

2006 SIMONS WORKSHOP

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

This year's Simons Workshop in Mathematics and Physics begins at Stony Brook on Monday July 24. We look forward to seeing you here. One of the themes of the Fourth Workshop will be the swampland: general constraints on low-energy effective field theories from string theory

As those of you who have attended in the past know, the goal of the Simons Workshops is to create an informal and interactive atmosphere, and that is what we will be working with you to achieve. We will therefore not begin the Workshop with a detailed, prearranged program. We anticipate a standard of one lecture a day, typically at 10:00 AM, with informal discussions for the remainder of the time

Here are a few items of preliminary information, which we hope will help you get off to a smooth start.

1 ARRIVAL INFORMATION

GETTING INTO TOWN

Most of you are, we guess, experienced travelers, but let us bring to your attention information on the YITP web page,

<http://insti.physics.sunysb.edu/itp/> .

Click on the 'Visitor Information' link near the top. Specifically, if you are coming through one of the local airports, Laganardia, JFK or Islip (Long Island McArthur), we have had generally good experience with Spartan Limousine service 631-928-5454, but there are other options. Ask for a receipt. If need be, we can arrange it for you; let Doreen Matesich know (simonswork@max2.physics.sunysb.edu). **You may also wish to use the new "AirTrain" connection from JFK to the Jamaica station of the Long Island Railroad:**

<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mta/airtrain.htm>

This option may be particularly convenient for those arriving on weekday afternoons. On arriving in Jamaica Station, transfer to one of the Port Jefferson branch trains.

For drivers, try Mapquest (<http://www.mapquest.com/directions/>) for directions; we will also be happy to help. Just send an email inquiry, and we'll get back to you.

LODGING; GETTING TO THE CAMPUS

You should have received information on lodging locations for your confirmed dates. If not, please let us know as soon as possible. We have made a variety of lodging arrangements, which we hope will be serviceable and pleasant. For the periods when we did not have appropriate lodging on campus, we are making arrangements for transportation, which will be adjusted as necessary while the Workshop progresses. This circular should be available at your lodging when you arrive, and again at the workshop.

a) Roth Quad. For the first few weeks, we will make extensive use of the very convenient apartment-style dormitory rooms of the Roth Quad on the Stony Brook campus. Those using these rooms will have received an email with instructions on check-in.

To see where the rooms are in relation to the YITP, look at

<http://insti.physics.sunysb.edu/itp/conf/simonswork4/campusmapnew.jpg> .

b) Inns. A number of participants are staying at the Three Village Inn, in the village of Stony Brook about a mile from the campus. Another group is at the Bayles Inn, which is really a large house, not far beyond. A third concentration is at the Heritage Inn in the village of Port Jefferson, a few miles east of campus, and a fourth at the Holiday Inn, on Nesconset Highway, a few miles South. We will be arranging van service and/or individual rides for participants staying in Stony Brook and Port Jefferson.

Since last year, bus service from Port Jefferson to and from Stony Brook has improved, with two busses per hour during weekdays rather than one. The current schedules for the relevant S60 and S76 routes may be found at: <http://www.sct-bus.org/schedules.html> We will have schedules available at the workshop as well. The fare is \$1.50.

c) B&Bs. Other participants are located at Bed/Breakfast locations. If your B&B is not walking distance, one of the participants staying there will have a car. We're assuming that you'll carpool, and will send separate emails to each of you making sure you know your potential driver/passanger.

Drivers should consult Mapquest or Google Maps, as well as the local maps and campus map at:

<http://insti.physics.sunysb.edu/itp/conf/simonswork4/maps.html>

An interactive campus map can be found at

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/map/>

Do not hesitate to inquire by email for specific directions.

GETTING TO YITP/Math

The Yang Institute (YITP) and the Math Department are in the Mathematics Building at Stony Brook, connected to the Physics Building.

If walking from the Roth Quad, consult the campus map (as above), or just ask. It takes five or ten minutes. You can enter the Math building from the Math-Physics plaza (the two buildings are connected).

If coming by car, park in the lot next to the math building (if you arrive by 9), or in the bigger lot just behind it. The ‘math lot’ is just below the Math Building on the campus map. Once upstairs, we’ll supply you with the necessary parking permit.

