

News & Events in Physics

Charlie Wang PhD '97 and his wife **Ping Huang** hosted MIT School of Science Dean **Marc Kastner** in London at the Bank of America

Merrill Lynch Building on October 27th, 2011. There was a great turnout in London. Dean Kastner's talk was "Amazing People Doing Amazing Things: the MIT School of Science." Dean Kastner spoke about the faculty in the School of Science and shared their scientific research and their individual stories. Dean Kastner spoke about the American university system and spoke of the importance of support from our alumni and friends. In attendance were **Charlie Wang** and **Ping Huang**, **Allan and Niki Chambers**, **Adrian and Eugenia Eterovic**, **Paul Sheng**, and **Tong Lee**. (E. M.)

CHARLIE WANG PhD '97 HOSTS DEAN MARC KASTNER IN LONDON



From left: Charlie Wang, Marc Kastner, and Ping Huang.

On January 17th, 2012, **Max Gellert** '48 EE hosted the MIT Club of Puget Sound at The Rainier Club. Physics Department Head

Ed Bertschinger gave a talk on "Dark Energy and the Accelerating Universe." Club President **Lola Ball** introduced Ed Bertschinger, and alumni and friends braved the snow conditions to attend his talk. In attendance were **Linda and David Cornfield**, **Bob and Beth Hart**, **Assen Nicolov**, **David and Valerie Robinson**, and **John and Patti Torode**. Professor Bertschinger also gave the talk on "Dark Energy and the Accelerating Universe," in Menlo Park, CA, at the Quadrus Conference Center on January 20th. **Rick Tavan** '70 EE, who has traveled on past alumni travel trips with Prof. Bertschinger, made the introduction. Over 90 alumni and friends attended Prof. Bertschinger's talk. (E. M.)

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT HEAD ED BERTSCHINGER GIVES TALKS TO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS IN SEATTLE AND NOCAL



From left: Assen Nicolov, Patti and John Torode, Ed Bertschinger, Max Gellert, Beth and Bob Hart.



Ed Bertschinger (left) with Rick Tavan.

2012-2015 PAPPALARDO FELLOWSHIPS IN PHYSICS COMPETITION



Hugh Churchill



Neill Duff



Yoav Lahini



Meng Su

The MIT **Pappalardo Fellowships in Physics**, now firmly established within the international physics community as a leading postdoctoral fellowship program, completed its 13th annual competition in January 2012 with the acceptance of four fellows for the 2012-2015 appointment cycle. Arriving this fall are **Hugh Churchill** (experimental condensed matter physics), a 2012 PhD from Harvard University; **Neill Duff** (particle theory), a 2012 PhD from Carnegie-Mellon University; **Yoav Lahini** (hard condensed matter theory/condensed matter experiment), a 2012 PhD from the Weizmann Institute, Israel; and **Meng Su** (cosmology/high energy astrophysics), a 2012 PhD from Harvard University.

Detailed biographies, including research descriptions and selected publications for all Pappalardo Fellows (present, incoming and former), are available at web.mit.edu/physics/research/pappalardo/index.html. The MIT Pappalardo Fellowships in Physics program was initiated, and is sustained, by funds generously provided by **Neil and Jane Pappalardo**. (C. B.)

INSTITUTE PROFESSOR AND NOBEL LAUREATE JEROME FRIEDMAN TRAVELS TO CHICAGO



Jerry Friedman (left) with host Jeffrey Silverman.

