

Welcome to the Society of Physics Students



2018-19

Outline

- Who we are
- Our purpose
- What we do
- Our Website
- Discussing the Physics program
- Research opportunities and how to get involved
- Students summer research presentations
- Food, questions, and hang!

Who We Are

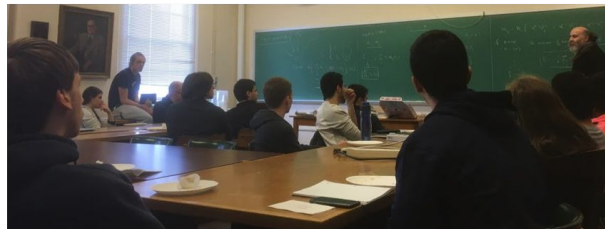
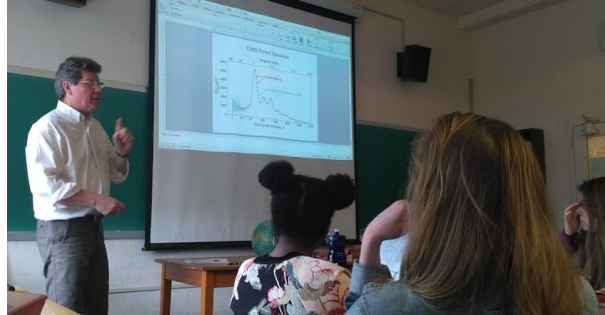
<i>Society of Physics Students</i>	
Pedrom Zadeh	President
Kristen Schumacher	Vice President
Margaret Doyle	Treasurer
Morgan Waddy	Secretary
Jillian Ticatch	Outreach Chair
Levi Schult, Raymond Mora, Shelby Laychak	Outreach Members
Cole Miles	Webmaster
<i>Sigma Pi Sigma</i>	
Jessie Han	President
Robin Leichtnam	Vice President

Our Purpose

- We aim to create a warm, friendly, and supportive community where students get the chance to become more involved with the physics department, make new friends, and feel comfortable within the department.
- Our objectives include
 - Bringing students closer to the world of current physical research
 - Familiarizing students with ongoing research in the department, and how to get involved
 - Taking students to physics conferences to present their research
 - Volunteering at local schools to promote sciences to younger kids
 - Holding mentorship programs
 - Having fun (for real)!

What We Do

- Regularly
 - We meet weekly on Fridays at 1 PM in room 314
 - We usually invite the colloquium speaker to give us a short summary of his/her talk, or ask some students in the department to discuss their research



What We Do

- Social Events
 - Guided tour of the Physics department for incoming students
 - Grill & Chill -- we hold an annual cookout!
 - Board game day
 - Hiking



What We Do

- Academics
 - Every year, we fund students traveling to physics conferences where they get the chance to present their research and learn about other recent developments in physics
 - We have GRE review sessions to help students prepare for the test (Starting this Saturday 9/1 **let Kristen know if you are coming**)
 - We take research seriously -- we help you find available research opportunities at UVA and elsewhere by listing some useful REUs (research experience for undergraduates)

What We Do

- Outreach

- Last year, we started our outreach program. Currently, we volunteer at Clark elementary school and work with after-school kids on interesting physics demos with noteworthy takeaways
- We plan on expanding our outreach this year
- *Everyone---especially first years---if you like to get involved right away, signing up to be a part of our outreach team would be a great way to start! See Jillian afterwards if you are interested.*



What We Do

- Outreach
 - Additionally, we were active on grounds as well
 - Ladies in Lab
 - Physics Demo Day



What We Do

- Mentorship Program
 - Our mentorship program seeks to connect interested first/second year students with upperclassmen; the goal is to let students in on the experiences of upperclassmen in the department. Let us know if you're interested.



What We Do

- PHYS 1910: interested in research at UVA? This is a 1 credit lecture series, where every week a different professor doing research in the department comes in and explains what they're doing. Opportunity to get a feel for what projects are going on and meet professors who you might want to work with in the future. Pass/Fail.

