

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY · DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

2022 Physics Alumni Newsletter

The complete web newsletter, collected from its original articles.

ARTICLE 1 OF 5

Homecoming Reception 2022

[View this article on the Wake Forest Physics website](#)

September 2022



The Physics Department faculty and staff invite you to our **Homecoming reception and demo show on Saturday, September 17**. We will join the Festival on the Quad again this year, which will be from 10am-1pm. We will have a table near the steps of Wait Chapel. Due to the duration of the event, many of the

demonstrations will be continuous and some will be “hands on”. The demonstrations are designed to be of interest to everyone including children. Please stop by, we would love to chat with you and have you check out the demos.

ARTICLE 2 OF 5

2022 Alumni Award

[View this article on the Wake Forest Physics website](#)

September 2022

In 2018 we implemented a new alumni award. The award is given to a Physics Department alumnus for exceptional achievements and/or service. The award is not limited to physics but covers all areas in which our alumni excel. This year we are pleased to announce that the Alumni Award is going to Professor Hanli Liu.

Professor Liu received her BS from Beijing Normal University in 1983, her MS from WFU in 1990, and her Ph. D. from WFU in 1994. She and her husband Anqi Wu were the first two students to receive their doctoral degrees in Physics from WFU. After a postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania, she became a faculty member of the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Texas, Arlington in 1996 and is currently a full professor in that department. She has received several prestigious awards including the Outstanding Young Scientist award at the Houston Biomedical Symposium in 1998, the Outstanding Young Faculty award (1999) and the Excellence in Research award (2008) from the College of Engineering at UT Arlington, and several other awards from UT Arlington including the Outstanding Research Achievement Award in 2004, a Distinguished University Professorship in 2013, and an Endowed Professorship by the College of Engineering Board of Advisors in 2021. She became a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering in 2016, a Senior Member of the Optical Society of America in 2019, and a Senior Member of the National Academy of Innovators in 2020. She has published more than 160 peer-reviewed scientific papers, advised more than 60 graduate students, and served as a reviewer for NIH grants in nearly 40 study sections. Professor Liu is scheduled to accept her award and give a colloquium to the Physics Department on December 1, 2022.

If you can think of someone to nominate for next year, please send a letter to the Department Chair, Daniel Kim-Shapiro, or email (shapiro@wfu.edu) describing why that person is a good candidate for this award. Please send nominations by 12/1/2022. Note that the award will have a modest monetary component.

Alumni News

Lynn (Neitzey) Rill, PhD, BA'91, MS'93 (advisor George Holzwarth). My physics update is not recent. I have been on the clinical faculty at the University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Radiology as a diagnostic medical physicist for the past 22 years. We also have a large medical physics graduate program and residency program. My personal update is that my daughter Jordan Rill '26 just started as a freshman at WFU!

Chad McKee, PhD, BS'87, for the last decade, has worked for the Department of Defense at the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND). His focus is radiation detection. While he doesn't get to do research he does get to oversee research projects, influence what instruments are procured by DOD, and ensure the radiation detectors procured meet the specified criteria.

Andrew Frey, PhD, BS'98, is going into his twelfth year as a physics professor at the University of Winnipeg. He says, "There is always a lot to do, but it would be great to reconnect with Wake physicists, so I welcome emails."

Jeremy Ward, PhD'15, has recently transitioned from serving as an Advanced Development Team Leader within the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) to now serving as the Vice President for Products and Partnerships at a Dayton-Area startup that spun out of an AFRL program and is now working to serve both US Government/Defense applications as well as commercial markets. They are a health and safety technology company that protects and prolongs the lives of those at risk using wearable sensors, intuitive software, and contextual analytics.

Rhett Herman, PhD, BS'85:

"I started down the semiclassical gravity road after taking a detour into medical school right after my bachelor's degree. When I graduated from Montana State University, I came to Radford University, which was just starting to build a physics program. I was the second physicist here, in a location that was ripe for growth. I found a small, basically-unused old analog planetarium which was also full of possibility.

