FSPA Report & Updates

Mike Wallbank, for the Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association Officers
53rd Annual Fermilab Users’ Meeting
8/13/2020
M Wallbank (FSPA)

Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association, Users’ Meeting 2020

FSPA

• **Form deeper connections** between early career researchers.

• **Share cultural events and activities** from various backgrounds.

• **Provide support to the community** of early career researchers at Fermilab.

• **Act as liaison** between students and postdocs and the Fermilab directorate.
Who are we?
The Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association (FSPA) represents the community of early career researchers at Fermilab, including all students, postdocs, summer students, and interns.

What do we do?
We organize events throughout the year, including the New Perspectives conference and annual Fermilab vs. Argonne Soccer Match, and cosponsor many smaller social events designed to engage the community of students, postdocs, and other early career researchers local to Fermilab. FSPA also acts as custodian of long-lived documents, such as the Fermilab Guide to Life, and provides resources via the FSPA webpages.

And, we’re a great resource that’s available to you if you’ve got any questions or problems while you’re at Fermilab. If you have any questions for the officers feel free to send an email to fspa_officers@fnal.gov.

Be sure to subscribe to our mailing list, fnalgrad@fnal.gov, by following this link. Also, like us on Facebook, to keep up to date on all of the goings on this year!

The FSPA mission
Each year, a core group of democratically elected officers oversees the utilization of funds allocated to FSPA by the Fermi Research Alliance (FRA), via the Fermilab Directorate, towards the accomplishment of two key aspects of the FSPA mission:
FSPA Officers

- **FSPA** is led by 6 officers democratically elected by the student and postdoc community each September.
  - 5 new officers join one remaining member to provide continuity.

- L-R: María Martínez-Casales (S), Richie Diurba (S), Abhilash Yallappa Dombara (S), Luke Pickering (P), Mike Wallbank (P), Samantha Sword-Fehlberg (S).
Our Mission

- **Support the community of students, postdocs and other early-career researchers at Fermilab by providing a variety of professional and social resources and events,** including:
  - Organizing the New Perspectives conference, a unique meeting for early-career researchers;
  - Promoting a sense of community within our members through regular social events;
  - Holding regular professional development activities, such as career workshops;
  - Engage in and encourage conversation in important Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and social issues.

- **Act as a liaison between the early-career research community and the Fermilab directorate.**

- The FSPA Officers oversee the utilization of funds allocated to FSPA by the Fermi Research Alliance (FRA), via the Fermilab Directorate, to support this mission.
Social Activities

Halloween
11/1/2019

Lunar New Year Photos!

Lunar New Year
1/24/2020

(before social distancing!)
Social Activities

- Holiday Party
- **Thanksgiving Pot-Luck** (in association with Global Services)
- *Spring Pot-Luck* (in association with Global Services)
- *Badminton Tournament* (in association with Badminton Group/Wellness Office)
- *Soccer Tournaments*
- *Brazilian BBQ*
- *Annual FNAL/ANL Soccer Match* (in association with Soccer Group)

*Not possible this year 😞
Community Development

- Continued our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Careers events after a successful couple of years of programming.
- Work in close collaboration with Fermilab’s Diversity & Inclusion Office.

**Physics and Disability: Supporting the Variety of Peoples’ Needs, Abilities, and Interests**

Presents by Jackie Chini and Erin Scanlon
University of Central Florida

All people inherently vary in terms of their needs, abilities, and interests. However, previous research indicated that physicists receive little training about supporting people with disabilities, physics curricular materials are not designed to support students with disabilities, and STEM professionals hold more negative views about people with disabilities than their peers in other academic disciplines. In this talk, we will discuss ableism in the academy and STEM community, theories of disability, disability in physics, and mechanisms, tools, and considerations to plan for variation in peoples’ needs, abilities, and interests.

Erin Scanlon (she/her) is currently a preeminent postdoctoral scholar in the physics department at the University of Central Florida and will be starting a faculty position at the University of Connecticut in the fall. She earned her bachelor’s degree in physics from Drew University and a Ph.D. in physics from Kansas State University. She has been PI on four National Science Foundation awards, including an CAREER award. Her research focuses on how to make the physics community and STEM teaching and learning more inclusive.

