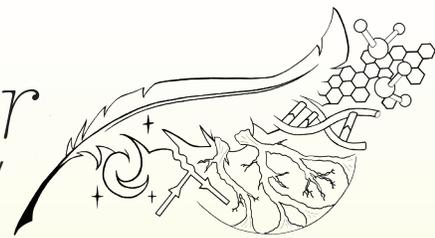


Spring Quarter Newsletter

Volume 1

UCI Department of Physics and Astronomy



Student Spotlight

Jessica Howard is a 3rd year graduate student in particle physics. In general, she is interested in physics that is beyond the Standard Model. Jessica is working on applying methods from machine learning as a tool to help answer important questions in her field. Recently, Jessica participated in UCI's 2020 Grad Slam competition and became one of the top ten finalists. She entered the competition because she believes communicating your research is just as important as doing it. Jessica highly recommends Grad Slam to anyone who is trying to overcome public speaking anxiety. Jessica's interest in science communication also shows in her work for the Physics and Astronomy blog team. Currently, she is the primary administrative coordinator for the blog; meaning she runs meetings, makes sure that people are on task, and helps plan the timelines for the various facets of the blog. Looking forward, Jessica would really like to see the blog collaborate with other creative clubs on campus. You can read the full spotlight [here](#).



Zoom Events

- First-year grad student Mark Hayward organizes regular workout sessions over Zoom with his fellow first-year peers. This 45min-1hr workout is a fantastic way to stay active during the quarantine and also have a great time with friends/family. When Mark is not holding his Zoom Yoga sessions, Mark is training for the Huntsman 140, a 140-mile bike ride geared toward challenging people on a physical level and fundraising for cancer research. Mark is participating in this race to honor his uncle's legacy, who he lost to Pancreatic Cancer in 2014, and he hopes others will join him in the fight against cancer by donating to this cause. Donations can be made at this [link](#) (100% of all donations will be used to fund cancer research at the Huntsman Cancer Institute).

- The 7th Dark Matter @ LHC Workshop, which was originally planned to take place at DESY, will now go ahead as a virtual only event from June 2nd-5th 2020. For details and to register for free go to this [link](#)!

- The 2020 Sagan Exoplanet Summer Virtual Workshop will take place July 20th-23rd over Zoom and Slack. For more information about the workshop and how to register (for free), click [here](#).

- Long ago, before the apocalypse, plasma homies gathered once a week at noon on campus for Plasma Lunch. That tradition continues, but now it is Virtual Plasma Lunch! Every Friday at noon, the plasma crew Zooms and has lunch together. In one way it's even better than it was before: plasma alumni and our San Diego plasma peeps get to join too!



Research

• Grad student Danny Antrim was awarded a 2019 ATLAS Thesis Award from the large international ATLAS Collaboration for his research work in particle physics on ATLAS at the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN lab in Geneva, Switzerland. Approximately 1000 grad students work on ATLAS, and Danny's award was one of six granted in 2019. His thesis, "Sweet Little Nothings; or, Searching for a Pair of Stops, a Pair of Higgs Bosons, and a Pair of New Small Wheels for the Upgrade of the Forward Muon System of the ATLAS Detector at CERN", described his outstanding contributions to the development of new particle detectors for muons and to searches for SuperSymmetry and for rare production of two Higgs bosons. Danny presented his thesis in a plenary session at the ATLAS Collaboration meeting in February. He previously won the US ATLAS Collaboration's 2019 Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Danny has also garnered a prestigious Chamberlain Fellowship for postdoctoral research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, so he will soon be moving on from UCI. At UCI, his research was supervised by Professor Anyes Taffard.

Department News

• UCI Physics and Astronomy graduate students Jessica Howard and Rebecca Riley were two of 10 finalists at the [UCI Grad Slam](#) Campus finals on February 28th. Rebecca Riley won first place making her UCI's representative in the 2020 UC System-wide Grad Slam Finals. Unfortunately, the UC System-wide finals were canceled this year due to COVID-19 concerns.



• Women in Physics and Astronomy (WiPA) have just launched the new Grad School Support Scholarship for undergraduate womxn in physics who are looking to offset the costs of applying to grad school in physics, astronomy, or a related field. Specifically, this scholarship will cover registration fees for the General GRE and/or the Physics GRE during the 2020-21 application period. If you have any questions or concerns about the scholarship email wipa@uci.edu. You can find information about the scholarship, including eligibility requirements [here](#), and the application, [here](#).

• Check out graduate student Jack Lubin's latest blog post on a recent paper by UCI Professor Aomawa Shields and collaborators on exoplanets with Hydrohalite. You can find the post, [here](#).

Resources

• The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) is issuing this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for accelerating the development, translation, and commercialization of technologies to address Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The NIBIB is seeking applications to develop life-saving technologies that can be ready for commercialization within one to two years. The first available due date is June 5th, 2020. If you or your lab are interested in one of the many grants available, you can read more [here](#).

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!