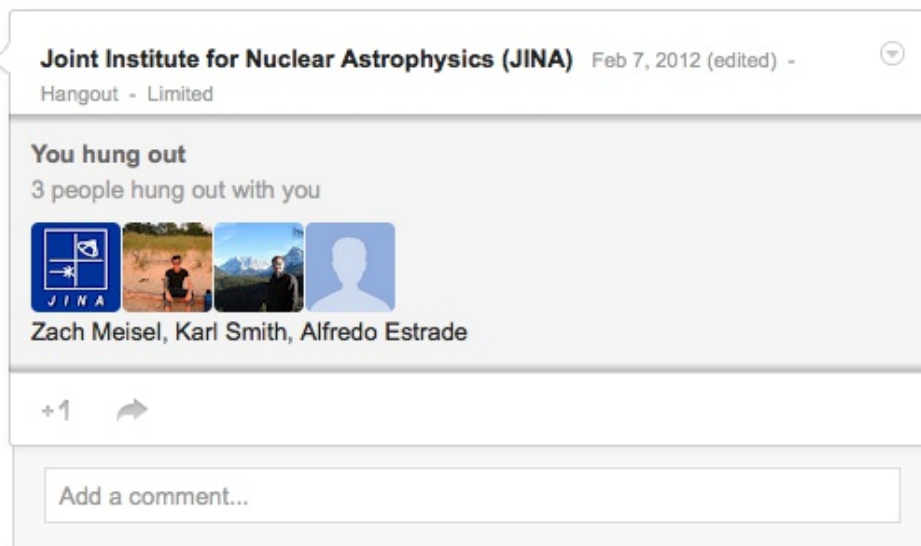


## Online Collaborative Efforts

The JINA Collaboration Network is an academic version of a social network. It is a forum for researchers to ask questions, plan meetings, or just chat about physics in the news. During the 2011-12 academic year, it was also used to plan journal club meetings through the use of google+ hangouts and webinars hosted by different JINA institutions. The journal club began at MSU as YMCA (Yerba Mate Club Astrophysics) where graduate students would meet to talk about a recent publication while drinking yerba mate. As JINA grew, and students graduated, the need for a virtual meeting also grew. Google+ was chosen to host the (now) international Journal Club meetings so that any young researcher in the

JINA network with internet access could participate. The software also allows screen sharing which is helpful when talking about a specific plot or potentially difficult equation.

MSU hosts a regular JINA "Pizza Lunch" seminar which is well attended. At the beginning of 2012, JINA began to expand the pizza seminar via monthly webinars to allow all members to participate. Laurens Keek presented from MSU, Claudio Ugalde presented from U of C, and Rebecca Surman presented from ND. Researchers were encouraged to either join in person, join from their desk, or join with others from a remote conference room. The virtual nature of webinars allows for more participation and a more lively discussion of the topics.



*Google+ hangouts are utilized for international journal club meetings with JINA grad students and post-docs*

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