Over the next several years, I found that I could fill more and more seats in the intro physics classes by simply offering more sections. This leveraged into two MSU classmates working their way into positions here, and the number of majors started to grow quickly. We were initially the "and Physics" in the Department of Chemistry and Physics. But that gave us a chance to grow without having to be a standalone unit. Eventually, we evolved into our own department, with 7 faculty members. We have been averaging about 10 graduating majors per year.

I cobbled things together more and more in the old planetarium, expanding its offerings and numbers of visitors. This eventually became the anchor for a science outreach endeavor that I led here. After about 16 years of cobbling, a lot of duct tape and "don't look behind the green curtain" jury-rigs, the natural sciences had an additional building built with a new, state-of-the-art digital planetarium. This is continuing to anchor science outreach events, large community space-themed "festivals" and big events, our astronomy classes and labs, and host several other academic events/meetings and fun presentations. More about the planetarium is here: [Radford University Planetarium](#)

My research has evolved to fit the students that we have (no graduate programs in the natural sciences). Soon after I arrived here, the geology department asked me if I would be interested in developing a geophysics class and perhaps program since I had taught astronomy, which includes planetary structure. Being all gung-ho I said "sure." I figured that it was another application of the principles of physics, and I was right. This started to snowball, with the University (from the state) providing a lot of professional-level geophysical equipment for me to use in teaching and research projects. This effort supports both physics majors as well as other majors, especially the geology majors.



I also started teaching our Electronics class (well, I created it, so why not?). This, too, evolved. I modeled it originally from the electronic class that I had in the early 1980s from...Dr. Rick Matthews! That was one of my favorite classes ever, and I still recall the thrill of hearing my home-built radio bring in an AM signal down in the basement of Salem Hall. Over the years, this class has expanded from a simple lab-attachment to an intermediate E&M class, to a standalone 1-hour lab-only class, to its current incarnation as a 3-hour lab/circuitry class that has specifically gotten some of our majors jobs as electrical engineers right after they graduated.

This has also led me into the realm of microcontrollers, and showing students how to build their own microcontroller-based research sensors. This is now the method by which students who enroll in my year-long Arctic Geophysics Research Experience perform their research. Oh...I forgot to mention that, about 20 years ago, a student got me interested in studying the arctic, and its changes, and I said “sure, why not?” There’s a theme here. But this started in earnest with the first research trip with one student for one week in early March, 2006 to Utqiagvik, Alaska, and has grown ever since. It’s now two weeks, with 12-14 students, a couple of whom stay the entire 2 weeks with me. This is always the week before, and the week of spring break, when the sea ice is thickest. The research is done on the sea ice since that is the canary-in-the-coal mine for the alarming warming of our planet.

In this every-other-year offering, students start by determining their own research question that relates to their future field of study/employment, and I become the “tech support” mentor who shows them how to build their own sensor equipment. This is really a dozen senior thesis projects every time I offer this course, and they work for much of the year to make these happen. They are immensely proud of their work, as they should be, since all of these are worthy of presentation at major meetings. In fact, most students who are not graduating seniors do present their work at the AGU meeting in December, following their Alaska research project. I have 5 students going this year, with 4 different presentations (two students combined their research and results). More information about this program may be found here: <http://www.radford.edu/alaska> The next “Alaska cycle” is the 2023-2024 academic year.”

Do you have news that you would like to share in the newsletter? Look for an email from us in late August asking for your contributions.

ARTICLE 3 OF 5

Recent Changes

[View this article on the Wake Forest Physics website](#)

Significant Changes Over the Past Year September 2022

The department has had great success in the past year. According to College Factual, the Physics Department now ranks 36 out of 327 colleges and universities in the US for our Bachelor of Science degree and 43 out of 141 for our PhD program. With things trending in the right direction, we are continuously striving to provide the best education for our students.

In the spring of 2019, we hired Ajay Srimath Kandada. Ajay, who planned to come in January of 2020, was held up for almost two years by travel restrictions related to the corona virus. We are very happy to report that he arrived in Winston-Salem in December of last year.

