Guide to the Department

Jacobus Verbaarschot, Graduate Program Director

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Stony Brook University

Stony Brook, August 2014
Class of Fall 2013

Luca Agozzino (University of Catania)  
Guadalupe Barrios (University of Guatemala City)  
Connor Behan (University of British Columbia)  
Jyoti Biswas (University of Dhaka)  
Nicole Cronin (Muhlenberg College)  
Haiming Deng (CUNY)  
Sebastian Dick (University of Würzburg)  
Yifan Feng (Osaka University)  
Christopher Hayes (Austin Peay State University)  
Alexander Kappes (University of Würzburg)  
Nermeen Khalil (Stony Brook University)  
Kyle Lee (Chapman University)  
Xiaoyang Liu (Shandong University)  
Yao Ma (Stony Brook University)  
Evan Philip (NISER Bhubaneswar)  
Henrik Poulsen (University of Hanover)  
Konstantinos Roumpedakis (UCLA)  
Benjamin Schultz (SUNY Plattsburgh)  
Tao Ye (Shanghai Jiaotong University)  
Yikun Wang (Zhongshan University)  
Yuan Hui Wu (University of Massachusetts Amherst)  
Jiawei Zhang (Stony Brook University)  
Jospeh Andrade (Vassar College)  
Batuhan Baserdem (Gogazici University)  
Elizabeth Berriigan (Chapman University)  
Jae-Hyeok Chang (Stony Brook University)  
Aydin Deger (Izmir Institute of Technology)  
Kaustubh Deshpande (IIT Pune)  
Ori Druks (Columbia University)  
Sonali Gera (IIT Bombay)  
Peter Jones (Alfred University)  
Stacy Karthas (University of New Hampshire)  
Joonhyuk Kwon (Korean Advanced Institute)  
Yunong Liang (Beihang University)  
John Logan (CW Post)  
Irina Petrushina (Moscow Engineering Physics Institute)  
Nicholas Pomata (Perimeter Institute)  
Adith Ramamurti (Stony Brook University)  
Taeho Ryu (Stony Brook University)  
Behrad Taghavi Zanjani (University of Teheran)  
Maximilian Wagner (University of Würzburg)  
Christopher Werth (Stony Brook University)  
Yoo Yun Sik (Seoul National University)  
Yiting Zhang (USTC, Hefei)
### Where Do They Come From?

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Programs of Class of 2011

Class of 40 students: 33 PhD Program
                      1 MS Program
                      10 MA Program
                      3 MAT Program

► PhD and MS students are supported as Teaching Assistant (TA)

► MA students do not teach and can focus 100% on their studies. They are supported by fellowship or other resources.

► PhD and Master students do the same classes and are treated exactly the same in all other respects.

► Master students who do well are recommended to apply to the PhD program.
The Department

► Governance
   Chair: Prof. Laszlo Mihaly
   Committees: Admissions Committee, Graduate Committee, Advising Committee,
               Exam Committee: Dominik Schneble
   Undergraduate Program Director: Bob McCarthy
   Graduate Program Director: Jacobus Verbaarschot
   Faculty Meetings: meets 4-6 times a year

► Staff in the Main Office
   Sara Lutterbie (Assistant Director of the Graduate Program)
   Socoro Delquaglio (Business Manager, keys, copying cards)
   Diane Diaferia, (Assistant to the Undergraduate Program Director)
   Nathan Leoce-Schappin, Assistant to the Chair
   Frank Chin, Director of the Physical Laboratories
   Rich Berscack, Building Manager

► Instructional Laboratory
   Bent Nielsen

► Faculty
   Regular faculty: they are the heart of the department
   Adjunct faculty: typically scientist at BNL who have graduate students or teach
   Affiliate faculty: Faculty who are paid by other departments

► Students
   They are the center of the department
The University

- **Graduate School**
  Dean: Chuck Taber
  Associate Dean: Joel Levine
  Assistant Deans: Melissa Jordan, Nina Maung
  Graduate Student Advocate: Zahra Embrahiimi

- **International Services**
  Assistant Dean: Lindsi Walker

- **Graduate Student Organization**
  President: Evgenia Sidorova
  Physics Senator (also Speaker of the GSO): Max Katz

- **Graduate Student Employee Union (GSEO)**

- **Stony Brook Research Assistants Union**

- **University Senate**
  President: Edeard Feldman
  Graduate Council: approves all the rules you have to live with

- **University: President, Provost, Dean**
  President: Samuel Stanley
  Provost: Dennis Assanis
  Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences: Sacha Kopp
Opportunities outside Stony Brook

- Laboratories outside Stony Brook at which you might do your thesis research
  - Brookhaven Laboratory (BNL): RHIC, NSLS, Nanomaterials
  - Cold Spring Harbor (CSH): biological sciences
  - Fermilab: D0
  - CERN: Atlas
Your Role in the Department

**Student:** Pass exams, register to courses, do homework, pass tests, keep grade point average, watch for deadlines.

**Teacher:** Teach undergraduate lab courses (occasionally recitations), grade exams, homeworks.

**Researcher:** Focus your interest, find an advisor, learn a special field, do your own research.

**Citizen:** Be involved socially, vote at elections, help other students, be nice, do not tolerate academic or scientific dishonesty.

