Summer 2020: Living with Covid

The summer break this year has been quite a new experience for most members of the department. With very limited travel, most faculty and students have been continuing to work on research projects from home. University officials have been exploring ways to open the campus for the Fall semester, while being cautious about possible surge in infections. Departmental faculty have been discussing options for offering a combination of courses during the Fall term, some in person and some online, while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

Research Highlights

Prof. David Beratan has been featured on Trinity College of Arts & Sciences' webpage in a background piece to coincide with his 60th birthday tribute in the Journal of Physical Chemistry B. Click here to read "David Beratan Reflects on the Humans Behind the Science."

Awards

Prof. Michael Troxel has been awarded the Department of Energy Early Career Award. Trinity College of Arts & Sciences featured this news in an article on their website. Read "Exploring the Mysteries of the Universe by Seeing the Invisible" here.

Other Departmental News

On June 10, 2020, over 70 members of the Duke Physics Department set aside their research, instructional, and administrative activities to participate in a nationwide strike called #ShutDownSTEM, organized by a multi-identity, intersectional coalition of STEM professionals. You can read more about the Duke Physics Community Anti-Racism Forum here.
Welcome

Several new members joined the department last month. This includes Dr. Bishnu Karki, who will be a postdoctoral associate with Prof. Haiyan Gao. Johnny Chiles joined as an associate in research with Prof. Gleb Finkelstein. Connor Pecar joined the group of Prof. Anselm Vossen as an associate in research, Crystal Burgos and Zoe Kona will be student research assistants with Prof. Kate Scholberg and finally Jordan Sibley a rising senior at NCCU is joining the cosmology group this summer.

Important Dates

- Students wishing to graduate in September 2020 should submit the intend to graduate form by June 15, 2020. They need to submit the electronic dissertation by July 6, defend the thesis by July 20, and submit their doctoral thesis by August 3, 2020. More information about these and other deadlines can be found here.
- Duke summer I session ends on June 22, 2020. Summer II session has also been converted to be online and will be held between June 29 – Aug 6, 2020. Preliminary and PhD exams during the summer can only be held when summer classes are in session.
- Due to changes related to COVID-19, the Fall semester will begin on Monday August 17, 2020 and end before Thanksgiving. Also, the Fall break has been cancelled.

The Duke Physics Monthly Newsletter offers content submitted by the members of the department, with light editing by news and web committee. Previous issues are archived. Please send content for the next edition and any suggestions to news@phy.duke.edu - we look forward to hearing from you!