

Greetings from the Undergraduate Women in Physics!

The idea for UWIP came about as the women of the Class of 2019 joked while waiting outside of a thermal physics lecture. “This is all of us!” someone said, “All of the women in physics are here.” A beat passed as we looked around at the eight faces gathered...and realized it wasn’t a joke. This *was* all of the undergraduate women in astrophysics and physics. Troubled by this realization, we resolved to do something about it. In the minutes before the lecture started, we hunted down Prof. Steve Gubser in the hall to ask about making a group to support, educate, and empower undergraduate physics and astrophysics majors. Thus the Undergraduate Women in Physics group was born.

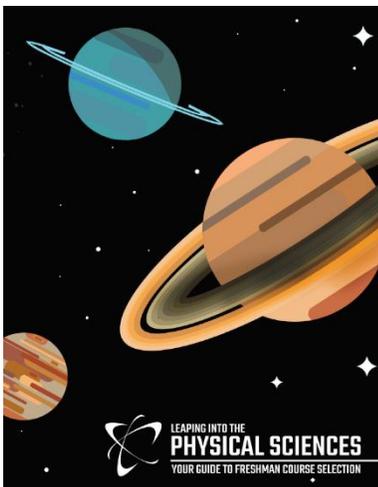


Founded this past spring, Undergraduate Women in Physics, UWIP, kicked off the year strong, with an incredible turn-out for our May 9th Meet and Greet - hosted in collaboration with the graduate Women in Physics.

During our first semester, UWIP has grown to nearly 50 members – from all grades, gender and sexual identities, majors, and backgrounds – putting our goals of inclusivity into action. Likewise, our board members come from all grades and represent both astro and physics.



This past semester, we paired 19 upperclasswomen with graduate student mentors based on shared research interests. To increase retention of female majors, we will soon be adding rising sophomores and first years to these mentorship families. We were fortunate to have the chance to volunteer with Prof. Chris Tully at Riverside Elementary School and share our excitement for physics while serving as role models of women in STEM. After hearing many rising sophomores express feeling nervous or discouraged to continue to Physics 205, we compiled and circulated reassuring testimonials about the course.



Perhaps our crowning achievement, thus far, has been the course selection guide for first years. The brainchild of Milena Chakraverti-Wuerthwein (PHY '20), with incredible designs by Hector Afonso Cruz (AST '20), the guide is a partnership between UWIP and PSPS (the Princeton Society of Physics Students) and will be distributed to prospective majors at the upcoming academic fair. We have been collating study resources, summer internship information, conferences of interest, physics GRE prep materials, and more, all of which are available to UWIP and PSPS members.

This coming semester we will be hosting panels featuring graduate school advice for upperclassmen, information on JP’s and majors for

underclassmen. We will also have a monthly lunch series with guest speakers sharing their research, their career and life advice, their experiences in the field, and so on. We plan on continuing to participate in outreach and volunteer events, grow and distribute our collections of resources, collaborate with other women in STEM groups on campus, serve as a hub for disseminating valuable information and encouragement, participate with the eager graduate students, and collaborate with the astro and physics departments in climate surveys/working-groups.



We could never have achieved so much, or hope to accomplish so much more, if it were not for the remarkable engagement we have had from people throughout the physics and astro departments. The response has been beyond anything we could have hoped for: from our undergraduate peers expressing their appreciation of the group and taking the opportunity to ask female classmates about their experiences, to faculty members dropping by meetings to share their encouragement, experiences, or hopes for UWIP; from high schoolers asking us to come speak at their schools, to elementary schoolers sharing their drawings of demonstrations.

UWiP was born out of a joke, but has been sustained by the incredible commitment of our board team, excitement of our members, participation of graduate students, interest of incoming Princetonians, and support of the physics and astrophysics departments.

Thank you for helping us realize an amazing first semester!

With gratitude,

The 2018 UWIP Board



*From left to right: **Connie Miao** (Treasurer, PHY '21), **Camille Liotine** (Events Chair, AST '20), **Madelyn Broome** (Co-President, AST '19), **Michelle Baird** (Media Chair, PHY '20), **Nicole Ozdowski** (Co-President, PHY '19), **Milena Chakraverti-Wuerthwein** (Secretary, PHY '20), **Cara Giovanetti** (Outreach Chair, PHY '20); *Not pictured: **Hector Afonso Cruz** (Design Lead, AST '20)**

For more information, to get involved, or to receive updates about UWIP activities, contact us via email at uwip@princeton.edu or find us on Facebook at [@PrincetonUWIP](https://www.facebook.com/PrincetonUWIP).

