireless network which you will want to get connected to. You should also set up your Solar Account and NetID

Go to <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/wolfienet> for instructions

WolfieNet can also be accessed through Eduroam and I recommend setting this up so that you have access in many places when you travel (or are at BNL). <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/eduroam>

# Wired network access

To connect your computer to the network, you need an IP address.

To get an IP address in the ESS building, email Doug Swesty (Douglas.Swesty@stonybrook.edu).

To connect to the wired internet in the Physics and/or 6th floor of Math buildings you need to register your computer (in fact your computer's network card). To do this, send a request to Dean Schamberger (dean.schamberger@stonybrook.edu) with the following information:

1. Your full name and status (graduate student, visitor, etc.)
2. Your office location and telephone number.
3. Your research group if you belong to one.
4. The type of computer (laptop or desktop).
5. Is the computer for personal use or part of the research group, ie, who owns it?
6. The name you want for your computer
7. The operating system the computer runs (linux, Unix, Windows, Macintosh, etc.).
8. The MAC ("Media Access Control") or physical address is a hardware address that uniquely identifies each node of a network.

To get the physical address on a Linux or Macintosh computer, run the `ifconfig` command. The physical address is six pairs of hex digits separated by colons, labeled "ether" under "eno:" Example: "ether 00:25:4b:b1:58:fo"

# Email

You have a generic email address (usually Firstname.Lastname@stonybrook.edu) that directs email to your Stony Brook Google Mail account. You all have such an account and all university email goes to this account

**WE WILL USE THE GENERIC EMAIL ADDRESS IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS, AND IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THIS ACCOUNT OR TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MAIL IS FORWARDED TO AN ACCOUNT THAT YOU READ!!!**

Not reading emails from us, course instructors and advisors and replying to them in a timely fashion usually will not help you.

Unfortunately, faculty are not always great at responding to email. Often this is because they are buried by massive amounts of it. If you have not had a response to an email in a couple of days, please go ahead and politely remind them.

## Video conferencing

The most frequently used software for video conferencing and online classes is currently [Zoom](#). You have access to this through your Stony Brook NetID and Password.

An alternative that some faculty may use is [Google Meet](#).

# Copy Machines

- To use one of the copy machines for research or teaching purposes please see the main office for the key to the copy machine room (P-115)
- Please report any difficulties with the copy machine to the Main Office.

# ID Card

You have a campus ID number that will allow you to log-on to the SOLAR where class rosters/grades, etc. information can be accessed.

You should as soon as possible get a campus card

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/campuscard/>

This card will let you access the building after hours

Your ID card also gives you the ability to become a member of the Island Federal Credit Union, which has a branch in the basement of the Student Activities Center, Rm. 009B.



# Parking

- Students with a TA or RA appointment may obtain a Faculty/Staff parking permit for your car by logging onto <http://www.stonybrook.edu/parking>. You will need to provide your USB ID Number (or Social Security Number) and the license plate number from your car.
- Other students can apply for a Commuter permit and park near the station or the South-P lot and take a bus.

# Pay Checks

State paychecks will be mailed to your listed address every other Wednesday. Direct Deposit is strongly encouraged.

Research Foundation paychecks mailed every other Friday. Direct Deposit is strongly encouraged.

Attendance Rosters must be signed electronically each month for either payroll roster. Please don't forget to do this.

I will approve students supported by the State.

Please see emails regarding Direct Deposit for either State or Research Foundation forms. This is a convenience to you, and highly encouraged university practice.

You can see your pay stubs on Solar.

# Travel

All travel by students on visas has to be approved by the International Services Office. You will need a letter of Good Standing which can be provided by Don.

When classes are in session you should generally avoid significant travel. If you have to leave nevertheless, please let me know and tell me which arrangements you have made to cover your TA duties if applicable. Also tell the Professors whose course you are taking.

If your travel is supported by grants, your travel needs to be approved via Foreign Travel Request Form and then it will be approved by your advisor. It is recommended to have your airfare arranged by the administrative assistant of your advisor so that you do not have to put up the money for the trip.

# Websites

Stony Brook University

<http://www.stonybrook.edu>

Department of Physics and Astronomy

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/physics/>

Graduate Program

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/grad-physics-astronomy/>

Graduate School

<https://grad.stonybrook.edu>

IT guides

<https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/it-guides>

Solar

<https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/solar>

# Medical Advice

- Hepatitis B. This is a serious liver disease that is transmitted by exchanging bodily fluids. The infection is lifelong. The American College Health Association recommends that all College students be vaccinated against this disease.
- Skin cancer. Use sunscreen and keep your body covered when outside.
- Lyme Disease. There are a lot of ticks on Long Island, with increasing numbers in recent years. If you have a tick bite, get it checked out, and if you get the classical symptoms of Lyme disease, immediately get it checked out.
- Poison Ivy. You don't want to touch this plant. Even if, like me, you are not sensitive to it as sensitivity can be acquired. Leaves of three, leave it be. Google it to make sure you recognize it.
- Counselling and Psychological Services. <https://www.stonybrook.edu/caps/> Do not be afraid to use these services! More details on Thursday.
- Student Health Services:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/shs/>
- Timely Care, New 24/7 access to medical and mental health services:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/shs/TimelyCareSBU.php>
- Stay healthy. Practice moderation in all things, eat well, and look for ways to keep fit.

# Academic Calendar

[https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/calendars/\\_graduate-calendar-fall-2023.php](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/calendars/_graduate-calendar-fall-2023.php)

## Deadlines

- **Sunday August 27** You must have registered for at least one credit by midnight of this date.
- **Monday August 28** First Day of Classes
- **Sunday September 3** Last day to drop credits without tuition liability. After this date you will have to pay a percentage of the tuition for dropped credits. You can still swap classes and if you maintain the same total credits you will not incur new tuition charges.
- **Monday September 4** Labor Day Holiday
- **Monday September 11** (4pm) Deadline to Add, Drop or Swap classes on Solar
- **Monday September 18** (4pm) Last Swaps by Petition.

After 9/18 if you change courses, you will have a W on your transcript and have to pay tuition for both the dropped class and the added class. International students and employed students must maintain a full 9 credit load!

# Upcoming Events

- Chair's Colloquium: Tuesday September 5, 4:15PM
- West Meadow Beach Picnic: Friday September 8, 5:00PM-7:30PM



# Map

