

PHYSICS & APPLIED PHYSICS SPICE PROGRAMS

SPICE — Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement — is a new program from the Vice Provost for Graduate Education. Small grants are awarded to student groups to build community within their departments through academic programs. We aim to bring both Physics & Applied Physics graduates together across sub-fields in intellectually stimulating ways. To that end, we've developed a number of interesting programs.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/physics/spice/>

Student-led Colloquia

The SPICE Student Colloquium is designed to bring graduate students in our departments together to learn about research outside of our fields and to foster a vibrant intellectual community. We strongly encourage questions from the audience and discussion after the talks. For this reason, we suggest limiting talks to about 30 minutes. We hope the relaxed atmosphere and interesting colloquia will become a long-lasting part of the graduate experience in Physics and Applied Physics at Stanford.

We will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the Physics & Astrophysics Building, Room 102, and food will be provided! Visit our website to request a talk or to sign up for our email list.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/physics/spice/colloquium/>

Science Policy

Why do we do science? More practically, why and how should the government fund science? How is the disconnect between these questions complicated by moral and ethical concerns, public science literacy, scientific “expertise” in government, and the need for pragmatic solutions to global problems?

The Science Policy branch of SPICE will bring in one distinguished speaker per quarter to address such questions in a department-wide colloquium. In the week following the colloquium, we will have an informal lunch discussion about the issues raised by the speaker, open to anyone interested. The first speaker will be Dr. Mike Holland, budget examiner for the DOE, and his talk is entitled “Buying Science Wholesale” on September 17th, 4pm, in room AP200. (contact: Sam Bockenbauer, sdb@stanford.edu)

Excellence in Teaching Discussion

Teaching is a fundamental component of both our graduate career at Stanford, and for many of us, our professional careers. Few great teachers are born naturals; most others are made through mentorship and practice. We will focus on teaching skills, especially for use beyond the discussion section. The monthly discussions will feature teaching experts, explorations of education research, and practical tips to improve your teaching experience. We also want to disseminate good teaching techniques into the Physics department. Stay tuned for more details!

Email Doug Applegate at dapple@stanford.edu if you are interested or if you would like to help organize this seminar.

Student Hosted Colloquium

The Student Hosted Colloquium is an opportunity for graduate students to invite and spend time with scholars from peer institutions and/or industry. Speakers are selected by a panel of graduate students and will give the normal departmental colloquium for the week. In addition the speaker will spend the day of his/her talk meeting with students and touring labs. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with the broader scientific community, learn about alternatives to academic jobs, and form connections which may lead to future collaborations. Currently the students will host 6 speakers per year, or roughly 2 a quarter. Email Mike Minar at mminar@stanford.edu if you are interested in helping out.