Our previous Academic Coordinator, Kittye McBride, moved on last winter to a position outside of Wake Forest University. We wish her well with her new position. Our new Academic Coordinator is Candace Ring. Candace earned her BS in physics at UNC Greensboro before working at Vanguard. We are very happy that she joined us.

We would also like to welcome Melissa Pashayan back to the Physics Department as a new Visiting Professor. Melissa was a graduate student here a few years ago. She worked with Dr. Macosko and Dr. Guthold and received her doctorate in 2021. Since then she has taught at Guilford Technical College and been a part-time stay-at-home mom while her husband finishes his medical residency in Greensboro. We are very happy to have her here in her new role as a visiting assistant professor.

On a more somber note, we mourn the passing of WFU alumnus Dr. Randall Ledford on July 21, 2022. His legacy lives on through the two Ledford Scholarships that he created for physics majors. Our current Ledford Scholars are Josiah Brinson, a junior, and Janey Thompson, a new first-year student.

Changes due to the pandemic

Last year saw significant changes in our approach to the pandemic. In the fall semester, everyone was required to wear a mask in the classroom, with the exception of the professor, provided the professor was always at least ten feet away from the students. Most of the classes were in person. This continued for the first part of the spring semester. However, for the second part, the mask requirement was replaced by a policy where each faculty member made a decision about whether or not to require that students wear masks in the classroom. Also, the tradition of having a week off for spring break was reinstituted.

Events

On February 11, 2020, there was a screening of the film “Picture a Scientist” in the large classroom in Olin. This was in celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It was followed by small group discussions and a reception on the rooftop of Olin. The event was hosted by Dany Kim-Shapiro and was organized and sponsored by the Departments of Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Statistics, Wake Forest’s Center for Functional Materials, and the WFU undergraduate Women in STEM group.

On August 20, 2022, we had a celebration of the retirement of Rick Matthews. Rick was a professor in the Physics Department for 40 years. He actually retired two years ago, but due to Covid 19 constraints, the celebration had been postponed.

ARTICLE 4 OF 5

Awards

[View this article on the Wake Forest Physics website](#)

Awards Received by Faculty, Staff and Students September 2022



Paul Anderson

Professor Paul Anderson has been named a MacDonough Family Faculty Fellow. The Wake Forest Faculty Fellowship program is a program of financial support designed to honor the University's best teacher-scholars.



Nick Corak

In June 2022, Nick Corak received a Graduate Student Research Fellowship from the North Carolina Sea Grant and North Carolina Space Grant which is jointly sponsored by NASA and NOAA. Nick is currently a graduate student in Physics working with Professor Lauren Lowman in Engineering. He previously obtained MA degrees in Education and Mathematics from WFU. His undergraduate work was at UNC, Willimington. His research will involve making on the ground measurements related to vegetation density in the southeastern and Outer Banks regions of North Carolina. These will be compared with estimates made from satellite data with the goal of providing a correction factor to the satellite data.

The following Awards were presented at our Annual Physics Department Awards Ceremony in May:



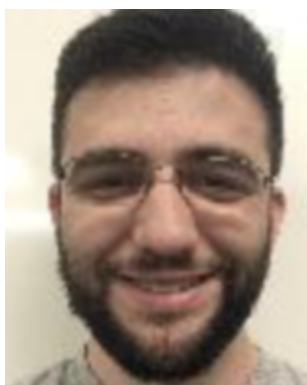
Jack Dostal received the *Excellence in Teaching Award*



Heather Chapman received the Physics Department ***Outstanding Service Award***.



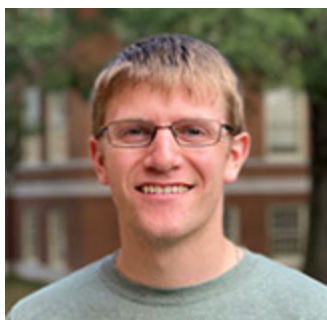
Tim Carlson



Vince Siggia

Timothy Carlson And Vincent Siggia were co-recipients of the ***Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award***.

