

Yale Department of Physics

Yale Physics Newsletter

December 7, 2018

Hints & Tips!

Welcome to our new hints and tips section! Please email daphne.klemme@yale.edu with any helpful tips that will help us work to our best ability.

How to relax before your exams: 1) Stay calm the day before by scheduling breaks to get up and move around, 2) Eat and drink well, 3) Exercise, 4) Get a good night's sleep, 5) Stay in control on the day of the exam by following your normal routine and eating a good breakfast, 6) Do a quick scan of your notes, 7) Do some relaxation techniques, 8) Pack everything you need for the day (make a list of what you think you will need), and 9) Arrive at the exam location about 15 minutes early in order to be relaxed. Good luck!

Climate and Diversity Committee News

A Note from the [Climate and Diversity Committee](#) (CDC).

As its letter writing season we are taking a moment to reiterate the importance of recognizing and confronting implicit biases while writing letters of recommendation. Essentially all of us have some level of implicit bias; the unintentional association of certain traits with a group of people [1]. Studies have shown that in academia implicit biases can manifest in letters of reference for minority students [2a,2b].

Another particular issue to look out for is the use of “grindstone” words versus “ability” words [3]. In this study based on letters written for STEM job applicants, language describing male applicants skewed toward their skills and talents while that for females tended to emphasize effort and hard work. While both talent and dedication are important traits for a successful scientist, descriptions of skill stand out more in an application.

It is important to consider these issues as you both write **and** read letters of reference. Some helpful tips can be found here [4].

The CDC convenes once a month. If interested in joining please contact Helen Caines (helen.caines@yale.edu, Chair of CDC). You may contact the whole committee at physics-cdc@mailman.yale.edu

Save the Date

Exam week December 13-19, 2018, starting at 7pm on December 13th. Good luck!

Seminars

Monday, December 10

2:30pm in Sloane Physics Lab 51. Graduate Methods Seminar. Jingping Li, Yale University, “Dirac Brackets”.

3:30pm in Sloane Physics Lab 57. Physics Club Talk. Sabrina Leslie, McGill University, “Deconstructing biology with simple single-molecule imaging: Controlling conformation, confinement, and concentration”. Host: Simon Mochrie. Tea after the talk outside SPL 57.

Tuesday, December 11

12:00pm in Sloane Physics Lab 56. Physics/QBio/PEB Distinguished Speaker. Prof. Pieter Rein ten Wolde, NOW Institute AMOLF and Free University, Amsterdam, “The Robust Ticking of a Circadian Clock”. Host: Thierry Emonet. Lunch served at 11:45am.

1:00pm in Sloane Physics Lab 52. Special Condensed Matter Theory Seminar. Yahui Zhang, MIT, “Title TBA”.

Wednesday, December 12

4:00pm in Sterling Chemistry Lab 110. Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Seminar. Scott Dixon, Stanford University, “Lipid Metabolism in Ferroptosis and Other Forms on Non-Apoptotic Cell Death”. Host: Stavroula Hatzios. Tea at 3:45pm.

Thursday, December 13

1:00pm in Wright Lab 216. Nuclear Particle Astrophysics (NPA) Seminar. Josh Dillon, Berkeley, “Opening the 21 cm Window on Our Cosmic Dawn with HERA”. Lunch in Wright Lab Connector 245 prior to seminar. [RSVP for lunch required.](#)

1:00pm in Becton 227. CRISP Seminar. Shannon Harvey, Harvard University, “The Viability of Spin Qubits in Gallium Arsenide for Quantum Computing”. Host: Charles Ahn.

Friday, December 14

4:00pm in Sterling Chemistry Lab 160. Department of Chemistry Lecture in Biophysical Chemistry. Dr. Caitlin Davis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “Protein dynamics: Connecting *in vitro*, in cell, and *in vivo*”

For more seminars see: <http://physics.yale.edu/calendar>

News

Yale College Dean's Office: New guidelines for the course selection period

Dear Yale College Students and Instructors,

I have received numerous requests from the community to improve the course selection period, in particular by introducing guidelines that will provide timely information about courses with limited enrollments that do not require pre-registration. (Information about courses that do require pre-registration can be found [here](#).) I have gathered recommendations to help students know as soon as possible the classes into which they have been admitted, and instructors know as soon as possible who is in their classes. Four of those recommendations will be introduced as guidelines next semester for limited-enrollment courses that do not require pre-registration.

- **Instructors:** please include in your syllabi detailed and clear criteria for admitting students. All instructors are asked to post syllabi on Canvas before the course selection period.
- **Students:** by 11:59 p.m. of the first day on which a given course meets, please sign up for limited-enrollment courses.
- **Instructors:** within 48 hours or by the next class meeting -- whichever is shorter -- please post class lists of admitted students, and wait lists, on Canvas.
- **Students:** by 8:30 a.m. on January 22 of the 2019 spring term (the Tuesday of the second week of classes), please accept or decline seats in limited-enrollment courses to which you have been admitted.

Whether you are an instructor or a student, you can help shorten the time of uncertainty during the course selection period by following these guidelines, and ideally exceeding them by acting as early as possible.

