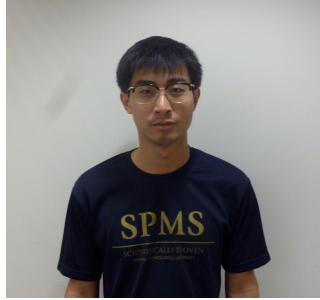


Current PGC Board



President

Bárbara Cruvinel Santiago



International Liaisons

Guanhao Sun and Matija Medvidović



Social Chair

Ola Kusiak



Union Liaison

Tuan Nguyen

Note:

- We usually also have a **Climate and Diversity Liaison**
- In a regular year, we would have 2 social chairs and 1 international liaison

What does the PGC do?

- The Physics Graduate Council serves as a formal and direct link between graduate students and the Physics Department (faculty and committees).
- The PGC coordinates different graduate student initiatives and leadership roles within the department.
- Formed at the start of 2017 after discussion at the Nevis Retreat.
- Annual presentation about student concerns at the Nevis Retreat.
- Social events (in person pre-covid and hopefully post-covid).
- Elections held at the start of spring semester.

Recent Initiatives

- Restructuring of PGC to have more specific roles
- Official GSAS recognition (\$\$\$)
- Open Thesis Defenses (starting fall of 2018)
- Advising Thesis Committees: for third-years and above
- Report on student body sentiment around quals
 - Afterwards, quals were canceled for this year and we hope it stays like that.
- New and improved department website (2019)
- Town Halls
 - The PGC organized the first dept. town hall on racial justice in the summer
 - After that, we started organizing town halls with the recently created CDI
 - Most recent town hall: student mental health

Recent Initiatives (cont)

- **Quals**
 - Survey and report: https://barbaracrusan.github.io/pdfs/Quals_Report.pdf
 - Quals got canceled and we hope it never comes back!
- **Coursework**
 - Push to expand current graduate course offerings
 - Recently approved flexibility choosing field-specific courses from other departments
- **Social events**
 - Budget from department
 - Push to have more student/faculty interaction
 - New events started pre-pandemic
 - Hopefully they'll continue post-pandemic

Recent Initiatives (cont)

- Response to spike in international student issues
 - Matija and Sun worked around the clock to get clarifications on the status of different rules and travel bans for international students in our department
 - We even lobbied congress when some of the rules came out
- Union updates from Tuan
 - The union hosted a series of town halls with an immigration lawyer regarding the consequences of the various new rulings and proposals that would impact international students
 - The union might go on strike starting next week if Columbia does not sign a contract recognizing grad students as workers, outlining grievance procedures for discrimination and harrassment, and increased financial/medical benefits
 - Fun fact: in two years of bargaining Columbia has refused to agree on a fair contract

And here's a blast from the pre-pandemic past!

(trigger warning: the people in this picture might seem dangerously close for today's standards... :O)

Welcome Trivia (2019)



A chalkboard with a score table for the trivia event. The table is as follows:

TEAM	Round 1 Physics	Round 2 NYC & Cultural	Round 3 Entertainment	Mid-tournament Talks	Round 4 / Round 5 Geography / Arts vs. Science	TOTAL
ITZ (2)	5.5	2	5.5	13	4 4	21
5 guys, 1 girl	7.5	3	8.5	19	2.5 3	24.5
Children of Christ are old	4.5	2	6	12.5	3 3	18.5
Fiber on Tigers	2.5	3	5	10.5	3 1	14.5
Barbless barbules barbarous Bards	4.5	3	6	13.5	3 4	20.5
Mean Field Theory	7	4	6	17	9 4	30**

First Annual Summer Barbeque (2019)



First Annual Halloween Party (2019)



What our events actually look like now:



Events organized by the department/other students

- Coffee Hour
- Friday Happy Hour/Student Talk
 - One talk every semester is by a guest speaker talking about mental health and/or diversity
- Spectra lunches with professors
- Spectra Annual LN2 Ice Cream
- Annual Nevis Retreat
- Community Round Table (unclear whether they got funding for future years)

Other Department Activities

ing, they can do no harm.