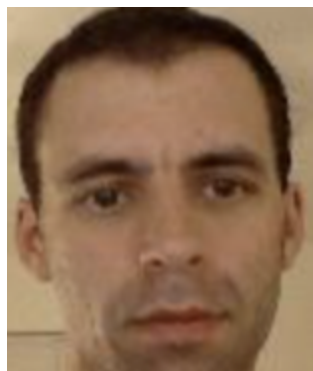
Matthew Waldrup Received the ***Outstanding Graduate Research Award***



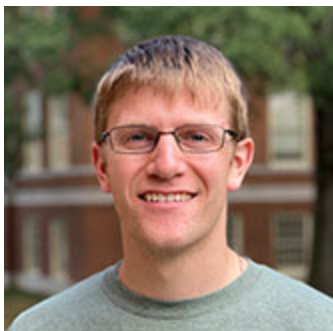
Matthew Waldrip



Nouf Alharbi



Gabriel Marcus



Matthew Waldrip

Nouf Alharbi, Gabriel Marcus, and Matthew Waldrip were co-recipients of the ***Peer Mentor Award***.



Rich Pope



Will Caulkins

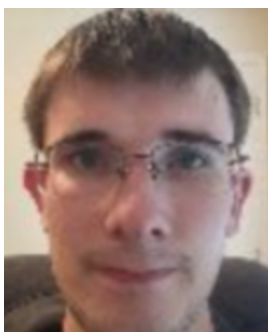
Richard Pope and William Caulkins were co-recipients of the ***Speas Award***.



Zhiyu Feng



Rich Pope



Caleb Sawyer



Archie Wallis

Zhiyu Feng, Rich Pope, Caleb Sawyer, and Archie Wallis were co-recipients of the ***Major Field Tests Achievement Awards***.

ARTICLE 5 OF 5

Faculty Updates

[View this article on the Wake Forest Physics website](#)



Daniel Kim-Shapiro

This will now be my sixth year as Chair of Physics and I am also serving as Chair of Chairs this year. Luckily, I still have plenty of time for teaching and research. Martin Guthold and I had a great Biophysics class last Spring, held face-to-face but including zoom options for students who are sick and recording all classes.

The lab is doing very well with graduate students Ellie Alipour and Laxman Poudel and our star undergraduate students Emily Foley, Martha Bragg, and Alyskewycz. Swati Basu has moved to another position but still has some affiliation with the lab. We hired a great new Research Technician, Sue Jiang. We had one undergraduate student from Winston-Salem State University, one from UNC Greensboro, and one high school student join us over the summer.

My youngest son is now a first-year student at UC Santa Cruz (Go Banana Slugs), my middle son is at Reed College, and my oldest just graduated from NC State. My wife is still saving lives as a Pathologist.

I do hope to see people at homecoming this year. Please reach out and let us know how you are doing



Paul Anderson

It was great to have a more normal year last year and to teach only in-person classes. I was very pleased to become a MacDonough Family Faculty Fellow on July 1. During the past year, I continued work with my research students and published a paper related to quantum effects in black hole spacetimes with an external collaborator. My research group consisted of WFU undergraduate Zach Scofield and two graduate students, Shohreh Gholizadeh Siahmazgi and Ian Newsome. Zach wrote a senior honors thesis last spring and graduated with honors. He has now begun graduate work in observational astronomy. Ian received a Richter scholarship to do research with Jose Navarro-Salas at the University of Valencia in Spain. He was there for two months last summer and while there also attended a weeklong summer school on gravity related topics in Italy. Shohreh attended a weeklong summer school on mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



David Carroll

The Nanotech lab continues to be very active in research. I include here updates from three of the graduate students who work in the lab. The first is by graduate student Tim Carlson, who won a financial award for his poster from MRS and spent the summer as an exchange student with FAU in Erlangen working on quantum computers. He discusses talks given by some students at a conference last spring.

