

A glass mug filled with dark tea and a slice of lemon sits on a yellow knitted blanket. To the left, an open book with text is visible, and several autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow are scattered around. The scene is set on a dark wooden surface.

FSPA Update

User's Executive Committee Meeting
Samantha Sword-Fehlberg on Behalf of FSPA
September 18th, 2020

OVERVIEW



**AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER
EVENTS**



**OUR
CONTINUED
COMMITMENT
TO EDI**



**SUMMARY OF
THE 2019-2020
YEAR**



**CHARGES FOR
NEXT YEAR'S
OFFICERS**



.01.
*August &
September
Events*

New Perspectives 2.0

- 40 Scientific Presentations (~40 Attendees/session)
- 258 Registrants
- Industry Panel (72 Attendees)
- Career Talk From Eileen Beno (40 Attendees)
- Prize Winners:
 - The two 'Most accessible talk' winners, as nominated by the session chairs were:
 - Mackenzie Devilbiss for Muze Event Reconstruction
 - Zulkaida Akbar for The Polarized-Target System for the SpinQuest Experiment at Fermilab
 - The two 'Best plot or slide' winners, as nominated by the session chairs were:
 - Yiding Yu for slide 6 of NuMI Beam Monitoring Simulation and Data Analysis
 - Tyler Reynolds for slide 14/15 SuperCDMS IMPACT: Measuring the sub-keV Ionization Yield in Cryogenic Solid-State Detectors

Constitution

Constitution was ratified on August 31st, 2020 with all of our signatures

THESE BYLAWS WERE RATIFIED ON AUGUST 31st, 2020 BY THE FOLLOWING SIGNEES

Maria Martinez-Casales:



Richard Diurba:



Luke Pickering:



Samantha Sword-Fehlberg:



Michael Wallbank:



Abhilash Dombara Yallappa:



Election

- Announcement was sent to fnal_grad, fspa_all, and all_users listservs calling for nominations

Dear all,

We are calling for nominations for next year's FSPA Officers!

For those who don't know, FSPA is the Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association with the mission to support the community of students, postdocs, and all other early career researchers at Fermilab by performing endeavors such as:

- organizing social events and the annual New Perspectives conference
- holding professional development activities
- organizing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion related activities
- act as a liaison between students/postdocs and the Fermilab directorate

If you are a student, postdoc, or an early career researcher/employee at the lab and want to give something back to the community, consider nominating yourself or someone you know.

This is a great opportunity to see how the lab is run, to meet new people and to organize activities with your colleagues, and meet your Congressional leaders in Washington DC to advocate for HEP.

The nomination period starts now and we're extending it to **September 20 at 11.59 pm CT**. We will send another email announcing the candidates and voting will begin shortly thereafter. Please send nominations directly to [fspa_off](#).

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding the roles of an FSPA officer, or any other concern! Feel free to circulate this email widely.

Your current FSPA Officers,

Abhilash, Luke, Maria, Mike, Richie & Samantha

- We currently have 5 nominees, but nomination will close on Sunday, September 20th at 12 pm CST
- Voting will be from September 21st - October 1st
- We will meet with the New Members October 1st
- New Officers will Start October 5th



*.02.
Our Continued
Commitment to EDI*

1st Amendment to Our Constitution

1. FSPA officers should have annual, active involvement with diversity, inclusion, and social justice efforts either at Fermilab, within the scientific community, or within general society. These efforts must be coordinated and approved by Fermilab's office of contact for equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts. Yearly projects for FSPA include, but are not limited to, involvement in projects such as Fermilab's seminar series on diversity and inclusion.

We have partnered with Sandra Charles and the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Office to help plan and coordinate D&I efforts that will support both Employees and User's

•03•

*Summary
of the
2019-2020
Year*



FSPA Community Survey

- Sent to the FSPA Community in an effort to identify the following:
 1. Methods of Communication i.e. how they are hearing about FSPA and FSPA Events
 2. What events they like/don't like and what they want to see more of
 3. Why they are unable to attend events
- Also wanted to identify how to engage with a larger community:
 - Neutrino vs. Non-Neutrino: How to get more diverse FSPA officers
 - Onsite vs. Offsite Members: How to reach office researchers



Dia de los Muertos Halloween!