A Momentous Coffee Break

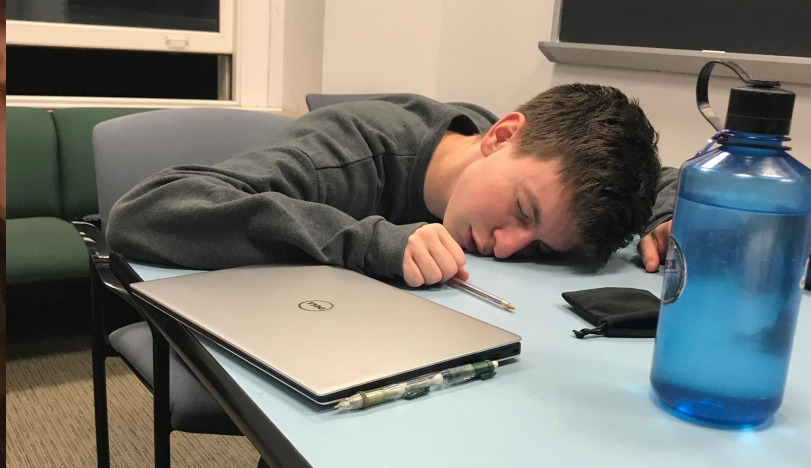
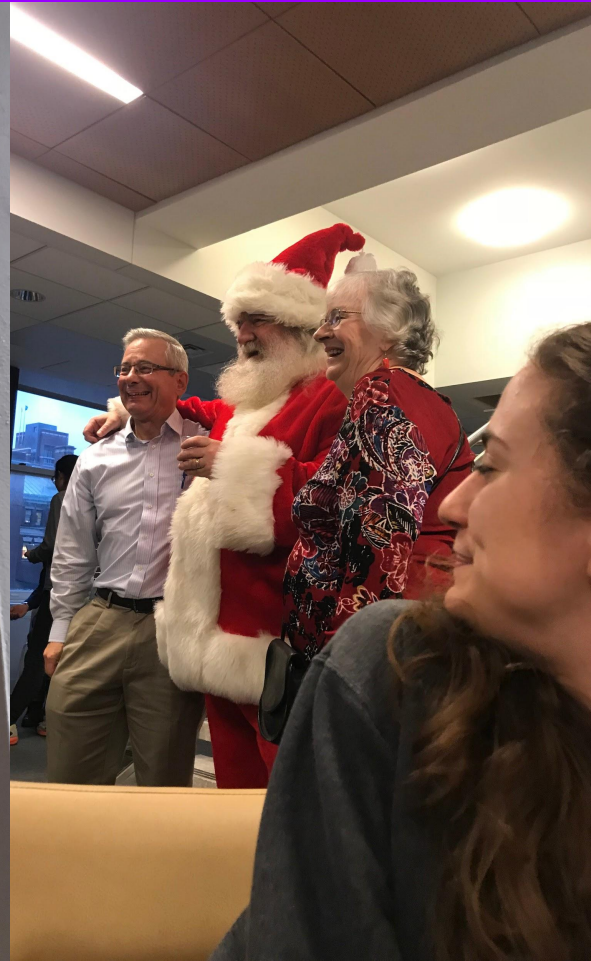
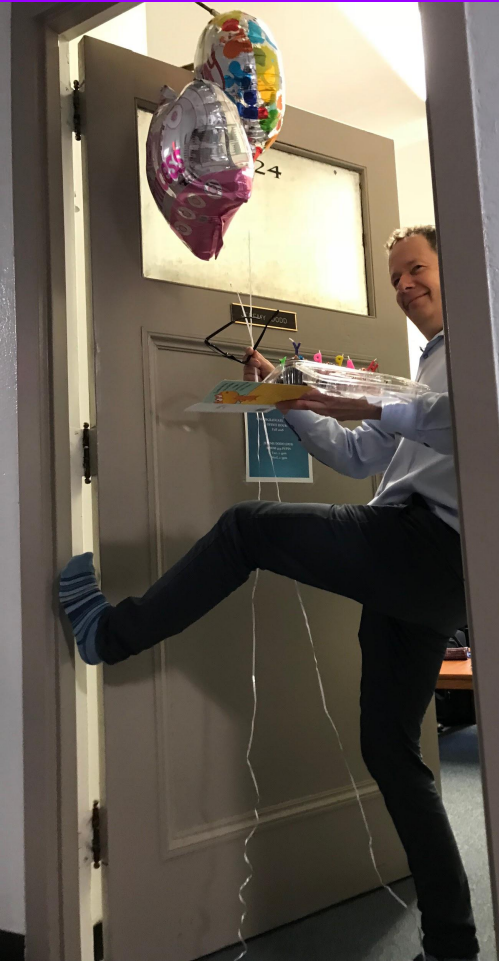
It was at a coffee break at the Pupin Physics Building on the Columbia campus that Dr. Schwartz first proposed the possibility of creating beams of high-energy neutrinos in the laboratory for use as research tools. With Dr.



