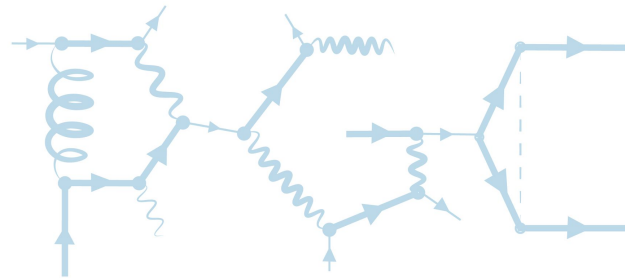


# PGC Presentation Orientation 2020 (Zoom Edition)



**Columbia Physics Grad Council**

Representatives from Physics Graduate Council  
(Bárbara, Elena, Matija, Ola, Sun, Tuan)

# Current PGC Board



**President**  
Bárbara Cruvinel Santiago



**International Liaisons**  
Guanhao Sun and Matija Medvidović



**Climate and Diversity Liaison**  
Elena Busch



**Social Chair**  
Ola Kusiak



**Union Liaison**  
Tuan Nguyen

Time for introductions!

We want to know who you are!

# What does the PGC do?

- The Physics Graduate Council serves as a formal and direct link between graduate students and the Physics Department (chair, professors and committees).
- The PGC coordinates different graduate student initiatives and leadership roles within the department.
- We also organize events to foster a welcoming space for grad students.
- Formed at the start of 2017 after discussion at the Nevis Retreat.
- Annual presentation about student concerns at the Nevis Retreat.
- Elections held at the start of spring semester.

# Recent Initiatives

- Restructuring of PGC
- Official GSAS recognition (\$\$\$)
- Open Thesis Defenses
  - Began fall 2018
- Advising Committees
  - Third-years and above have to meet once a year with their committees to track their progress
- New and improved department website
- Quals
  - Survey conducted last spring to inform restructuring initiatives
  - Town hall rescheduled to early October
  - We're in contact with the Quals committee to see what'll happen this year.

# Recent Initiatives (cont)

- Coursework
  - Push to expand current graduate course offerings
  - Push to make requirements more flexible
- Social events
  - Push to have more student/faculty interactions
  - New events started
- BLM Town Hall
  - New Climate, Diversity & Inclusion faculty committee
  - Planning for more faculty involvement in department climate issues
- Summer Funding Town Hall
  - Organized because of COVID-19-related summer funding issues
  - The department assigned paid positions to students shortly after

# Welcome Trivia



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
ITZ121:	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



# First Annual Halloween Party



# Events organized by the department/other students

- Coffee Hour
- Spectra lunches with professors
- Spectra Annual LN2 Ice Cream
- Annual Nevis Retreat
- Community Round Table
- Pupin Holiday “Party”

# Online Events for the Semester

- Virtual Coffee Hour
  - Mondays 1PM over the summer but look for new times during the academic year!
- Online Happy Hour
  - Grad Students Talks
  - with Math and Applied Physics on diversity in STEM, affirmative action, minority mental health

If you have ideas on how to socialize in the Zoom era, please reach out!

# Come to the Welcome Event!

Saturday 9/5 at 11am

Brunch-themed welcome event!



# Other Department Activities

ing, they can do no harm.