Jackie Chini (she/her) was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Physics Department at the University of Central Florida. She earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from Drew University and a Ph.D. in physics from Kansas State University. She has been PI on four National Science Foundation awards, including an CAREER award. Her research focuses on how to make the physics community and STEM teaching and learning more inclusive.

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**Crucial Conversations**

Mary Beth Stevens

This presentation distills volumes of research into communication strategies that:
- are immediately applicable in personal and professional life,
- focus on creating interpersonal safety for problem-solving conversations,
- and aim to modify the stories we tell about conflict and each other.

Monday Aug 3rd
12:00 – 13:15 pm
Central Time

Mary Beth Stevens has over 25 years’ experience in crisis response and conflict resolution, including 19 years as organizational ombuds in a 10,000-person national laboratory.

Her educational background in psychology has been made practical by her work as an ombuds, mediator, critical incident debriefer and facilitator of trauma survivor groups. She regularly provides training on conflict resolution, communications and negotiations skills and is certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health as a Mental Health First Aid instructor.
Community Development

- Focussed a lot on various careers events this year to support our community (and more to come).

- All recordings from the talks are available on our website.

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**GitHub and Software Best Practices**

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GitHub and Software Best Practices

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Community Development

- Recently launched ‘FSPA For Change’ to encourage the community to have conversations about anti-racism and what we, as future leaders of the field, can do to improve representation.

- Held FSPA Action Month, providing daily resources for reflection and encouraged discussion.
  - Aimed to begin conversations within our community and develop self-education and awareness habits.

- Intend to continue the effort to ensure we continue to move forwards.

- See our website and #fspa-for-change on Fermilab Users Slack.
New Perspectives

- Unique conference — organized by early-career researchers, for early-career researchers.
- Two days of talks in a relaxed, friendly environment, with the levels pitched to all attendees.

- NP-July was extremely successful as an online-only iteration this year; thanks to all who made it such a success:
  - 48 speakers, 198 registrants, 139 unique connections.
  - Continued our strong community focus by ensuring we still had time for socializing (but via virtual trivia instead of the traditional BBQ).

- Even more popular in these times of virtual conferences!
  - >90 abstracts for ~44 slots.
  - So, for this year, we have…
New Perspectives 2.0!

- Tagline suggestions welcome!
  - ‘: Even Newer Perspectives’
  - ‘: The Return of the Perspective’

- We are very excited to be able to hold a second New Perspectives this year thanks to the amazing demand and the excitement from the community.

- Please register and attend!
  - Aug 24-25, 2020
  - https://indico.fnal.gov/event/44451/
  - Agenda is officially released on Indico today!

- 31 talks confirmed; room for a couple more if anyone is interested (get in touch!).
FSPA Community Liaison

- Collaborate with the Users Executive Committee as representatives of the early-career community.
  - Attend UEC meetings and report on activities.
  - Participate in UEC subcommittees.
  - Co-host events and assist in organizing Users’ Meeting.

2019-20 Users Executive Committee
HEP Advocating

- The FSPA community is a large part of the annual HEP Advocacy DC Trip.
  - 44 out of the 67 attendees this year were students or postdocs.

- Meet with Congresspeople and their staff to thank them for supporting our work, share our excitement and enthusiasm for HEP and tell them all the great progress we’ve made.
  - All meetings were via phone this year, but it was an extremely successful ‘trip’!

- FSPA is also ready to support early-career researchers during the ongoing Snowmass process.
Get Involved!

- **Subscribe** to our mailing list: fnalgrad@fnal.gov
- **Contact** the officers: fspa_officers@fnal.gov
- **Visit** our website: fspa.fnal.gov
- **Like** us on Facebook: facebook.com/FermilabFSPA
- **Attend** our community Town Hall in September (details to come)
- **Reach out** with any suggestions, feedback and ideas for other ways we can help
- **Run in the election** to become an FSPA Officer and have the privilege of serving your community!
  - Elections will be held in September, so please begin to consider who to nominate to this important position, or nominate yourself!
Get Involved!

- Could this be you?!

- We need enthusiastic members to carry forward the FSPA mission as Fermilab’s Student & Postdocs continue to take a leading role in Defining the Decade!