Institute Professor and Nobel Laureate **Jerome Friedman**, a native of Chicago, traveled there on March 7th, 2012, to meet with MIT alumni and friends. **Jeffrey Silverman** '68 GM hosted Friedman in his home to meet students interested in science from the Latin and Marist prep schools in Chicago. Silverman's Career Development Professorship is currently supporting Associate Professor **Martin Zwierlein**. Later that evening, Friedman gave a talk to the Club of Chicago on "Probing the Small and Large Structure of the Universe" at the Chicago-Kent College of Law of the Illinois Institute of Technology. Chair of the Physics Department at IIT, **Christopher White**, introduced Friedman. Over 75 people attended Prof. Friedman's talk and some were his former students. **Doug and Rose Barnard, Bruce Chrisman, Piotr and Marie-Anna Galitzine, Ernesto Ramos, Rod Walker, Len Zacks, and Marty Zimmerman** continued conversations with Friedman for a dinner after the event. (E. M.)

The Department celebrated its seventh annual Patrons of Physics Fellows Dinner on April 13th, 2012. Over 65 guests gathered for a dinner and reception in the Green Center's Pappalardo Community Room. **Alex Barbieri**, a 2011-2012 Whiteman Fellow, **Boris Braverman**, a 2011-2012 Frank Fellow, and **Jennifer Sierchio**, a 2011-2012 Marble Presidential Fellow, were student presenters. The students spoke about their love of physics, and how the fellowship has given them the flexibility to try different research groups in their first year. They also thanked their donors and all donors who are members of the Patrons of Physics Fellows Society for making fellowship support possible. This dinner is a great opportunity for the students to get to know the donors that are supporting them. **George Elbaum**, founding member, concluded the evening with remarks on why he gives to fellowships, his MIT experience, and why he supports the Whiteman Fellowships, named for his mother. Patron donors who attended were **George Elbaum** and his wife **Mimi Jensen**, **Hale Bradt**, **Tom Frank**, **Curt Marble**, **Howard and Colleen Messing**, **Al Otis** and **Will Kalb**, and **Neil Pappalardo**. (E. M.)

7TH ANNUAL PATRONS OF PHYSICS FELLOWS DINNER



Photos this page: Justin Knight

George Elbaum and Mimi Jensen (front row, center) with the Whiteman Fellows.



Hale Bradt (left) with Barbara Thomas Fellow Jessamyn Allen.



Marc Kastner (center) with Colleen and Howard Messing.



(From left) Otis Fellows Tony Zhu and Fahad Mahmood with Al Otis and Will Kalb.

11TH ANNUAL PAPPALARDO FELLOWSHIPS IN PHYSICS SYMPOSIUM

In the brief lull between the end of classes and launching of finals week, the Department's

premier postdoctoral fellowship program, the **Pappalardo Fellowships in Physics**, held its 11th annual symposium on May 18th, 2012. Featuring scrupulously prepared, "mini" public lectures by five of its current roster of ten outstanding young physicists, the program's capstone event attracted a cross section of members and friends of the MIT physics community.

Longstanding Department friend and Pappalardo Fellowships fan **Howard Messing** opened the event with heartfelt remarks on the vital interconnections among his intellectual passion for physics, lab tours and discussions with physics faculty, and support of the Department. The talks kicked off with Pappalardo Fellow **Laura Lopez** speaking on "Dissecting the Remnants of Nearby Supernova Explosions," followed by **Karen Michaeli** ("New Physics Sandwiched Between Two Oxide Insulators"), **Joshua Spitz** ("The Disappearing Neutrino?"), **Silviu Pufu** ("A Membrane Puzzle"), and **Simona Vegetti** ("Testing Galaxy Formation Models at the Small Scales").

Among the packed audience in the Pappalardo Community Room were program founder and benefactor **Neil Pappalardo**, Dean of Science **Marc Kastner**, a cluster of Nobel Laureates, faculty, students, and postdocs from throughout the Department, joined by friends and supporters alumni **Mark Mueller** and **Curt Marble**.

Videos of this and prior Pappalardo Fellowships symposia are available online at web.mit.edu/physics/research/pappalardo/videos.html. For more information on the Pappalardo Fellowships in Physics program, its Fellows, and founder A. Neil Pappalardo, please visit web.mit.edu/physics/research. (C. B.)



Howard Messing



Silviu Pufu