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1ST

FSPA Presents

HALLOWEEN

A Halloween-themed poster graphic featuring a full moon, silhouettes of bats, a haunted house, and a tree. The text "KLUHN BARN" is prominently displayed in a stylized font.

KLUHN BARN
Join us 5:30pm

Food and beverages* will be served,
costume, pumpkin carving contest and more!

*bar opens at 6:30pm

FSPA
Fermilab Student & PostDoc Association

Fermilab
50 Years of Discovery



- ~200 People
- 3 Adult Costume Awards
- 1 Pumpkin Carving Award
- Kid Costume Parade



You are invited to share in a...

Thanksgiving Meal

Thursday, November 28th, 11-4 PM



Thanksgiving is an American holiday. The heart of Thanksgiving is coming together with family and friends and being thankful for all of the good things in life.



In the spirit of the holiday season, we would like to invite you for a special Thanksgiving gathering. We will share a traditional Thanksgiving meal, movies, games and more!

RSVP by 11/25 & sign up for a dish to share at:
<https://get-connected.fnal.gov/Thanksgiving>



 Fermilab  FSPA  Fermilab

THANKSGIVING MEAL

- Provided financial support to the Thanksgiving Potluck
- Also advertised the event to our community
- ~50 Attendees

Thanksgiving Potluck at User's Center



UEC Meet and Greet



UEC and FSPA present

MEET & GREET

Meet the Fermilab Users Executive Committee
and learn about what we do!

FRIDAY, JAN 17TH, STARTS AT 3:00PM
WilsonHall 2nd floor XO

The event overlaps with the W&C seminar. In addition to regular w&c, snacks will be provided!

(we encourage those interested to also attend the seminar at 4 pm)

Employees and Users are Welcome to attend

Raffle with prizes!

Learn more about UEC at uec.fnal.g



2019-20 Users Executive Committee

- ~100 People
- Talked with individuals about what they wanted to see from us as officers



2019's 'FSPA'

- 5 of our 6 officers contacted variety of Congressional offices on the behalf of the HEP community (from a distance)

FSPA Advocates for HEP



Lunar New Year Party!



FSPA Lunar New Year Party
Kuhn Barn
Friday Jan 24th, 6pm

Please RSVP:

fspa.fnal.gov/events/lunar-new-year/

Food and Beverages will be served
Suggested Donation: \$5 (kids go free)



- ~100 People
- Dumpling making stations
- Chinese Calligraphy

GitHub and Software Best Practices

```
talk_notification: {
  abstract: "Many of us write code, from a big software project
to short scripts to configuration files. This talk
will cover software best practices and existing
tools that in the end will improve the quality of
our products and make our life easier."

  included_topics: [
    "A brief introduction to Version Control Systems",
    "An overview of Github tools and best practices for software
development and deployment",
    "A summary of what interviewers look for when reviewing
Github pages"
  ]

  location: "Wilson Hall, One West"
  datetime: {
    date: "March 9th" free_pizza_🍕: "11:30"
    talk_begin: "12:00" talk_len: "45+15 m" }

  presenter: {
    name: "Marco Mambelli, PhD"
    job_title: "Application Developer and System Analyst"
    place_of_work: "@Local::FNAL.ScientificComputingDivision"
    bio: "Marco is the project and technical lead of GlideinWMS,
a tool used to provision the computing resources for
CMS and most Fermilab experiments. Before that, he
worked on the design and
development of other distributed
software projects at Fermilab
and the University of Chicago."
  }
}
```



FSPA

Fermilab Student &
Postdoc Association

- Focused on git as a tool, and GitHub as a way to represent yourself well for job applications
- Great response to RSVP (~75 people) and ~80 people attended in-person and via zoom
- Recorded and Uploaded: <https://fspa.fnal.gov/sw-career-mar2020/>

Career Event with Marco Mambelli (SCD)



Career Event with Patricia Rankin (CU Boulder)

Networking in the Social Distancing Era



Patricia Rankin



Times are uncertain now, but networking will always be useful!



