

William C. Gilpin

Education

Stanford University, PhD candidate in Applied Physics, Fall 2014

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2014-2017

Stanford H&S Fellowship, 2014-2019

Stanford EDGE-STEM Fellowship, 2014-2019

Coursework in accelerator physics, data mining and simulation, theoretical population genetics, continuum mechanics, nuclear physics

Princeton University, AB in Physics with High Honors (magna cum laude), 2014

Certificate in Biophysics, 2014

The Kusaka Memorial Prize in Physics, 2014

The Allen G. Shenstone Prize in Physics, 2013

Graduate courses in quantitative molecular biology, theoretical astrophysics, theoretical cosmology, and statistical mechanics of fields (received A+ via direct nomination by professor).

Undergraduate departmental courses in electrodynamics, nonlinear dynamics, relativity, quantum mechanics, complex analysis, observational cosmology, statistical physics. plasma physics, biophysics, advanced laboratory methods (optics)

Pine View High School (Sarasota, FL), 2008-2010, Cascia Hall High School (Tulsa, OK), 2006-2008

Research

Stanford University. Advisor: Prof. Vijay Pande, Chemistry

- 2015 (winter quarter) rotation: A renormalization group approach to modeling protein folding kinetics. Methods: stochastic dynamical systems, nonequilibrium statistical physics, numerical simulation of stochastic systems (Python), random matrix analysis (Mathematica).

Stanford University. Advisor: Prof. Manu Prakash, Bioengineering

- 2014 (fall quarter) rotation: Maintained cultures of saltwater metazoans, and performed mechanical characterization experiments on live organisms. Developed image analysis code in order to characterize coordinated contractions observed in the animal's epithelium, and developed a nonlinear dynamical model of coupled oscillators in order to account for preferred spatial modes exhibited in contractions. Methods: Cell culturing, microscopy, image analysis (MATLAB/Python), analytic tools for nonlinear dynamical systems, numerical simulations of nonlinear systems (Python/numba).

Princeton University. Advisor: Prof. Clifford Brangwynne, Chemical and Biological Engineering

- 2013-2014 (academic year) Senior Thesis: "Characterizing the mechanical properties of *Caenorhabditis elegans* using a novel microfluidic approach." Development of a new method of probing the bulk mechanics of tissues, development of a viscoelastic model for the response of *C. elegans* to mechanical stress. Methods: microfluidics, cell culturing, confocal fluorescent microscopy, digital image processing (MATLAB/Python), solid and continuum mechanics models.
- 2012 (fall) Junior Paper: "Deriving a governing equation for the growth of *Caenorhabditis elegans*" Development of a Fokker-Planck model for growth in a population of *C. elegans*, high-throughput experiments to corroborate the model. Methods: Cell culturing, microscopy, image analysis (MATLAB/Python), mathematics of stochastic systems.
- 2011-2012 (academic year): Development of various techniques for confining and continuously imaging *C. elegant* during its growth, with goal of developing a mechanical model for

the growth of a single worm and a statistical model for the growth of many worms.

Harvard University. Advisor: Prof. Marko Lončar, Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering

- 2013 NSF REU: "Characterizing the electrical properties of diamond NV centers" Development of a Hall probe for studying the effect of annealing and doping on the charge carrier density in diamonds obtaining nitrogen vacancy centers. Methods: standard clean room protocol, reactive ion etching, tabletop confocal scanning microscopy, electron beam lithography, rapid thermal annealing, plasma generation, simulation of charge occupation (Lumerical FDTD, Silvaco ATLAS)
- 2012 NNIN/NSF REU: "Engineering the Charge Occupancy of Nitrogen Vacancies in Diamond." Manufactured nanowires in diamond and applied various surface treatments, with a goal of stabilizing the fluorescence of single nitrogen vacancy centers photonicly coupled to the nanowires; design and synthesis of a MOSFET device to actively control charge occupation of NV centers using an applied electric field. Methods: standard clean room protocol, electron beam lithography, reactive ion etching, photolithography, atomic layer deposition, sputtering, simulation of surface states (Lumerical FDTD/COMSOL, ATLAS), design of lithograph masks (AutoCAD).

Princeton University. Advisor: Prof. Curt Callan, Physics

- 2013 (spring) Junior Paper: "Modeling computation in biological sensing networks." Used recent results in nonequilibrium statistical mechanics to search for Markov network topologies that effectively modeled and predicted the energetic limits of biological sensing processes, like chemotaxis. Methods: information theory, statistical physics, numerical methods in MATLAB, approximation of symbolic results in Mathematica, distributed computing.

Mote Marine Laboratory. Advisor: Dr. Gary Kirkpatrick, Phytoplankton Ecology

- 2011 NSF REU: "Mathematical methods for optical discrimination of Phytoplankton taxa." Developed several new analysis and reconstruction routines for absorption spectra collected by an automated probe in the Gulf of Mexico; the spectra are analyzed to infer the community structure of phytoplankton blooms. Methods: Data processing in Java/Mathematica, culturing of live *Karenia brevis*, participation in a research cruise to collect wild samples.

Publications

W.Gilpin, S. Uppaluri, C. Brangwynne "Worms under pressure: mechanical properties of *C. elegans* are independent of the cuticle" Biophysical Journal (*Accepted*), 2015.