If coming by van you’ll be let off in the lot by the Math building. Go down the stairs under the blue wooden awning (for those who have been here before, you know, for others, we’ll tell you about that when you’re here) and go straight ahead to the elevators. Take an elevator to the sixth floor.

If walking from Stony Brook village, the trick is to get to the Stony Brook strain station. You can see the Math Building from there, about 1/4 mi. away, across the street from the gymnasium.

MONDAY MORNING MEETINGS: MATH COMMON ROOM

Most talks and meetings will be in the Math Common Room. It can be entered from either the fourth or the fifth floor. On the fifth floor, on leaving the elevator, go left about 10 meters to the double blue doors to room 5-120; on the fourth floor, it is called 4-125.

Starting at 9:00 on July 25, we’ll have coffee/tea and light pastries. We’ll help you with paperwork and desk space at that time. To facilitate communication among the participants, we will also take your picture and post it on the conference web page, along with your office number.

Coffee will always be available in this room.

This welcome session will lead into the organizational meeting for the first week of the Workshop, first practical stuff, and then scientific organization, led by Cumrun Vafa. We’ll have a similar organizational reception on the following weeks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We will organize evening reception/dinners at times to be arranged ‘on site’. All families will be cordially invited to these. In addition we will continue our new “traditional” weekly seminar/lunch trip to Smith Point State Park, followed by time for enjoying the ocean beach. Weather permitting, these will be on Thursdays.

Information on options for lunches and dinners will be available when you arrive. We may also plan a weekend excursion or two, depending on interest.

2 ON-SITE INFORMATION

DAILY SCHEDULE

Our intention is to schedule one talk per day, with plenty of time for discussion. The talk will be at 10:00. There will be a tea at approximately 3:30.

Most talks will be in the Math Common Room. It can be entered from either the fourth or the fifth floor. On the fifth floor, it is room 5-120; on the fourth floor, it is called 4-125.

DESK SPACE

Desk space may sometimes be tight, and we ask you indulgence as things are worked out. Keys are tightly controlled here, so we do not always have an adequate supply. Please work together.

Rooms 6-xxx, 5-xxx, 4-xxx, are on the top three levels of the Math Building. Some people will be in room 6-125. (See YITP floorplan, <http://insti.physics.sunysb.edu/itp/floorplan1.html>, where this room is labelled 'Common Room').

We will post people's office numbers online as well as on various bulletin boards.

There are computers in the offices as well as in 5-125B, and in 6-119 (the YITP Library).

There is wireless coverage of the top three floors.

ROOMS FOR DISCUSSION/SEMINARS

- 6-119: YITP Library: Informal meeting and discussion
- 4/125-5/120; Math Common Room: this will primarily serve as the main seminar room, but conversations may nucleate here as well.
- 5-127; Small math seminar room: its in front of the Mathematics Department Office. This is a very nice room for blackboard discussion and small meetings. It is reached from the 6th floor by going down the stairs nearest Room 6-117 one flight. Turn left; it is the first room on the left .

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

YITP Phone Numbers:

- Doreen Matesich: 631-632-7983
- Martin Rocek: 631-632-7965/631-751-1538
- Elizabeth Gasparino: 631-632-7979
- George Sterman: 631-632-7967
- Messages can be left at any 632 number.
- Math Department Office: 632-8250

RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The Stony Brook area has a fair number of restaurants, although not all are readily available without a car. Here is some information for when you arrive. It will be probably best to ask at your Inn/BB for advice on exactly how to locate these establishments and/or for other suggestions.

- On the University.

On campus, during the summer, there are two cafeteria-style restaurants: one in the Student Activity Center, very close to Roth Quad, with a fairly wide selection in its food court. In the summer, hours are generally 8-6. The other is 'Jasmine', with Asian food (both South and East), in the Wang Center, also a short walk from Roth. Jasmine is open for lunch and until 6 for dinner, except for nights when there is an activity at the close-by Staller Arts Center, when they are open until 8.

- Delivery

A variety of casual restaurants will also deliver to the Roth Quad. Ask at the office.

- Near the University:

(Those in (I) are about a 1/2-mile walk from the Roth Quad. (II) is about a mile.)