Gabriel Marcus (year 6) gave two talks at the Spring MRS 2022 conference where his two talks were titled, *“Chalcogenide Spin Injection from Iron- and Nickel- Based Edge Modulation Doping”* and *“Using Thermoelectric MoS₂ Based Thin Films for Novel Desalination and Battery Technologies for Selective Ion Transport”*. Lindsey Gray (year 4) gave one talk titled *“Incorporation of Stokes Shifting Dyes into a Si-Based Photovoltaic-Thermal System”*. Finally, I (year 2) gave a poster presentation titled *“The Search for Persistent Currents on Topological 2D Dichalcogenides”* and received the “Best Poster Award Nominee”. In addition to the poster presentation, I was also given a poster spotlight session where I gave a short 5min talk about my work.

The second is by Lindsey Gray and discusses her recent work and an invited paper on it.

In May we attended the Materials Research Society Spring Meeting in Honolulu, HI. I gave a talk titled, “Incorporation of Stokes shifting dye into a Si-based photovoltaic-thermal system.” Before the conference, we were asked to submit our work to the MRS Bulletin Impact as an invited paper. This is not the proceedings but rather a journal (<https://www.springer.com/journal/43577>). This paper, titled the same as the talk, is currently under review.

The third is by Gabriel Marcus. Here he discusses the research that was done for one of the talks he gave at the conference.

My name is Gabriel Marcus and I attended the spring 2022 MRS meeting with a presentation entitled “Chalcogenide Spin Injection from Iron- and Nickel-Based Edge Modulation Doping.” Chalcogenides are a diverse set of compounds consisting of sulfur, selenium, or tellurium bound to various other elements, and some of these materials are believed to possess topological insulator properties. Here at the Wake Forest University Nanotechnology Center, we have done extensive work in synthesizing and characterizing chalcogenides such as antimony telluride and bismuth telluride. Additionally, we have been able to achieve edge doping with metals like copper and silver which can significantly enhance some of the base material's electronic properties. Currently, we are investigating edge doping with iron and nickel nanoparticles that can potentially donate spins to already existing topological edge currents on the chalcogenide. This may prove useful in applications such as quantum computing where topologically protected and entangled edge currents might allow for operation at higher temperatures.

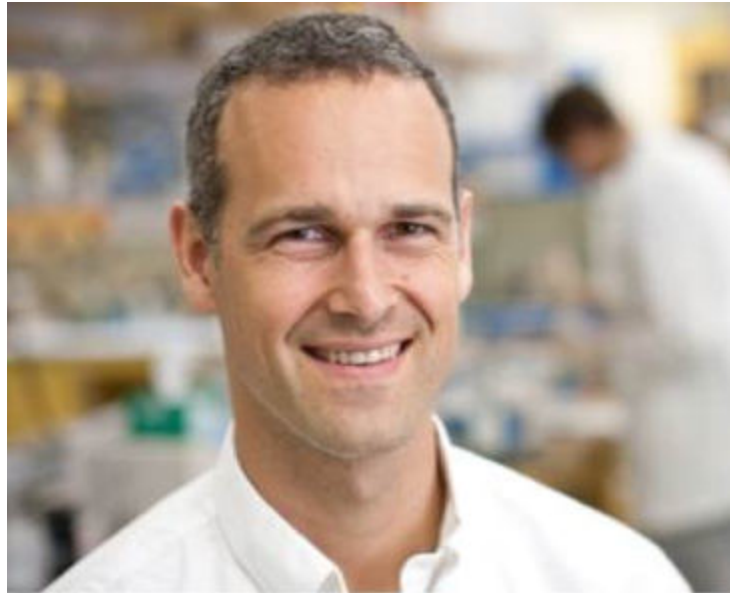


George Holzwarth

We continue to do biophysics research in Olin. We are involved with 2 projects. One project is in collaboration with Doug Lyles in the Biochemistry Dept. We are trying to understand how viral particles move from sites of biosynthesis in the cytoplasm, through the entangling mesh of cytoskeletal fibers, and finally to the cell membrane, where final assembly of the virion occurs, and the virion leaves the cell. Our role is to observe fluorescently tagged viral particles by high-speed optical microscopy and then interpret the observed tracks with machine learning. Two undergrads, Ryan Oglietti and Kate Smith, are helping with this project.