What We Do

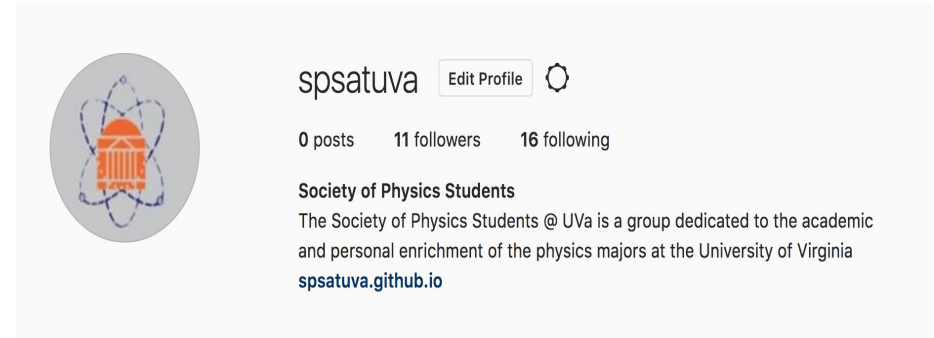
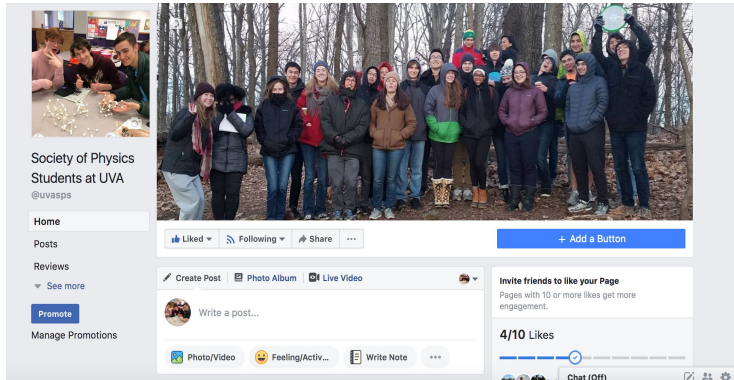
- Merchandise sale
 - We hold a merch sale every semester towards the end
 - To make things fun, we allow students to submit their designs, and the winner will receive a free t-shirt for that semester!

Our Website

- spsatuva.github.io

Follow us on Instagram! Like us on Facebook!

- Instagram: @spsatuva
- Facebook: Society of Physics Students at UVA



Discussing the Physics Program

- [UVA Physics Degree PDF \(link\)](#)
- Undergraduate Director of Studies -- Stefan Baessler (Rm 169)
- Undergraduate Degrees
 - BS -- you could couple this with an Astronomy major
 - BA
 - Within each degree, there are options you can choose to follow
- Path to degree is more or less specified each semester
- *Advice* -- look over the degree PDF and see the available options; get a feeling of the kind of classes you need to take and plan your semester ahead of time for peace of mind

Research Opportunities & How to Get Involved

- Important because
 - As a growing scientist, having lab/research experience is a must
 - Besides being a plus when it comes to graduate schools, it allows you to mature in your field outside the classroom
 - In your third year, you have to take PHYS 3995 -- it is *very* useful to have had prior experience and a meaningful project with a professor by the time you take this
- The department is research-oriented, with over 34 faculty members actively involved in research projects -- so there are many opportunities here for students to get involved with
- We recommend you get involved with a research project as soon as you can -- *it could even be within your first year*

Research Opportunities & How to Get Involved

- Remember
 - Your first research position will likely be mundane as you're simply gathering experience in the lab
 - Your first research position will most likely NOT be the one you keep in the long run -- often it is a step towards more meaningful/advanced projects
 - Do not hold back and wait for the perfect opportunity the first time around; get involved as soon as possible (and when you're comfortable), and gather as much experience as you can
- How
 - Simply walk up to the professor whose research and field interest you, and ask him/her if you can be a part of his/her research group. Usually, they will put you on a list of interested candidates and will let you know

