The Physics Department Seminar Series presents...

**Policy and Advocacy in Challenging Political and Fiscal Times**

Tuesday, March 10th
Cleveland L3
4:00 Reception
4:15 Presentation

**BIO:** Aline is a policy associate at the American Institute of Physics where she focuses on a variety of physical science policy issues including STEM education, research funding, and space policy. She coordinates efforts between the physics societies and works with broader science policy coalitions including the Coalition for National Science Funding, Energy Sciences Coalition, and the Task Force on American Innovation. She originally developed her interest in science policy while working with the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology during the 2010 reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act. Aline is currently pursuing a M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy and holds a Bachelor’s degree in physics from Bryn Mawr College.

**ABSTRACT:** Scientific research priorities and funding decisions are increasingly becoming intertwined in the complex political process. Informing policymakers about science policy involves being able to educate and discuss with non-scientists the importance of funding, regulations and other issues that affect the scientific community. This talk will address how the science policy community can engage with a politically divided Congress during this tight fiscal climate. It will include an overview of science priorities from the perspective of both Congress and the Administration for federal science agencies including the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and NASA. Key issues for the physical sciences community include educating Members of Congress about the NSF’s merit review process and the DOE Office of Science while informing them about how scientific research is carried out in federal laboratories and universities. Many coalitions in Washington collaboratively work to address these and other issues and students will learn how they can become involved in the policy process to provide resources to policymakers and advocate for funding for their research.