**US Citizens or Permanent Residents:** Become a NY State Resident as soon as possible (not later than December 15). Otherwise you will be responsible for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.

Keep your eye on the ball: your goal is to get a PhD degree ASAP (ASAP: as soon as possible - no sooner, no later).
Mentoring Program

A mentor can advise you on both academic and non-academic issues.

A mentor may become your advisor, but this is the exception.

A mentor may be helpful to solve many of the problems you encounter.

If you would like to have a mentor, please send me an email and we will discuss the best possible match.
Questions on the Graduate Program

Guide
Frequently asked questions
Current and past course WEB pages
Bulletin Board (PhD projects, fellowships, jobs, etc.)
Recent exam problems.

Ask Sara or me if you have any questions. Tell us if you have any problems. She can do the impossible right away but she is quite busy this time of year.

(Exception: visa problems, go directly to International Services Office)
If you not already have done it, all of you should have watched the Podcasts of the Graduate School at

https://www.grad.stonybrook.edu/students/Orientation/index

There are 5 podcasts:

- Introduction
- Policies and Procedures
- Health Insurance
- Resources
- Student Life
Computers and IT

Computer Services at Stony Brook are run by Google:

- Google Mail
- Google Drive
- Google Sites
Computer Questions

The university guide is at

http://it.stonybrook.edu/it-guides/students

**Solar system:** Use it for registration, checking your student account, etc.

**Wireless access:** It is provided by the Campus-wide WolfieNet. Covers most of our building. NetID and NetID password is required. You can also use the Guest Account.

**Laptops:** limited number of laptop computers are available to students in the Instructional Laboratory.

**NetID:** Log in to Solar, set up your NetID account.

More advise can be found on

http://it.stonybrook.edu/it-guides/students.
Registering Your Computer

- To connect your computer to the network, you need an IP address.

- To get an IP address in the ESS building, email Doug Swesty (Douglas.Swesty@stonybrook.edu).

- To connect to the internet in the Physics and/or Math buildings you need to register your computer (in fact your computer’s network card). To do this, send a request to John Noe (John.Noe@stonybrook.edu) with the following information:

  1. Your full name and status (graduate student, visitor, etc.)
  2. Your office location and telephone number.
  3. Your research group if you belong to one.
  4. The type of computer (laptop or desktop).
  5. Is the computer for personal use or part of the research group, i.e., who owns it?
  6. The name you want for your computer.
  7. The operating system the computer runs (Linux, Unix, Windows, Macintosh, etc.).
  8. The MAC (“Media Access Control”) or physical address is a hardware address that uniquely identifies each node of a network.

To get the physical address on a Linux or Macintosh computer, run the `ifconfig` command. The physical address is six pairs of hex digits separated by colons, labeled “ether” under “en0:”. Example: “ether 00:25:4b:b1:58:f0”
Email

The Electronic Post Office (EPO) gives you a generic email address (which is usually Firstname.Lastname@stonybrook.edu) that directs email to your Stony Brook Google Mail account. You all have such account and all university email goes to this account.

To find your email account, go to Solar [http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud](http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud) and login with your NetId and your Password (which can be set by logging into Solar). Can only be accessed from a Stony Brook IP address.

Please note that your Stony Brook Google email account will be closed the semester after you graduate or leave the University.

If you want to receive email on a different server, click on Settings (upper right) of your Google account.

More information on your Google Mail Account can be found at [http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/google-apps-email-calendar-docs-etc/gm](http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/google-apps-email-calendar-docs-etc/gm).

Also use an email-subject that reflects the content of your email. Do not blindly use “reply”.

WE WILL USE THE GENERIC EMAIL ADDRESS IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS, AND IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THIS ACCOUNT OR TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MAIL IS FORWARDED TO AN ACCOUNT THAT YOU READ!!!
Storing Files and Creating Webpages

All students have access to Google Drive to store files and Google Sites to create webpages. See the IT help site for more information.
Wireless

Wireless internet access is available in most of the building. The campus WolfieNet can be used in the Math, Physics and Astronomy Library (C-130). Follow the instructions on the page to set up your laptop for this service:

http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/wi-fi-wolfienet. In addition, most research groups provide wireless access through local routers for their members and visitors. Contact the group leader or group computer administrator to arrange access. The campus policy on the use of information technology is at

http://it.stonybrook.edu/policies/
Copy Machines

► **Research**: To make copies related to your research please see the Main Office of the key of the copying room (P 115).

