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Yale *Physics*



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 2

12:00pm Women In Quantum Information (WIQI) Meeting. [Michelle Nearon & Ksenia Sidorenko](#) via [Zoom](#) (by invitation only).

Thursday, September 3

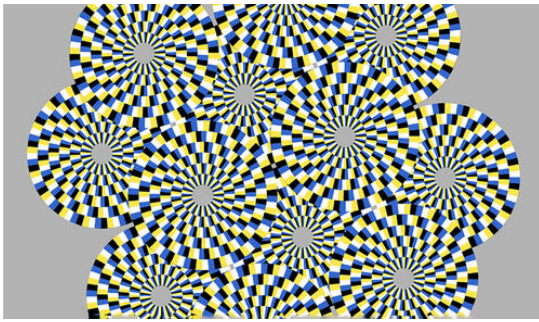
2:30pm Department of Astronomy. [Marla Geha, et al.](#), [Yale Astronomy Annual Resources Colloquium](#) via zoom.

[More events](#)

News

Damon Clark (Associate Professor Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology) research in the news

Why people perceive motion in some



static images has mystified not only those who view these optical illusions but neuroscientists who have tried to explain the phenomenon. Now Yale neuroscientists have found some answers in the eyes of flies, they report Aug. 24 in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

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Steven Girvin (Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics) to serve as the director of C2QA

The new Co-design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA), led by Brookhaven National Laboratory, launches with funding of \$115 million over five years. It is one of five National Quantum Information Science Research Centers announced by the government. Steven Girvin, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics at Yale, will serve as director of C2QA and have a dual appointment at Yale and Brookhaven's Energy and Photon Sciences Directorate.

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Welcome Yuan Xin (Mossman Fellow)

Welcome to Yuan Xin who comes to us as the inaugural Mossman Fellow working with the Particle Theory Group (mostly Witold Skiba and David Poland). The goal of his research is to study the fundamental and effective interactions of nature that have not been fully understood. His effort focuses on both strongly coupled Quantum Field Theory (QFT) and Quantum Gravity. Conformal Field Theory (CFT) is his primary tool in both subjects..



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Mengzhen Zhang successfully defends thesis: “Properties and Applications of Gaussian Processes”

On August 25, 2020, Mengzhen Zhang successfully defended his thesis, “Properties and Applications of Gaussian Processes” (Advisor: A. Douglas Stone).

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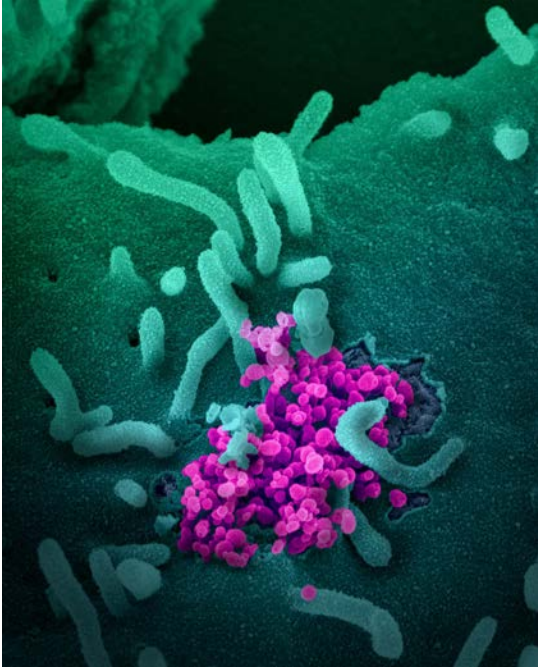


Graduate Orientation 2020

Despite the complication of power outages due to tornado damage, we had a successful and well attended 2020 Graduate Program Orientation over Zoom. Today we had the pleasure of meeting the new incoming class and officially welcoming them into the department. To help us learn a bit about them, the new cohort was asked to share their goals for the next five years, both professional and personal. Interests ranged from acquiring new pets, traveling, hitting new athletic goals and learning new languages. Professionally, they are

looking forward to becoming independent scientists, connecting with the community doing science outreach, making contributions to science through research and publications, and are already thinking about the next stage in their career.

To the new incoming class, we welcome you and are excited to support you in reaching your goals!



COVID-19 Update – August 21st update

August 14, 2020: Updated from the University COVID-19 Coordinator with important information regarding quarantining and isolating on campus.

- [COVID-19 Workplace Guidance website](#)
- [Yale College COVID-19 Announcements and FAQs](#)
- [Graduate School for Arts and Sciences 2020-2021 Academic Year FAQs for Graduate Students](#)
- [Further information on Yale's response.](#)

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Community



Climate and Diversity Committee

If interested in joining the [CDC](#), please contact [Helen Caines](#), Chair of CDC. You may contact the whole committee at physics-cdc@mailman.yale.edu



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For further information, or to contribute to the newsletter, please send email to [Daphne Klemme](#).

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