Discussions on remote networking adaptations:



- How can we replicate the conversations held during coffee breaks or evening meals?
- Might the new versions of how we meet level the playing field?
- Is it more or less difficult to make a connection in a zoom meeting than in person?

 **Friday**
May 8th



11:30 → 1:00 pm
Central Time

 **Zoom**



Patricia Rankin:
Professor of Physics
University of Colorado

- Program Officer National Science Foundation
- Associate Dean for Natural Sciences CU Boulder
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at CU Boulder
- Chaired the APS Committee on the **Status of Women in Physics**
- Co-authored a Review for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation: **Representation of Women in Science and Engineering**



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Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association

- Networking in the Social Distancing Era
 - How to make meaningful connections (and maintain them) especially during COVID
- Recordings:
<https://fspa.fnal.gov/career-activities/networking-may2020/>



Communicating Your Science



Learn to communicate science effectively to a wide variety of audiences - from experts in the field to those with little or no background.

We'll discuss the importance of great data visualization approaches and key factors to keep in mind when giving a talk, no matter who the audience.

Nicole Lloyd Ronning
Los Alamos National Laboratory

FSPA
Fermilab Student &
Postdoc Association



May 22nd
12-1 pm CST



Zoom connection TBD

- How to communicate effectively regardless of audience
- 30+ Attendees
- Recordings:
<https://fspafnl.gov/career-activities/talk-communicating-your-science/>

*Career Event with
Nicole-Lloyd Ronning
(LANL)*



Inclusion Matters 2020 with Jackie Chini and Erin Scanlon (UCF)

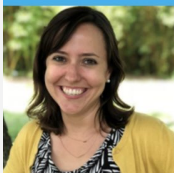
Physics and Disability: Supporting the Variety of Peoples' Needs, Abilities, and Interests

Presented by Jackie Chini and Erin Scanlon
University of Central Florida

Inclusion Matters:
Unpacking Bias.
Building Inclusion.



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.



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 a CAREER award. Her research focuses on how to make the physics community and STEM teaching and learning more inclusive.

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 University of Connecticut in the fall. She earned her bachelor's degree in physics from Michigan Tech, her master's degree in physics from Georgia Tech, and her PhD in developmental education with a specialization in mathematics from Texas State. She is currently researching 1) how institutions across the country implement SCALE-UP style teaching in their physics courses and 2) how the STEM community is and can better support people with disabilities.



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June 15th, 12 pm – 1pm CST
Zoom Connection Here



- Physics and Disability
 - Thinking more about how we can support those with disabilities now and in the future
- Recordings:
<https://fspa.fnal.gov/diversity-and-inclusion/>





- Diverse scientific agenda
- 198 registrants
- 139 Unique Connections
 - 72 max @ any one time
- Website: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/23110/>

New Perspectives 2020



FSPA For Change

FSPA for Change

FSPA is committed to supporting all members of our community and ensuring we do all we can to work toward an anti-racist society and address the problems of underrepresentation in our field. See our statement below from June 2020.

FSPA Action Month

Beginning June 15, 2020, we will engage in a month of education, reflection and conversation as we consider what we as a community can do to enact the change required in academia, and more widely in our society.

We encourage all members of the FSPA community to participate to the extent they are able and comfortable.

<http://fspa.fnal.gov/fspa-action-month>

Slack Channel

#fspa-for-change

Fermilab Users Slack (fermilab-users.slack.com)

FSPA Officer Statement, June 2, 2020

The statements below are the opinion of the undersigned members only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Fermilab.

Dear Fermilab Students and Postdoc community,

We, the FSPA Officers, stand in solidarity with our Black friends, colleagues, and the wider Black community at this very painful time. We know many of you are hurting, upset, and angry.

The global pandemic has highlighted the deep historical and racial inequalities in our society. The Black community continues to experience abhorrent acts of racist violence such as those leading to the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many others. We, as a group of people who value objectivity and truth, cannot watch on in silence. We unreservedly condemn these racist, hateful actions. We hear Black voices. We stand with our Black colleagues and friends. Black lives matter and are deeply valued. This is a time to reaffirm this belief and show it through our actions.