The second project is also a collaboration, this time with Keith Bonin (Physics) and Pierre Vidi (Cancer Biology). Keith and colleagues are building a novel 3D optical microscope which generates images of fluorescently tagged chromatin in live mammalian cells. My role is to help deconvolve the x,y, and z positions of particles from the raw images, in which the z-position is specially coded (convolved). We write Matlab code for the deconvolution process and check out published code.

I am grateful that the Physics Department still encourages “retired” faculty like me to continue doing research, despite the space crunch in Olin.



Jed Macosko

Dr. Macosko and Dr. George Holzwarth have recently had a paper accepted for publication in the Journal of Virology. The title is “Dynamic actin filament traps mediate active diffusion of vesicular stomatitis virus ribonucleoproteins”. The co-authors were Steven Moran, Shelby Puckett, David Ornelles, and Douglas Lyles.

Dr. Macosko has also been working with Dr. Guthold and several students on an AFM imaging project. Two of the students working on this project were high schoolers from the Winston Salem Forsyth County district and were selected to take part in WFU’s LEAP program, which is funded by the NSF. Both students, Brandon Sutton and Oliver Estrada, worked closely with undergraduate Jesse Gao and Drs. Baker, Guthold, and Macosko. Dr. Macosko also continues his work on big data projects, including a contract cheating detection tool (hosted at <https://academicinfluence.com/resources/tools/ghost-detect>) and an alternative to ResearchGate and other h-index/citation/etc. calculating sites (e.g. <https://academicinfluence.com/people/daniel-b-kim-shapiro>). He also worked with Dr. Winston Ewert on a “powers of ten” interactive experience (<https://academicinfluence.com/resources/tools/magnifying-the-universe>) that he uses when teaching and in his outreach to local schools.

Dr. Macosko always enjoys hearing from former students and recently has had the pleasure of learning about engagements being celebrated and new children being welcomed—such wonderful news from those who spent time in the Macosko, Holzwarth, and Guthold labs!



Natalie Holzwarth

Yan Li did an excellent job of completing her Ph. D. thesis — “First Principles Investigations of Electrolyte Materials in All-Solid-State Batteries”. Her defense presentation on Oct. 21, 2021 was scheduled for 9 AM EST so that her family and friends on the other side of the world could join via video conferencing. She also graciously agreed (with a little bit of “arm twisting”) to give a physics colloquium on her work on Nov. 4, 2021. We are very proud of Yan and glad that after completing her thesis, she was able to overcome obstacles of the pandemic and join her family in China. She is now a postdoctoral fellow working with Professor Piero Canepa (who is also a WFU alum as a former postdoc of Timo Thonhauser) at the National University of

Singapore. Yan continues to collaborate with our group, particularly on a project she initiated with Cory Lynch. We are learning that seemingly simple ideas in materials simulations can still provide interesting surprises and challenges.

Natalie was able to attend the March 2022 APS meeting in Chicago, IL, presenting a non-trivial update to our old ATOMPAW code which is now more than 20 years old. As the pandemic seems to be more under control, we hope to attend more meetings in person again. Cory and Natalie plan to attend the Fall 2022 meeting of the Electrochemical Society in Atlanta GA, for example.

While keeping in contact with zoom and email is great, in person encounters, such as (somewhat recent) visits by Jason Howard and Yonas Abraham and their families, are really appreciated.



Rick Matthews

I retired in the summer of 2020, just a few months into the pandemic. The department hosted a wonderful celebration barbecue this August, delayed two years by COVID.

My primary purpose in retiring was to spend more time with my grandchildren while they are still young enough to want to spend time with me. The pandemic spoiled those plans initially, but in the past year with childhood vaccines I have been able to enjoy time with them as I had hoped. Their last stay with us involved bottle rockets and other destructive experiments.

I am happy to have the time to assist my 94-year-old mother who continues to live independently. Her latest project for me was to upgrade her WiFi and add a video doorbell / intercom — so you can see that I got my techie interests from both her and my ham radio operator father, who passed away last year.

I am still waiting for the idle time and boredom to appear that I was promised for my retirement. When they arrive, I have a few writing topics I hope to tackle.