► **Course Material**: To make copies for a teaching assignment, please see the Main Office for the key of the copying room (P-115).

► **Problems**: Please report any difficulties with the copy machine to the Main Office.
Identity Card

Once you are admitted to the university, you will have a campus ID number that will allow you to log-on to the SOLAR system (see below) where class rosters/grades, etc. information can be accessed. The ID number will also allow you to obtain an ID card from the Campus Card Office, Rm. 254, Admin. Bldg. The ID card is your official identification at Stony Brook University.

Your ID card also gives you the ability to become a member of Teacher’s Federal Credit Union (TFCU), which has a branch in the basement of the Student Activities Center, Rm. 009B.
Parking

► Students with a TA or RA appointment may obtain a parking permit for your car by logging onto

http://www.stonybrook.edu/parking. You will need to provide your USB ID Number (or Social Security Number) and the license plate number from your car.

► Other students can park at the station or the South-P lot and take a bus.
Pay Checks

- State paychecks are distributed in the Main Office every other Wednesday.

- Research Foundation paychecks are distributed in the Main Office every other Friday.

- Attendance Rosters must be signed electronically each month for either payroll roster. I will approve students supported by the State.

- Please see the Main Office for either State or Research Foundation forms that will allow direct deposit to your bank. This is a convenience to you, and highly encouraged university practice.

- You can see your pay stubs on Solar.
Solar System

The on-line system that students use to register for classes, and faculty use to see class rosters and enter grades. Go to [http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/solar](http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/solar) to log in. Your Stony Brook ID Number is your username.
Travel

► All travel by international students has to be approved by the International Services Office. You will need a letter of Good Standing which can be provided by Sara.

► When classes are in session you should avoid any travel. If you have to leave nevertheless, please let me know and tell me which arrangements you have made to cover your TA duties. Also tell the Professors whose course you are taking.

► If your travel is supported by grants your travel needs to be approved via Foreign Travel Request Form and then it will be approved by your advisor. It is recommended to have your airfare arranged by the administrative assistant of your advisor so that you do not have to put up the money for the trip.
Web Sites

► Stony Brook University: http://www.stonybrook.edu

► Department. of Physics and Astronomy: http://www.physics.sunysb.edu/Physics/

► Graduate Program: http://graduate.physics.stonybrook.edu

► Graduate School: http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/

► Stony Brook IT Guide http://it.stonybrook.edu/it-guides/students

► Solar Stony Brook http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/solar
Living on Long Island

Team up with other students to get off-campus housing

Get a bicycle

Get a car (or a friend with a car). Working at BNL is not possible without a car.

Use opportunities on campus:

- Staller Center (concerts, movies, recitals)
- Gym, squash, racket ball, swimming, running, tennis
- Soccer
- Summer Keg
- Starbucks
- University Cafe

West Meadow Beach

NY City
Medical Issues

- **Hepatitis B.** This is a serious liver disease that is transmitted by exchanging bodily fluids. The infection is lifelong. The American College Health Association recommends that all College students be vaccinated against this disease. Infections in some of the home countries of students on this campus are as high as 15%.

- **AIDS.** Safe sex is the only answer. Same for other venereal diseases. Again, because this campus is multi-cultural, some the students come from societies with very high infection rates, and potentially everybody is at risk.

- **Skin Cancer.** Always use sunscreen and keep your body covered when outside.

- **Lyme Disease.** If you have a tick bite, get it checked out, and if you get the classical symptoms of Lyme disease, immediately get it checked out.
More Medical Issues

- *Poisonous Ivy.* Be sure that you recognize this plant and carefully avoid touching it. Never walk barefoot on a lawn.

- *Mental Diseases.* Depression, anxiety, etc.. Seek help when this occurs at Counseling
  
  [http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/shs/info.shtml](http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/shs/info.shtml)

- *Student Health Service:*
  
  [http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/shs/info.shtml](http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/shs/info.shtml)

- Don’t smoke. Don’t use drugs. If at all, only drink alcohol in moderation.
The Rest of the Week

- TA training
- Tuesday: Placement Exam
- Wednesday: Graduate School TA orientation, Placement exam
- Thursday: Orientation about courses and exams
- Friday: Presentations for TA training and advising and register for courses

Find time to get ID card, set up email.
Most students work as lab instructors in large undergrad courses. Training for this job starts later today by a talk of Professor Abhay Deshpance. The bulk of your training will be to prepare a sample presentation for a lab course.

Choose assignment today
Prepare today, tomorrow, Thursday and in any free time you can find
Lab presentations Friday

Teaching assignments are being made; will be complete by Friday. Meet here with professors who are teaching the courses to sort out your assignment times. Possible change of assignment – if you miss this session, you are at risk of facing real problems.

Please be flexible with your schedule. Teaching has to be done, and it may be that you cannot take your favorite course or seminar this year.
Map of the Physics Building