While these situations are impacting everyone, we acknowledge our colleagues of Color, particularly our Black colleagues, are disproportionately affected. As we reflect on the events, we want to be clear that we do not hope for a "return to normal", but for sustained progress towards an anti-racist society. We all have a role and a responsibility to enact change. Included in this letter is a link to a list of anti-racism resources, which we did not compile, but are sharing in the hope that it is useful. It is important we acknowledge the labor of the communities of Color from which many of the resources come. There are of course many other resources, and we encourage you to share those that you find particularly insightful. We will note, as many others have, that if you are White, like some of us who write this letter, it is important to do this work without relying on the backs of our colleagues of Color.

[Anti-racism resources](#)

We are open and listening to any steps that we can take. We understand that not everyone may want to share their thoughts right now, and we will continue to think of ways to support you. We want this to be the start of an ongoing conversation, and we encourage those that feel comfortable to be a part of it.

We want to end this letter by acknowledging the trauma that people are experiencing right now. You may feel the expectation to keep up unreasonable levels of academic output. We know that these expectations often fall almost entirely onto the shoulders of students and postdocs. We want to validate these feelings of pressure and trauma. And, it would be unjust if we do not acknowledge that this pressure weighs even more heavily on our colleagues of Color. Remember that your health, mental and physical, is more important than meeting the next deadline.

We urge you to care for yourselves. We urge you to care for each other.

Yours,

Luke, Richie, Mike, Samantha, Abhilash, Maria

- Encourage the community to have conversations about anti-racist actions and what we can do to improve representation in our field
- <https://fspa.fnal.gov/fspa-for-change/>

FSPA

Fermilab Student &
Postdoc Association

FSPA Report & Updates

Mike Wallbank, for the Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association Officers
53rd Annual Fermilab Users' Meeting
8/13/2020

- Helped with the organization and execution of the 2020 User's Meeting
- Mike gave a fantastic summary of our organization
 - Thanks Mike for 2 years of service!

*FSPA at the 2020
User's Meeting*



New Perspectives 2.0

New Perspectives 2.0

2020-08-24



Starts at 8:45
am CDT,
3:45 pm CEST,
6:45 pm IST



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Contact: fspa_officers@fnal.gov

- First time ever hosting a second New Perspectives!
- Also had an Industry Panel and Career Talk
- Website:
<https://indico.fnal.gov/event/44451/overview>

New Perspectives 2.0

Career Sessions

Monday August 24th

Path To Industry Career Panel

- **Bing Bu** (D0/NOvA, Director of Technology at Strike Social)
- **Ben Freemire** (Accelerator Physicist (FAST, MuCool, MICE), Research Scientist at Euclid Techlabs LLC)
- **Ben Kreis** (CMS, Data Scientist at Apple)
- **Cristiana Principato** (CDF/NOvA, Data Scientist at MakerSights)

➤ Four panelists will introduce their backgrounds in physics and industry and then take your questions!



12:15 to 13:15



Connect via [Zoom](#)

Tuesday August 25th

Preparing for Your Next Career Move

Eileen Beno, Scientific Recruiter, Fermilab



Developing a road map <

Assessing skills <

Identifying tools and resources <

Meeting with HR – what to do and NOT do <

FSPA

Fermilab Student &
Postdoc Association

- Path to Industry Career Panel
 - 4 excellent candidates who answered questions about entering industry
 - Materials to be posted soon
- Eileen Beno: Fermilab's Scientific Recruiter
 - How to prepare for next career move
 - Materials to be posted soon


New Perspectives 2.0

Career Events



Inclusion Matters 2020 Event with Mary Beth Stevens (LANL)

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**

 **Zoom**

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.

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- How to communicate with our colleagues regarding sensitive topics
- ~20 Attendees
- Recordings:
<https://fspa.fnal.gov/career-activities/talk-crucial-conversations/>



.04.
*Changes for Next
Year's Officers*

Our Charges for Next Year's Officers



THE FSPA MISSION

Continue the mission of FSPA by hosting variety of social and career events.



EDI

Work in cooperation with the EDI office to plan the 2020-2021 D&I series and continue to foster a sense of inclusion throughout the lab.



CONNECTION

Help to provide a sense of connection between colleagues during the COVID-19 shut down.

Thanks for a great year!