In the following cases, the guidelines do not apply:

- Limited-enrollment courses that manage and complete pre-registration and enrollment earlier than the course selection period.
- Limited-enrollment courses that meet Fridays only; they do not meet until the Friday after the course selection period ends because of the modified schedule at the start of the term.
- Wait lists, which can be managed in the usual way, although instructors and students are asked to manage and respond to them promptly.

I thank the faculty and students, and in particular the Yale College Council, for offering constructive suggestions for easing the course selection period. I am confident that they will benefit the entire community.

Sincerely,

Marvin M. Chun
Dean of Yale College
Richard M. Colgate Professor of Psychology;
Neuroscience; Cognitive Science

Sohrab Ismail-Beigi (Professor of Applied Physics)
research in the news

The thinnest flake, just one atom thick, has provided scientists at Yale and the Brookhaven National

Laboratory with new insight into a promising material for the next generation of high-speed electronics and a host of practical applications.

[Click here for full story in Yale News](#)

Reina Maruyama (Professor of Physics) research in the news

COSINE-100 experiment investigates dark matter mystery

Yale scientists are part of a new international experiment that challenges previous claims about the detection of non-luminous dark matter.

[Click here for full story in Yale News](#)

[Click here for article in Nature](#)

[Click here for coverage in Science News](#)

[Click here for coverage in Science Magazine](#)

3rd Annual WWN Recognition Award – Nominations Are Now Open!

The WWN Recognition Award is an annual award that recognizes up to five women currently employed at Yale who have been exemplary members of the community at Yale. The individuals receiving this honor may be selected for a wide range of achievements, but overall, will have distinguished themselves through a commitment to changing the University through their personal efforts. For example, an awardee could have had an impact on a project or team by demonstrating a positive attitude, gone beyond the call of duty to get the job done, or demonstrated a love for learning new skills.

The nomination process is open to women Yale employees in the following job categories: Service and Maintenance (S&M), Clerical and Technical (C&T), and Managerial and Professional (M&P). Up to five award recipients will be chosen; one for each category. Nominations may be made online until Friday, December 21st.

Nominators are asked to submit their nominations in one of the following five categories:

- A Trailblazer: a woman who utilizes opportunities to customize a new career path at Yale.
- A Quiet Heroine: a woman who has mentored and/or nurtured others at Yale.
- A Visionary: a woman who has been a champion for change at the University.
- A Community Catalyst: a woman who leads in a volunteer capacity at Yale or through a Yale initiative.
- A Work Life Champion: a woman who takes unusual or extraordinary measures to balance work and family.

For more information about the WWN Recognition Award, please visit: <http://wwn.yale.edu/wwn-recognition-award>.

To access the Nomination Form, please visit:
<http://wwn.yale.edu/wwn-recognition-award-nomination-form>.

Yale’s Electric Vehicle Committee

Take the Yale Electric Vehicle Survey

To help us better understand the use of electric vehicles at Yale, we are seeking your input.

Please take a moment to complete the [Yale Electric Vehicle survey](#) by **Thursday, December 20, at 5:00 p.m.** The survey should take less than five minutes to complete.

The feedback you provide will allow us to better understand electric vehicle use in the Yale community and consider whether transportation infrastructure improvements are necessary.

[Announcements](#)

For further information on any of the items included here or if you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, send email to [Daphne Klemme](#).

[Please click here for updates on the Yale Science Building, including a new logistics plan](#). The project encompasses the construction of a new state of the art sciences laboratory at the approximate location of the demolished J.W. Gibbs building, a comprehensive renovation of the KBT Plaza, a lecture hall, and a common area at the south end of KBT Plaza.

Yale Benefits Annual Enrollment!

Now through December 14 is the time for you to elect your medical, dental, and vision benefits for next year. During this time you also have the opportunity to enroll (or re-enroll) in health care and dependent care Flexible Spending Accounts.

If you take no action, your benefits will remain the same for 2019, except for Flexible Spending Accounts. You must enroll (or re-enroll) in Flexible Spending Accounts every year. Please note: Deadline for flexible spending enrollment is **December 14, 2018**.

Learn More and Enroll

To learn more and enroll, visit [It’s Your Yale – Enroll](#). Then click Enroll Now, which takes you to Workday. Once in Workday, click on your Inbox icon in the upper right-hand corner and choose the Open Enrollment task to start your enrollment.

Tuition Reimbursement Claims

Remember to submit claims for tuition reimbursement now through December 14.

Yale Health, Yale’s flagship plan, is a not-for-profit, physician-led health insurance option exclusively for members of the Yale community. Located in a state-of-the-art medical center on campus, Yale Health offers a wide variety of health care services on-site including primary care, specialty care, 24/7 acute care, radiology, lab, and pharmacy. When your condition requires more specialized care or hospitalization, there’s an extensive network of specialists drawn largely from the faculty of

Yale School of Medicine. With Yale Health, emergency care is covered anywhere in the world.

If you have any questions regarding your benefits, please contact an Employee Services representative by phone at **203-432-5552** or by email at employee.services@yale.edu.

[Enroll now](#)