

STUDENT-RUN ORGANIZATION | @SBU_GRADMAG | WWW.SBUGRADMAG.COM

The 3rd annual Physics and Astronomy Chair's Cup Soccer Tournament

Daniel Firak, Ciro Riccio, and Sai Sumanth Kantamneni

The 3rd annual Physics and Astronomy Chair's Cup Soccer Tournament, organized by graduate students, postdocs, and faculty of the department, is back this spring. The event is proudly sponsored by the department's chair, Distinguished Professor Chang Kee Jung, who initiated this tradition three years ago with the help of Professor Ciro Riccio, and serves as the tournament's commissioner.

Played in a league-like format similar to intramurals, the tournament begins in a group state in which teams engage in a total of 4 games, accumulating points through wins and draws to determine rankings. In the event of tied points, rankings are determined by Head-to-Head results followed by goal differential. Scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from April 10th to April 24th, each match day featured one game from 5 to 6 PM and another from 6 to 7 PM. The top four teams in the League standings advance to the playoffs, competing in the semifinals. Subsequently, the semifinals and finals are slated for May 1st and May 15th respectively, maintaining the same game times. All matches take place on the Track Practice Field by the Island Federal Arena Parking Lot.

The winner will take home a beautiful trophy to be displayed at their research group lounge or room of their choosing. The prestigious golden medals will be awarded to all the players for the 1st place, with silver and bronze being awarded to the players of the 2nd and 3rd placed teams. More importantly, the losing team must host a barbecue for the department which will be the start of the department's Summer Friday Socials. In anticipation of the tournament, Professor Chang Kee Jung gave the following statement:

"I am super excited about the third season of the physics and astronomy chairs soccer tournament. This season will be a continuation of the successful 1st and 2nd seasons. I hope that more people will participate and that the tournament will be even more exciting than the first two. This is all about making the department come together, enjoying the sport as well as the camaraderie, and bonding as a family. I encourage everyone, even if you don't play soccer, to come out, either play in a team, or cheer for your research teams. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to take a little time off and be with our colleagues and friends."

This season, the tournament features several research fields and general student groups competing against each other in intense 7 vs 7 half-field soccer matches, showcasing remarkable sportsmanship among physics graduate students, faculty, and staff. Participating teams this season include Nuclear FC (Nuclear physics), Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics (YITP), Atomic, molecular, and optical physics (AMO), Astronomy, Condensed Matter, High Energy Physics (HEP), and a team comprising students who have not yet joined a research group, along with supporting faculty and staff (the 1st & 2nd Years).

The season kicked off with a bang on April 10th, witnessing a dominant performance from the Astronomy team, who had finished in last place during the 2023 season. They netted an impressive 8 goals against the 1st & 2nd Years' 2 goals. As the season progressed, the intensity didn't wane, featuring high-scoring matches like HEP vs Condensed Matter (8 - 2), Astronomy vs Nuclear FC (7 - 5), Nuclear FC vs YITP (7 - 1), and Astronomy against Condensed Matter (8 - 0), among others. Weekly schedules and final scores are regularly updated on the organization's Instagram page, where dedicated members engage viewers worldwide through live sessions.

With the conclusion of the group stages, Astronomy sits comfortably at the top with an undefeated record, followed closely by Nuclear FC, HEP, and the 1st & 2nd Years. These teams will now compete in a bracket-style, winner-takes-all showdown, with Astronomy facing the 1st & 2nd Years in the first semi-final, followed by Nuclear FC against HEP on May 1st. The victors of the semi-finals will advance to the Finals on Wednesday, May 15th, while the defeated teams will battle for 3rd place. With previous champions AMO and YITP eliminated in the group stage, anticipation builds for a new team to claim the championship title.

Come watch the final matches on May 15 at the Track Practice Field near the Island Federal arena parking lot, and may the best team win!

The Physics and Astronomy Chair's Cup Soccer Tournament is organized by the Physics & Astronomy Chair's Cup Soccer Committee, consisting of current graduate students, faculty, and staff on a voluntary basis who play a crucial role in the smooth running of the tournament. The committee is divided into three sub-committees; Referee, Match Prep, and Media. This competition is one where you can find many distinguished members of faculty and administration participating as players, referees, and team managers. The Interim Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Distinguished Professor Axel Drees plays as a goalkeeper for the Nuclear FC and is also an integral part of the Referee committee. More information can be found at [instagram.com/sbuphysastrochairscup](https://www.instagram.com/sbuphysastrochairscup).

Professor of the Month

*Christine DeLorenzo
Center for Understanding Biology using Imaging
Technology, Professor of Psychiatry and Biomedical
Engineering*



Christine DeLorenzo is a biomedical engineer whose work focuses on imaging the brain. Her overall goal is to use brain imaging techniques like positron emission tomography (PET) to advance our understanding of how the brain works to improve diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. Her lab studies illnesses ranging from major depressive disorder to Alzheimer's disease. While these are very different diseases, there are several common factors across them including: they affect a lot of people and we do not have a cure for them. This underscores the critical need for further exploration into the intricate pathways of each disease's onset and progression.

Her work studying Alzheimer's disease is related to her current role as the interim co-director of the Center for Healthy Aging, along with Dr. Suzanne Fields. This is a brand-new Center initiated by President McInnis and developed by Dean Igarashi. They work closely with the Vice Dean for Research, Dr. Hedayati, to foster research on healthy aging so that people can live healthy, happy, long lives. A kickoff meeting was held last year with over 100 faculty attendees. A main focus was studying aging at both microscopic and macroscopic levels across different organisms, ranging from fly and rodent models to human applications. They also allocated nearly \$1 million Inpilot grant funding to stimulate new research in this field!

Throughout DeLorenzo's time at Stony Brook, she considers herself to have been very lucky to work with tremendous graduate students. Since her work is multimodal, she has mentored students in Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Neuroscience, and Psychology. The students, according to DeLorenzo's account, bring new energy and intelligence to these projects. This, coupled with the state-of-the-art PET imaging facility and world-renown PET team, including chemists, physicists, nuclear medicine technicians and clinicians, make Stony Brook an ideal place for her research.

Nominate a Professor here:
<https://tinyurl.com/NominateProfessor>