

# UF PHYSICS UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING NEWSLETTER

COORDINATOR: YOONSEOK LEE (YOONSLEE@PHYS.UFL.EDU)

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Welcome both new and returning students for the new academic year! I would also like to thank Dr. Herschfield for his wonderful service as the Undergraduate Coordinator for many years. I look forward to working with you as Undergraduate Coordinator. Feel free to drop by my office if you have any concerns or issues. The Advising Newsletter will be sent to you by e-mail and will also be posted on our website. I encourage you to read each Newsletter which has many useful information for Physics majors.

Yoonseok Lee

## MEET YOUR ADVISOR REGULARLY!

### LIST OF ADVISORS AND OFFICE HOURS

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/academics/undergraduate/>

OR SNED AN E-MAIL TO [ADVISING@PHYS.UFL.EDU](mailto:ADVISING@PHYS.UFL.EDU)

## E-MAIL LIST AND PHYSICS COMPUTER ACCOUNT

If you are a declared Physics major, then you are on the Physics major listserv: **PS-MAJORS@lists.ufl.edu**. This list is updated nightly to contain a current list of Physics majors. I will communicate with you mainly using this e-mail listserv. All physics majors may get a **computer account** in the Physics department. This will give you an e-mail address like [yourname@phys.ufl.edu](mailto:yourname@phys.ufl.edu), Application forms for computer accounts may be obtained from Chris Scanlon in the Students Services office, NPB 1210.

**SPS** The Society of Physics Students (<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/~sps/>) is an organization of undergraduate physics majors. They sponsor many fun events every semester such as movies, field trips, physics demonstrations, and GRE study sessions. If you are interested in joining SPS, you can contact them at [sps@phys.ufl.edu](mailto:sps@phys.ufl.edu). Their faculty advisor is Professor Amlan Biswas.

**UNDERGRADUATE LOUNGE** Physics majors are also encouraged to visit the undergraduate lounge located on the second floor of the New Physics Building in room 2299. The lounge is a good place to socialize and to get help on physics courses. Ask the entry code for the lock to the SPS President or Prof. Biswas.

## SENIORS! ALERT, ALERT!

If you intend to graduate this semester, you need to apply to graduate on ISIS by Friday, September 18. You can find links and more information on graduation at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/gradhub.html>. Additional information is located at <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/faq/seniorgradfaq.html>. After you apply, the Academic Advising Center will then make sure you have satisfied the requirements to graduate. Your transcript will be forwarded to the Physics department to make sure that you have satisfied all the Physics requirements to graduate. At that time I will make any remaining course substitutions, etc. so that the computer recognizes that you have completed all the requirements to graduate. This is, of course, assuming that you have met them. It is a good idea for all students - not just graduating seniors - to look at the degree requirements for Physics degrees at

[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/reqBS.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBS.html) (BS)

[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/reqBA.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBA.html) (BA)

[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/minor.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/minor.html) (Minor)

**Need recommendation letters?** Here are some guidelines to make the process go smoothly.

1. First, you should choose a faculty member who knows you well and can write a good letter of recommendation: teacher or research advisor
2. Ask the faculty member well in advance. A month is a good lead time, but even longer will be helpful to both you and the faculty member.
3. Provide the faculty member with all the relevant information: your UF ID, a paper copy of your transcript, a personal statement, and some examples of your research or other work.
4. Process as much of the recommendation as you can yourself. Many applications have forms. Type in the faculty member's name and address. If the application must be mailed, provide an addressed stamped envelope. It is also an excellent idea to provide a list of where you are applying and the relevant deadlines.

**GRE Test Dates:** October 10 and November 7.

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## YOUR CAREER

**Fall Career Showcase:** September 29 – 30, 2009, O'Connell Center  
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/students/index.aspx>

**If you are either looking for a job after graduation or an internship/co-op experience, this is the place to start.**

For those planning to attend the career showcase, we offer **the following advice:**

1. You will need a **resume**, which lists your skills and job objectives. The Career Resource Center located on the second floor of the Reitz Union has people on hand to critique and help you with your resume after you have a printed version. Their web site is <http://www.crc.ufl.edu>.
2. To do any on-campus interviewing **you must register** at the Career Resource Center with Gator CareerLink. This is easy to do and allows you to post your resume on-line so that employers can access it. You may register on-line from the CRC home page listed above.
3. Research the companies on the web by first going to the Career Resource Center website at [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu) to see who is attending. Companies may not be specifically looking for Physics majors, but they will be looking for your skills.
4. Go to the fair. The typical dress is a **conservative suit or dress**. If you do not have a suit, wear something nice. You will not have time to talk to individual employers so present yourself well. The top three traits employers say they are looking for are **motivation/attitude, communication skills, and ability to work in groups**. The recruiter is not going to care how well you can do contour integrals or find leaks in vacuum systems. Make sure to get a business card from the recruiter or a contact person.
5. After the fair, do not wait to be called. **Be pro-active and contact the companies** you are interested in. Remember you only need one good job offer. It may take several tries before you get it.

## TOP 10 COLLEGE MAJORS TO HIGH SALARIES

1. Aerospace Engineering
2. Chemical Engineering
3. Computer Engineering
4. Electrical Engineering
5. Economics
6. **Physics**
7. Mechanical Engineering
8. Computer Science
9. Industrial Engineering
10. Environmental Eng.

The New York Times  
July 20, 2009

**Physics is one of only two science majors in the top 10 list.**

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

The deadlines for two graduate fellowships are coming up this semester  
**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships:**

<http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

Deadline: November 2 – 12, 2009 depending on the field of study (10<sup>th</sup> for physics)

**Hertz Foundation Fellowship Awards:**

<http://www.hertzfndn.org/dx/Fellowships/>

Deadline: October 30, 2009

Qualified students going to graduate school in any science or engineering discipline should consider applying for these awards. Most graduate students teach during their first year or two of graduate school. Some students end up teaching their entire graduate career. While teaching is excellent experience, obviously one's research and hence graduation will progress faster if one is focusing solely on research. Over the last several years we have consistently had 1 or 2 students receive NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. Although October/November seems like a long way off now, these applications are a substantial amount of work. As part of the application you will actually have to write a 1-2 page research proposal. This takes time, but students who have done it in the past say that it made writing graduate school.

**PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN PHYSICS**  
**STARTS FROM RESEARCH!**  
Visit this useful website and do the right thing!  
<http://aps.org/careers/student/undergraduate.cfm>