Martin Guthold

This past year, as COVID restrictions were lifted, it was wonderful to see students come back to campus, to the classrooms and to the lab. It was so good to have 'real' personal interactions again. And there has been quite a bit of positive and exciting news from the Guthold lab.

Three undergraduate students – Annie Brigham, Rich Pope and Caleb Sawyer – graduated in May 2022, all with Honors! They did fantastic work studying the properties of electrospun fibrinogen:PCL fibers (Annie), fibrin fibers in the presence of cholesterol (Rich), and cells undergoing mitosis (Caleb). All started exciting career paths; Annie went off to Hawaii to study Marine Biology, Rich, who double-majored in Economics, is working as an investment banking analyst for William Blair, a financial firm in his home town Charlotte, and Caleb went to graduate school in Medical Physics in Florida. Rich Pope won the Speas Award for best Physics student! Congratulations on this special recognition of Rich's work!

All the best wishes for our graduates! You will have a bright future with a strong Wake education as your foundation!

Hyunsu got married in November 2021! Congratulations to Hyunsu and his wife!! Hyunsu, who has worked for a long time in the lab, first as a graduate student and then a postdoc, moved to Tennessee to be with his wife this past December 2021. The Guthold lab is immensely grateful to Hyunsu for the excellent work he did studying the properties of cancer cells the lab! He did fantastic research, he had outstanding technical skills, and he was very helpful to everybody in the lab. Many lab members learned microscopy and research skills from Hyunsu. All the best to Hyunsu and his wife!

We will very much miss Annie, Rich, Caleb and Hyunsu! They left a gap in the lab but are off to do great things!



Dr. Guthold went to two conferences this past year to present research on fibrinogen and nanofibers. The first conference was the 26th International Fibrinogen Workshop in Vevey (Switzerland). It was a great workshop, which was also attended by former lab member Christine Helms (now professor at University of Richmond) and Stephen Baker (now faculty at Wake Forest). It was great to see everybody there and hear the latest advances in fibrinogen research. Dr. Guthold was elected president of the International Fibrinogen Research Society at the Fibrinogen Workshop. The mission of this society is to advance fibrinogen research.

The second conference was the congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) in London, a large meeting with ~6000 attendees.

Melissa Pashayan (PhD '20) couldn't get enough of Wake Forest, so she came back to teach in the Physics department as a visiting assistant professor. Welcome back, Melissa!

Ali Daraei (PhD '20), currently a post-doc at UCLA, just received a job offer from Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, a world-class research place in San Diego. Congratulations and best wishes, Ali!

Continuing lab members are Stephen Baker (faculty), graduate students Nouf Alharbi (PhD) and Can Cai (PhD) and Zezhong Zhang (MS) and undergraduate student, Joe Cho. A new undergraduate student, Jesse Gao, also joined the lab. This fall 2022, two new graduate students, Caela Flake and Arezoo Nameny, and a

new undergraduate student, Ethan Payne, will join the lab. Indeed, a very strong team to move the lab forward.

We settled into our new lab space in Olin 213 and Olin 216 (now shared with Drs. Macosko, Holzwarth and Kim-Shapiro). We continue to do research in hemostasis & thrombosis (properties of fibrin clots); cancer and thrombosis; mechanical and structural properties of cells and tissues; electrospun nanofiber properties. This research is supported by grants from the NIH, the Wake Forest Center for Functional Materials, the Wake Forest Translational Science Center and a Wake Forest Collaborative Grant.

All the excellent work by the research team resulted in several high-impact publications. The Guthold lab published papers in *Biomolecules* (twice), *Intl. J of Molecular Sciences*, *Acta Biomaterialia*.

The Guthold family is doing well and there are some big news items, too. My son, Felix, and his wife, who got married in Aug. 2021, are now expecting their first child. I'll be an Opa (grandfather) in 2023! Our daughter, Melissanthi, is now a sophomore at Duke University. Her first year was challenging, exciting and great. Our son, Alexander, just started 4th grade! Some moaning because of having to get up early, but otherwise off to a good start.

We would love to hear from all alumni. Let's stay in touch.