**A Momentous Coffee Break**

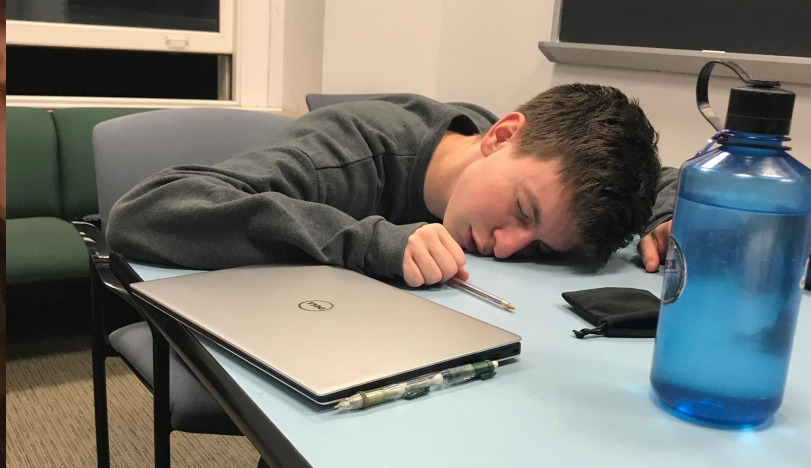
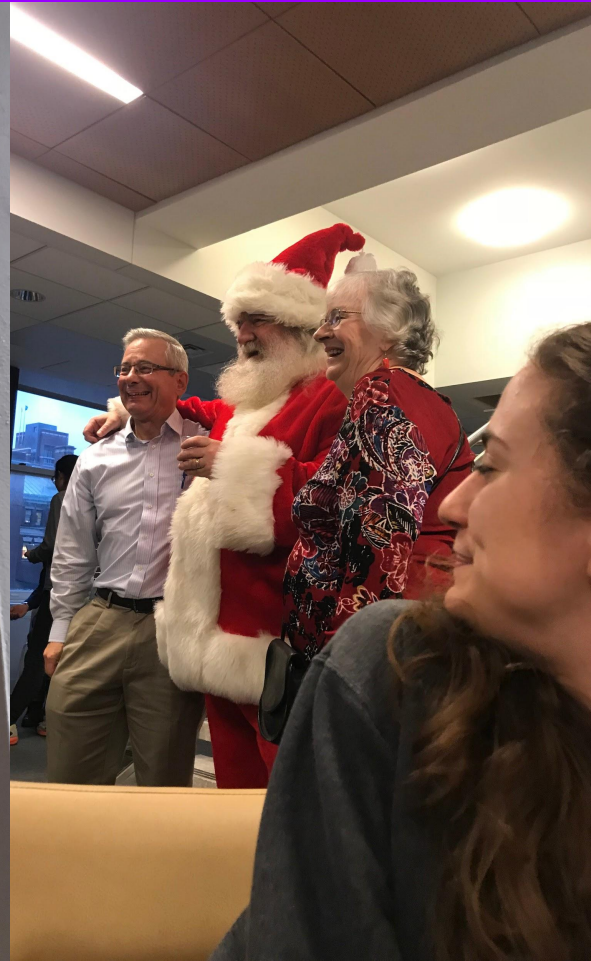
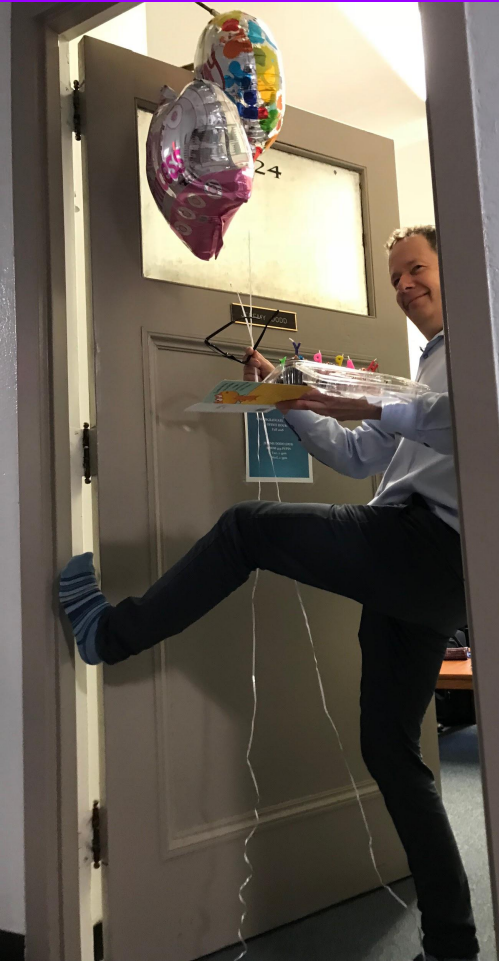
It was at a coffee break at the Pupin Physics Building on the Columbia campus that Dr. Schwartz first proposed the possibility of creating beams of high-energy neutrinos in the laboratory for use as research tools. With Dr.



# Other Department Activities



# Other Department Activities



# Addressing International Student Issues

- ICE ruling on in-person classes
  - Some of our graduate students had meetings with congressional representatives on the issue  
([https://barbaracrusan.github.io/pdfs/policy\\_pdfs/F1\\_Updated\\_Actionable\\_Items.pdf](https://barbaracrusan.github.io/pdfs/policy_pdfs/F1_Updated_Actionable_Items.pdf))
- Payroll for international students working abroad
- Survey of incoming international students
- Pairing up incoming international students with people from their countries
- Help incoming international students adapt to the new environment - feel free to reach out!!
  - Even if you are stuck abroad - ask us questions and we'll try to get answers for you.

# Recent Developments from the Union

The PGC is not affiliated with the Union. However, we benefit from Union resources. In addition, the Union provides us with more bargaining power.

- Infrequent information sessions with immigration lawyers about ICE ruling
- Continual updates on government and Columbia policy changes affecting graduate students
- Petitioned for continuing students abroad to get paid
- Push for more ISSO resources (such as lawyer clinics and town halls)
- Push for formation of International Student Task Force
- Potential strike for Fall semester

# 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>
- Come to the Welcome Event on Saturday!
- Come to Coffee Hour next week!
- We'll soon have our own website at <http://pgc.physics.columbia.edu>



