



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Physics

SU PHYSICS NEWS – NOVEMBER 2011

Presentations by faculty:

- **Steve Blusk:** talk on “Status of Activities on $H_b \rightarrow H_c h$, $H_b \rightarrow H_c h h h$, $H_b \rightarrow D_{(s)} D_{(s)}$, and $D_{(s)} V^0$ in LHCb”, LHCb Collaboration Meeting (November 28, - December 1, 2011).
- **Simon Catterall:** seminar, Department of Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder (November 14, 2011).
- **Kenneth Foster:** colloquium, “The self organized beating of cilia and their control”, Physics Department, Brandeis University, Waltham MA (November 8, 2011).
- **Matt LaHaye:** physics colloquium at Amherst College (November 17, 2011).
- **Lisa Manning:** invited talk, “Structural Soft Spots Control Flow in Ordered and Disordered Solids”, and was a session chair at the *Complex Dynamics of Dislocations, Defects, and Interfaces* workshop at the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Lab (November 14-16, 2011).
- **Liviu Movileanu:**
 - guest lecture, Biotechnology Program, Department of Biology, Syracuse University (November 14, 2011).
 - invited talk, *The 8th International Conference on Flow Dynamics, Molecular and Nanoscale Phenomena in Fluids and Interfaces*, Sendai International Center, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan (November 10, 2011).
- **Eric Schiff:** presentation on “Sustainable Energy and Physics Curricula” at the Thousand Islands Energy Research Forum on November 5; Peter Saulson was a co-author.
- **Richard Schnee:** invited talk on “Results from CDMS and CRESST” at workshop on “Exploring Low-Mass Dark Matter Candidates” at the Pittsburgh Particle physics, Astrophysics, and Cosmology Center (PITT PACC) (November 14-15, 2011).
- **Sheldon Stone:** invited to workshop *Interpreting LHC Discoveries* and gave invited talk on “Heavy Quark Physics” at The Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics, Florence, Italy (November 11-16, 2011).
- **Scott Watson:** invited seminar: “UV Sensitivity of Dark matter”, MIT (November 15, 2011).

New Grants and Awards:

- **Duncan Brown:** National Science Foundation has just awarded a new grant, “Data Handling and Analysis Infrastructure for Advanced LIGO and Beyond”, with a start date of 1 Dec 2011. \$2.25M comes to Syracuse University under the leadership of Duncan, as part of a \$9M five-year multi-institution grant. The funds that come to SU will be used to support scientists who will develop the computational infrastructure needed for Advanced LIGO and gravitational wave astronomy.

Participation in Advisory and Review Boards:

- **Steve Blusk:** appointment to LHCb Editorial Board (2-year appointment).
- **Duncan Brown:** served on NSF review panel for Office of Cyberinfrastructure.
- **Liviu Movileanu:**
 - panel adviser, The NSF Workshop at the University of Wisconsin: “Partnership for Innovation,” The University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (November 18-19, 2011).
 - grant reviewer, The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), (November 2011).
- **Tomas Skwarnicki:**
 - served on Belle Physics Advisory Committee, at KEK, Tsukuba, Japan (November 11-12, 2011).
 - served on DOE-NSF Review Panel for Open Science Grid proposal, Arlington, VA (November 21-22, 2011).

Outreach:

- **Matt LaHaye:** coordinated Undergraduate Research Day on Saturday November 5th. Roughly 60 people from 11 institutions attended; there were 10 student talks, 4 SU faculty talks, and 10 student posters.

Other:

- **BalFest:** A celebration of the retirement of Prof. A.P. Balachandran was held on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Speakers included collaborators, former students and postdocs, and faculty. The event was followed by a dinner at the Sheraton.
- New result from LIGO observations: [A Search for Gravitational Waves from Inspiral Neutron Stars and Black Holes](#) (Ligo and Virgo Collaboration).
- **Cristina Marchetti** was elected Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee of the Division of Condensed Matter Physics (DCMP) of the American Physical Society. Her 3-year term will begin in March 2012.
<http://www.aps.org/units/dcmp/governance/elections.cfm>
- **Richard Schnee:** co-organizer, AARM S4 Collaboration Meeting on Simulations of Underground Experiments, Minneapolis, MN (November 11-12, 2011).
- **Mitchell Soderberg:**
 - organized collaboration meeting in New Haven, CT (@Yale) for ArgoNeUT experiment (November 10-11, 2011).
 - participated in American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) New Faculty Workshop in College Park, MD (November 17-20, 2011).

Students and Postdocs:

- **Shiladitya Banerjee** (Advisor: Cristina Marchetti) has been selected as one of five finalists for the GSNP (Group of Statistical and Nonlinear Physics of the APS) Student Speaker Award for best contributed talk at the March meeting by a graduate student in the area of Statistical and Nonlinear Physics. The finalists will present their talk in a special session of the 2012 APS March Meeting in Boston, where a jury will select the winner. All finalists will receive a cash award of \$300 and up to \$500 to defray travel expenses to the meeting.
- **Hui Zhao** (Advisor: Eric Schiff) gave a contributed talk on “Ergodicity of Light Trapping in Solar Cells” at the Materials Research Society Meeting in Boston on November 28; Eric Schiff was a co-author.