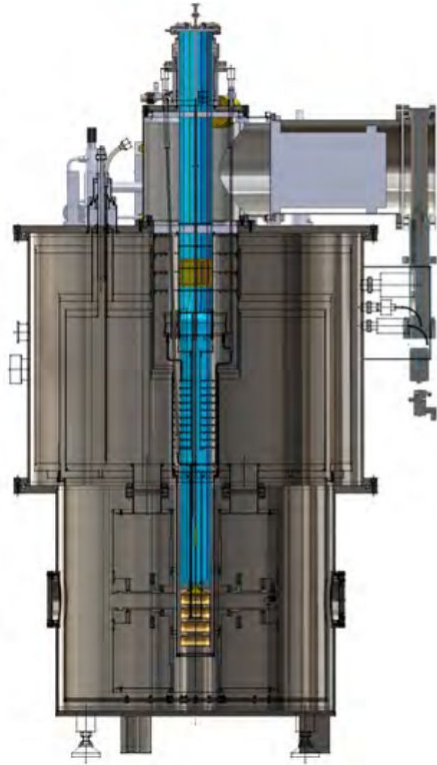
Research Opportunities & How to Get Involved

- How to find professors
 - You can read about each professor's research projects and interests on the UVA physics department website
 - You can email them and set up a time to chat
 - You can utilize our *Available Research Positions* guide

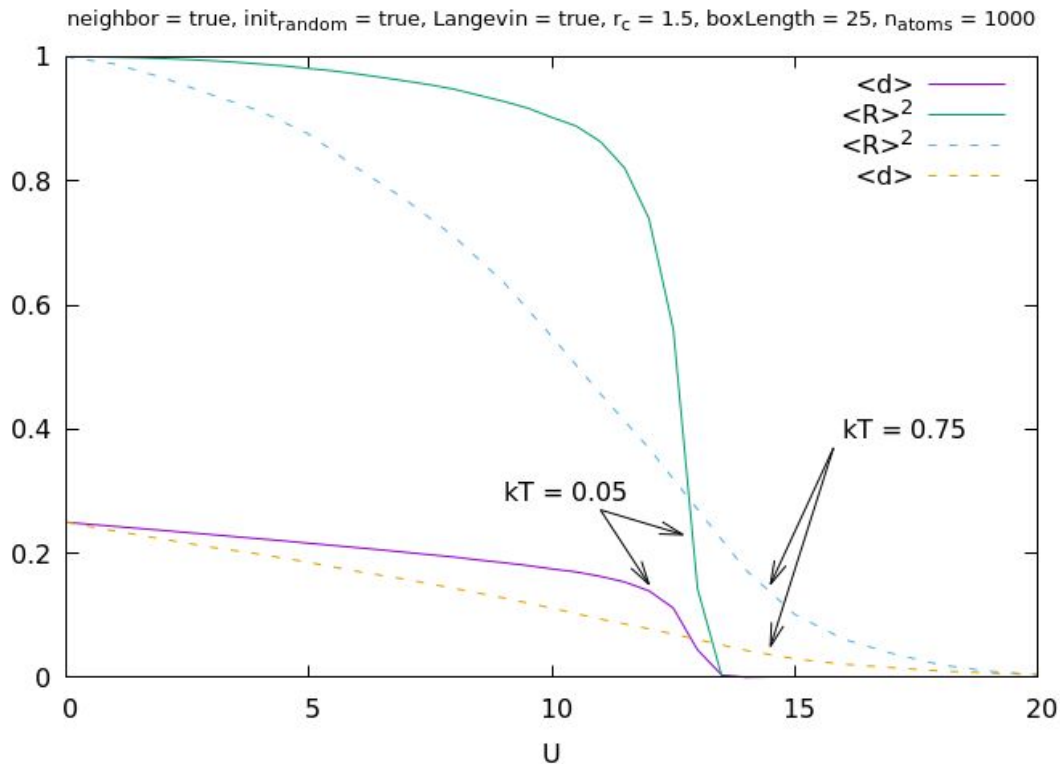
Cosmic Ray Telescope Measurements at Fermilab



Solid Polarized Target Group at UVA, here, in our home



QMD Simulation of Highly Correlated Electrons @ UVA



Ti:sapphire Laser Laboratory at Berkeley Lab