(I) across Route 25A from the Railroad Station are a variety: (a) Green Cactus [751-0700], an very informal Mexican, (b) Full Moon Cafe [689-5999], a bar and restaurant, open after 4, (c) a few of fast food places – one for pizza, gyros one for doughnuts. (d) A "Seven-Eleven" is nearby. (e) For more sophisticated mostly take-out sandwiches & prepared food 'Strawberry Fields'. (II) Just east of the Nicolls Rd on the south side of 25A, a popular Indian restaurant, the 'Curry Club' [751-4845] (which also has a qwill-attended late-night bar, the 'Velvet Lounge', and slightly to the east of that 'Eastern Pavilion' for Chinese/Japanese.

- 3 Village Inn/Bayles Area

The Three Village Inn has its own restaurant, which is a bit expensive. Across the street are: (1) the modest, casual 'Brook House' [751-4617], which is open till 10 most days (9:30 on Sunday) and (2) the nice, but slightly up-scale 'Pentimento' [689-7755]. (3) Until 6 pm or so, sandwiches may be found at the 'Golden Pear'. (4) A deli called "Fratelli's" [751-4445] that has sandwiches and various prepared foods is in the same line of stores as "Pentimento". All this is about 1/4 mi from Bayles Inn, and there is a sidewalk. Near Bayles is the very expensive 'Country House' (more for office parties than regular dining).

- Port Jefferson:

Here there are a lot of restaurants in the village. 'Pasta Pasta' is popular (guess for what), and for seafood, the 'Dockside' is reasonably priced.

GETTING TO NEW YORK

Some general information, for those with and without cars. The railroad station at Stony Brook is right off the University property, about a mile from the 3 Village Inn. The station is perhaps 1/3 mile from the Institute.

- By car:

An early start on Sunday or even Saturday can result in a pretty reasonable ride in – from PJ maybe 1&1/2 hr to Manhattan. Getting around in Manhattan isn't so bad on a Sunday, especially in the summer, and if you arrive before noon, you may even find parking on the street here and there.

- By train:

The train also isn't too bad, although it's a bit long from Port Jeff or Stony Brook; nearly 2 hrs each way, and usually involves a (not confusing) change of trains. Another option for those with cars is to drive to another line on the Long Island Railroad (there are several east-west lines) – at the 'Ronkonkoma Station', which is actually just north of the airport at Islip. From Ronkonkoma, the trains are about 1 10 min (hourly) to Manhattan with no change. The overall trip is about the same, but more varied that way. Both trains leave you off at Penn Station, which is around 34th St & 7th Ave. (a modest walk from a variety of attractions, such as the Empire State Building, or the TKTS 'half-price' ticket booth at 47th & 7th. Sunday is a day for matinees on Broadway, usually starting between 2 and 3 PM. LIRR schedules are found at <http://lirr42.mta.info/index.asp> and will also be available at the workshop.

BEACHES:

There is a beach that's a short walk from the Three Village Inn, just beyond the marina across Shore Rd. There are a number of beaches on Long Island Sound, on the North Shore of Long Island, but parking is a problem. Ask. The closest Atlantic Ocean beach (South Shore) is about a 45 minute drive from Stony Brook.

CAUTIONS

- 1. Potential for leaks on the 6th floor: this winter, soom of the rooms on the 6th floor leaked during and after heavy rains. The roof has been extensively repaired, but if you see any problem, please let us know. Also, it might be best not to leave laptops or other valuable electronics unattended overnight on or after rainy days (even with the doors locked).
- 2. Poison Ivy: avoid contact with shrubs or vines that have shiny leaves in groups of three. It can cause severe skin irritation. It tends to grow at the edge of woods, so it is often right by the side of roads and walkways.
- 3. Mosquitos: in Long Island as elsewhere in the US, they very occasionally carry 'West Nile Virus'. It's not something to lose sleep over, but if there are a lot of mosquitos around, just go inside.
- 4. Ticks: stay out of brush or high grass; Lyme disease is carried by small ticks.
- 5. Traffic: see the last item in 'transportation' above. Generally, extensive walking at night is to be avoided because of traffic concerns where there are no sidewalks.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please get in touch with Doreen at
simonswork@max2.physics.sunysb.edu