Beginning the Fall Semester with Covid

The department is preparing to begin the Fall semester on August 17, with most courses being offered online. A few courses will take a hybrid form where some face-to-face instruction will be given with social distancing procedures in place. In order to ensure proper contact tracing a new Covid-19 Symptom Monitoring App has been launched. All staff, faculty and students need to complete it before returning to work on-site every morning. More information about this can be found here.

Other Departmental News

Several graduate students successfully defended their PhD Dissertations over the summer. Their names, along with their thesis advisor and the title of their dissertations is given below:

- **Ronald Malone**: [Advisor: Calvin Howell] – Measurement of the Neutron-Neutron Quasifree Scattering Cross Section in Neutron-Deuteron Breakup at 10.0 and 15.6 MeV.

Farewell and Welcome

We bid farewell to Arlie Petters, the Benjamin Powell Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, who held a secondary appointment in Physics. Arlie will become the Provost of NYU – Abu Dhabi effective September 1st. Arlie is best known to most departmental members for his service as Dean of Academic Affairs of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. He was also an early supporter of the creation of our department’s cosmology group. We wish him all the best for this next chapter in his exciting career!

Dr. Lin Dai and Dr. Abhishek Mohapatra, who worked as postdoctoral associates within the lattice and effective field theory group, will also leave at the end of August. They have accepted new postdoctoral positions in Israel and Germany respectively.
We welcome Dr. Wei Li as a postdoctoral associate, who will work with Prof. Ying Wu. We also welcome Rebecca Bell, Jiayue Xu and Pavani Jairam as student research assistants, who will work with Prof. Michael Troxel. These students are associated with the Duke Data+ program and worked with Prof. Troxel and research scientist Bruno Sanchez over the summer. They will be continuing into the fall. Finally, we welcome Dr. Ben Rose as a research scientist working with Prof. Dan Scolonic in the cosmology group.

Important Dates

- Students wishing to graduate in December 2020 should submit the intend to graduate form by October 23, 2020. They need to submit the electronic dissertation by November 9, defend the thesis by November 23, 2020 and submit their doctoral thesis by December 7, 2020. More information about these and other deadlines can be found here.
- The Fall semester classes will begin on Monday August 17, 2020 and end on Tuesday November 24, 2020 just before the Thanksgiving break. Also, the Fall break has been cancelled.
- The Spring semester classes will begin on Wednesday, January 20, 2020.

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!