

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Max Hanrahan

Ph.D. Candidate

Starr Lab

Physics

WHAT SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

Healing (or self-healing)!

WHAT SONG HAS BEEN STUCK IN YOUR HEAD LATELY?

"Friday I'm in Love" — The Cure

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE WESLEYAN EXPERIENCE?

Watching baseball games on Foss Hill

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND AND WHY?

If you're the sort of person that likes going down Wikipedia rabbit holes, then I recommend Gödel, Escher, Bach. It's a loose collection of puzzles and interesting anecdotes about self-reference in art, music, philosophy, and math.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

I'm currently studying polymer mixtures with the intent of learning how we can make polymer-based materials more recyclable. It's by far the most interdisciplinary project I've ever worked on—we're motivated by problems in chemistry and materials science while ultimately using physics to solve these problems day-to-day. I love computational work and feel especially lucky to have access to Wesleyan's High Performance Computing Center (HPCC) to carry out simulations.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Originally from Erie, PA, I'm a Hamilton College graduate and I'm in the second year of my Physics PhD program here at Wesleyan. I love spending my free time going on long distance runs, playing music with friends, or enjoying immersive sci-fi video games.