

## Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Fall 2021



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), one of four divisions in the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) at Rutgers-New Brunswick. And for those at Rutgers, welcome to the Fall 2021 semester.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, MPS units and people have achieved many exciting accomplishments in the previous academic year. I invite you to read a sample of such accomplishments highlighted below. I also invite you to visit our [website](#) and connect with us on [social media](#) to see all the exciting developments in the division as we continue to research fundamental scientific inquiries, help to meet important societal challenges such as the battle against COVID-19, and develop innovative methods to teach and engage our students. We also look forward to your engagement with MPS.

With best wishes,

Thu D. Nguyen

Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences



## News

---



### **Chemistry and Chemical Biology**

Enver Izgu and his team were awarded a National Institute of Health's Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (REACH) grant to continue developing chemistries to fight against healthcare-associated infections.

[Read More](#)



### **Computer Science**

Computer Science major Maya Ravichandran was awarded a prestigious postgraduate Marshall Scholarship, becoming the second recipient in Rutgers University's history.

[Read More](#)

### **The DIMACS Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science**



A \$600,000 award from the Simons Foundation established a new Simons Postdoctoral Leadership Initiative at DIMACS to fund postdocs in theoretical computer science, data science, and artificial intelligence. In September, DIMACS will welcome Nicole Wein (pictured), a 2021 Ph.D. in computer science from MIT, as the first Simons Postdoctoral Leader.

[Read More](#)



## Earth and Planetary Sciences

Juliane Gross was awarded the Antarctic Service Medal by the United States Government for her courage, sacrifice, and devotion to search for meteorite fragments at the South Pole.

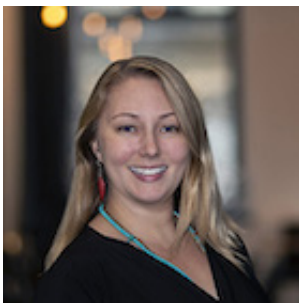
[Read More](#)



## Mathematics

Ph.D. student Tamar Lichter Blanks was named the 2021 Mass Media Fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS). This program aims to improve public understanding of science and technology by placing advanced students in media outlets nationwide.

[Read More](#)



## Physics and Astronomy

Blakesley Burkhart was named a 2020 Science and Engineering Packard Fellow by the David Lucile Packard Foundation to further her research into studies of the formation of stars.

[Read More](#)



## Statistics

Zhiqiang Tan and Mingxie Xie were named Fellows of Institute of Mathematical Statistics for their outstanding contributions to the profession. The Institute of Mathematical Statistics fosters the development and dissemination of statistics and probability.

# Additional Highlights

---

**Chemistry and Chemical Biology** KiBum Lee has received the 2021 Grossman Innovation Prize from the School of Arts and Sciences for his research into neurological disorders.

[Read more](#)

**Computer Science** Fran Trees, in collaboration with the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, was awarded \$4 million US Department of Education grant to participation in Computer Science focused STEM education.

[Read more](#)

**DIMACS** hosted a workshop on Forecasting: From Forecasts to Decisions centering on research in forecasting.

[Read more](#)

**Earth and Planetary Sciences** Kenneth Miller elected 2021 President of the Cushman Foundation for Foramineral Research. The Cushman Foundation's mission is to promote research on foraminifera and allied organisms.

**Mathematics** Alex Kontorovich talks about the history of calculating pi in this cool video.

[Read more](#)

**Physics** Blakesley Burkhart and Jedediah Pixley were awarded Sloan Foundation Fellowships.

[Read more](#)

**Statistics** Pierre Bellec was awarded the prestigious NSF Career Award.



**Connect with us!**