Other Department Activities



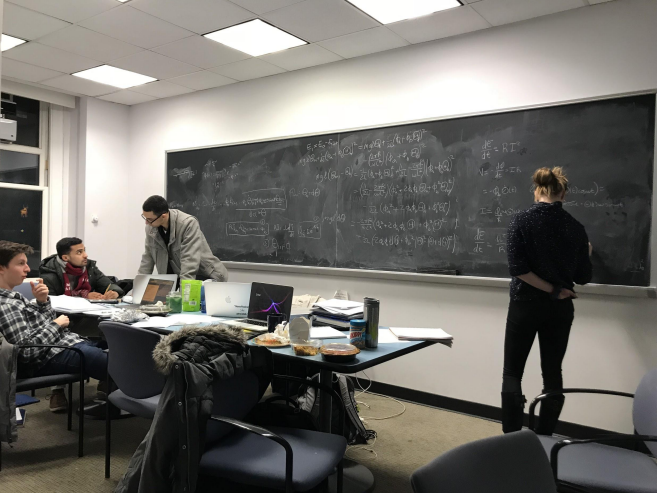
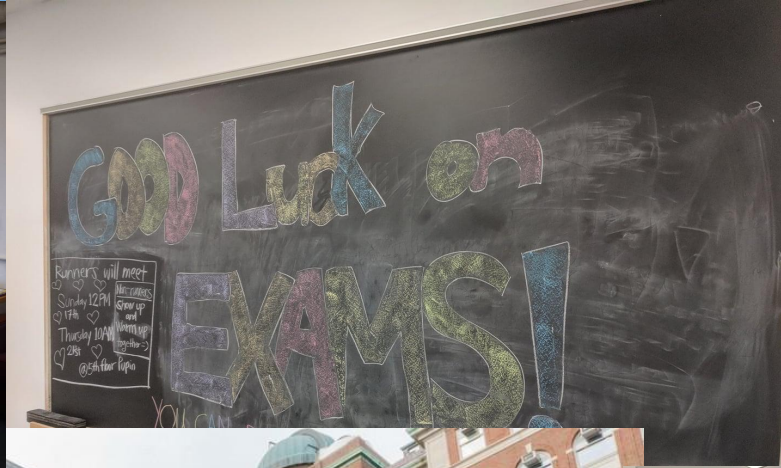
Other Department Activities



Department Spaces



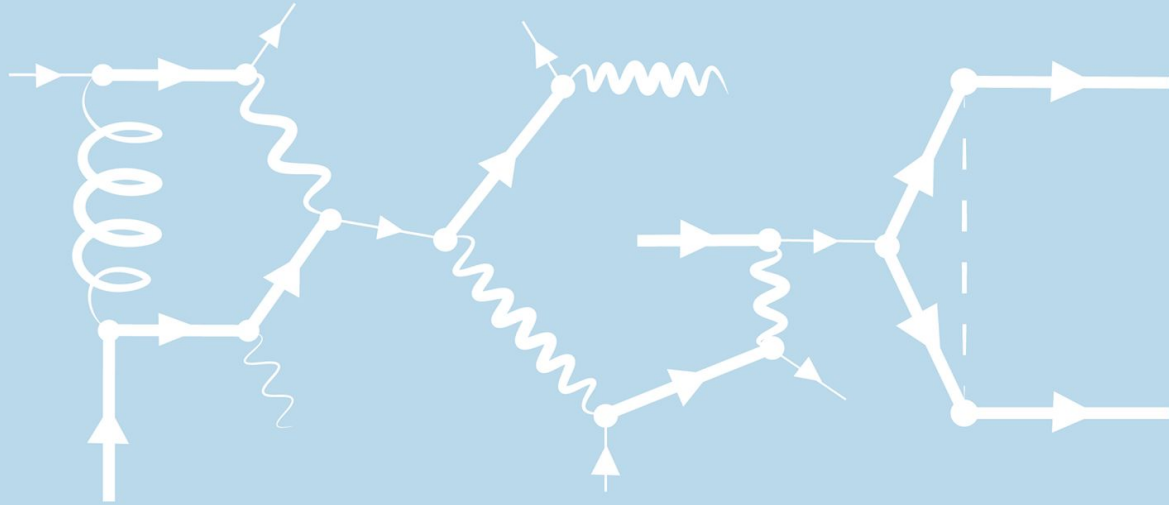
Department Spaces



Want to know more

- Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/columbiapgc>
- Contact any of us!
- Find our emails on the department page:
<https://physics.columbia.edu/content/physics-graduate-council>
- PGC website coming up soon!
- If you commit to Columbia, join the Columbia Physics Grad Students Facebook group.
- Let us know if we can connect you to other students based on identity, field, hobbies, etc.

Thank you for your time!



Columbia Physics Grad Council