Bayat, K., Sun, W. K. C., **Gilpin, W.**, Farrokh Baroughi, M., & Lončar, M. . "Formation of Nitrogen vacancy center ensembles in Diamond Nanowires." CLEO: Science and Innovations. Optical Society of America, 2014. [\[url\]](#)

Gilpin, W. "Engineering the Charge Occupancy of Nitrogen Vacancies in Diamond." NNIN REU Convocation, 2012. [\[url\]](#)

Image from report selected for cover of proceedings. [\[url\]](#)

Professional Employment

Khan Academy Content Creator. Contracted as a consultant to write passages and associated questions about the physics of the human body for AAMC/Khan Academy joint venture to create free MCAT preparation materials in advance of the 2015 MCAT redesign. Confer with professional educators and physicists in order to improve content and structure of passages and questions. July 2014, ongoing. Example passage: [\[url\]](#)

Venice Theatre Technical Apprentice Program. A 3 Year (1,500 hour) Apprenticeship, nationally certified as a Stage Technician by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. Completed three professional technical courses certified by the Florida Department of Education. Travelled to Ontario, Canada for a one week work-study at the Stratford

Shakespeare Festival. Skills: DMX programming for robotic lights, ETC Console programming and patching, hardware support for standard ETC fixtures. March 2008 – April 2010.

- Film lighting director for student films in the Princeton Visual Arts program. February 2012, ongoing.
- Lighting technician at Princeton Lewis Center for the Arts. September 2010 - November 2011 (academic year).
- Assistant technical director at Princeton Theatre Intime; oversaw electrical system, trained/supervised outside designers, programmed/hung lights, and managed budget and inventory. December 2010 – May 2011.

Freelance digital illustration work for various organizations. Skills: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, AutoCAD, HTML/CSS. Samples of work: [\[url\]](#)

- General logo and web designer for Voices of Change, a journalism organization with branches at Princeton, Yale, McGill, Oberlin, and Columbia. June 2012 - August 2013.
- Lead designer for Princeton UFO+ undergraduate film club; design club logos and weekly movie posters. September 2011 - September 2012.

Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, topic area “The Physics of Living Systems,” 2014.

Kusaka Memorial Prize, top graduating seniors in Princeton physics, 2014.

Allen G. Shenstone Prize, top juniors in Princeton physics, 2013.

Induction to Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, 2014.

ODOC Senior Thesis Funding, competitive grant for Princeton undergraduate research, 2013.

Class of 1984 Memorial Fund Fellowship, a competitive Princeton grant (5 awards total) to support research, 2013.

The Fred Fox Fellowship, a competitive Princeton grant to support research, 2013.

“Art of Science” acceptee at Princeton University. Refereed exhibition of images taken in the course of scientific research. Competition open to all University alumni, students, faculty, and research staff. 2013. [\[url\]](#)

Sarasota Area Ivy League Scholarship, 2010 - 2014.

Posters & Talks

2014 Stanford Bioengineering Retreat: Joint poster with S. Armon and A. Aranda-Diaz, “Ultrafast epithelium contractions in the world’s simplest organism.”

2013 Harvard REU Convocation: Poster and talk by W. Gilpin “Manipulating the charge state of nitrogen vacancy centers in diamond.” Talk presented to 50 students and 8 principal investigators.

2012 NNIN Convocation: Poster and talk by W. Gilpin “Controlling the charge occupancy of nitrogen vacancy centers in diamond” Talk presented to 40 students and 10 principal investigators. Talk: [\[url\]](#)

2012 Harvard REU Convocation: Poster and talk by W. Gilpin “Controlling the charge occupancy of nitrogen vacancy centers in diamond.” Presented to 80 students and 5 principal investigators during 2012 Harvard REU Convocation.

2011 Mote Laboratory REU Convocation: Poster by W. Gilpin “Improving taxal resolution in the Optical Phytoplankton Discriminator” Presented to 15 students, 10 principal investigators, and laboratory president.

Outreach

Maintain a personal science blog with tutorials on home-built science projects like Tesla coils, 50,000 unique visitors to date. Summer 2010, ongoing. [\[url\]](#)

Demonstrations of Foldscope, a one-dollar microscope invented by the Prakash group; demonstrated Foldscopes with the Prakash Group for events at Bay Area Science Festival and Hopkins Marine Station, 2014.

NanoDays science demonstrator and educator for Brangwynne Group (March 2012, 2013) and Harvard SEAS (June 2012, 2013). [\[url\]](#)

Princeton peer tutor. Meet weekly with students in introductory math, science, and Latin courses. 2010-2014

Other interests

Fossil and mineral collecting since elementary school; currently catalogue of ~8000 fossil shark teeth, 400 other fossils, and 200 unique rocks and fluorescent minerals. Former member of Tulsa Rock Mineral Society, current member of Sarasota Area Rockhound club. Website of collection: [\[url\]](#)

Hobby photography in addition to paid design work. Several photographs selected as backgrounds for Yahoo Weather mobile app. Photographs and artwork accepted into The Nassau Literary Review, a juried campus publication, and "plain china," a juried nationwide literature and art magazine. [\[url\]](#)

Humanities Five years of Latin (two in college, three in high school); took a variety of other upper-level courses pertaining to ethics and philosophy; received an A+ in a normative ethics seminar taught by Professor Kwame Appiah.

Certified HAM radio operator, call sign KJ4NLQ.

Contact

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References

Professor Clifford Brangwynne, Princeton University: [cbrangwy@\[university in princeton\].edu](mailto:cbrangwy@[university in princeton].edu)

Professor Marko Lončar, Harvard University: [loncar@seas.\[university in harvard\].edu](mailto:loncar@seas.[university in harvard].edu)

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