Fermilab Today

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Calendar

Have a safe day!

Tuesday, April 27
3:30 p.m.
DIRECTOR'S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over
4 p.m.
Accelerator Physics and Technology Seminar (NOTE LOCATION) - Curia II
Speaker: Rama Yedavalli, Ohio State University
Title: Robust Control Systems Research with Applications

Wednesday, April 28
3:30 p.m.
DIRECTOR'S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over
4 p.m.
Fermilab Colloquium - One West
Speaker: James Swanson, University of California, Irvine
Title: Evaluation of the Dopamine Hypothesis of ADHD with PET Brain Imaging

Click here for NALCAL, a weekly calendar with links to additional information.

Upcoming conferences

Campaigns

Take Five

Tune IT Up

H1N1 Flu

For information about H1N1, visit Fermilab's flu information site.

Weather

Milestone

Ed Temple retires

Ed Temple

Whenever you saw Ed Temple, chances were that within a short time he'd grab a note card out of his shirt pocket and scribble furiously.

He was always looking for little details that could make or break an experiment.

That meticulous nature could try the nerves of scientists who had to endure a review system he initiated in 1980 that dogged a project from inception to start-up. Yet it also made for solid projects that more often than not were completed successfully.

“These reviews and what they emphasize are the reason science has been so successful in the DOE,” said Dan Lehman, director of project assessment for the Department of Energy Office of Science. “It is a process that is now being emulated throughout DOE at the request of U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.”

Temple has offered advice on every Fermilab project since the installation of the Main Injector during his early career at DOE and through his 11 years at Fermilab.

He recently retired as director of the Office of Project Management Oversight at Fermilab. He will take a post at Argonne National Laboratory as senior project advisor to the director to finish out his career closer to his home.

The review process Temple initiated has been credited with helping not only individual experiments but the field as a whole by facilitating a transfer of technical and management know-how among peer reviewers from other laboratories.

When Temple joined DOE as director of project assessment for the Office of Energy Research in 1980, project reviews existed but without a hard and fast schedule. Projects were over budget and Congressional faith in

Director's Corner

Balance II

Fermilab Director Pier Oddone

In last week’s column I wrote about a question posed by Bill Brinkman, the Director of the Office of Science, to the lab directors on how to achieve balance between basic science and the urgent drive to address national energy and environmental needs. This week’s column looks at factors that affect the balance in a little more detail, in particular as they pertain to particle physics.

Perceived opportunities and the cost to realize them: Many of the current difficulties in our field stem from the drive to position the U.S. to build the International Linear Collider by 2010, and the subsequent major change in direction after establishment of the ILC cost. The field passed over several opportunities at a smaller scale in the effort to aim all resources at the ILC. This made our field soft and vulnerable in the competitive environment of the Office of Science, especially with the delay in LHC results. The present plan, with a broader approach, multiple opportunities at a smaller scale and a significant accelerator R&D program that includes the ILC as one option, has received significant support both in the administration and Congress and may be more resilient.

A judgment of the value of basic research on fundamental questions relative to the potential impacts of end-use inspired basic research: This is the easiest factor to understand qualitatively and the hardest factor to understand quantitatively. As Einstein said: “Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” Certainly the interest of the public in uncovering the mysteries of nature is very high, especially in those aspects that are the most mysterious and grand. The degree of attention on the LHC across the world is astounding. In every public lecture I give, the sense of support for our science is palpable. In addition, as a field we have produced many

Sunny
55°/36°

Extended Forecast
Weather at Fermilab

Current Security Status

Secon Level 3

Wilson Hall Cafe

Tuesday, April 27
- Bagel sandwich
- Tomato bisque soup
- Lemon pepper club
- Beef fajitas
- Korean garlic chicken
- Grilled chicken Caesar salad wrap
- Assorted sliced pizza
- Rio Grande taco salad

Wilson Hall Cafe Menu

Chez Leon

Wednesday, April 28
Lunch
- Crab cakes w/ red pepper mayonnaise
- Lemon orzo
- Carrot cake

Thursday, April 29
Dinner
- Closed

Chez Leon Menu
Call x3524 to make your reservation.

Archives

Fermilab Today

Result of the Week

Safety Tip of the Week

CMS Result of the Month

User University Profiles

ILC NewsLine

the bottom-line of science was waning.

He implemented a systematic review process that has become the high energy physics community standard and resulted in more efficient, on-budget, creative and transparent projects and experiments, peers said. When he moved to Fermilab to prepare project managers for these reviews, he also initiated an intermediate step of a director's review.

Read more

In Brief

Additional guidance for visa waiver travelers

Fermilab's Visa Office has learned that local Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Bureau has adjusted how visa waiver travelers may document their departures from the U.S.

Visa waiver users stranded in the U.S. because of disruptions in air traffic over Europe should visit the CBP office at their airport prior to departure. They must present their original travel itinerary. Upon confirmation that the individual was prevented from timely departing the U.S. because of the results of the Icelandic volcano eruptions, CBP officers will annotate the users' I-94 cards to show that the departure – occurring after the end of the authorized stay – is nonetheless "satisfactory".

Read more

Milestone

Death

H. Guyford Stever, former NSF director and a Universities Rearch Association president from 1982-1985, died April 9. You can read Stever's obituary here.

In the News

spinoff technologies with great impact on society and the economy. Yet this public support does not translate automatically into healthy budgets unless we present initiatives that are both exciting and realistic. These initiatives must compete against other scientific initiatives that promise direct impacts on applications.

The standing that the U.S. wants to take in this research in the world: If we want to be among the leaders in particle physics, we must lead in some domains. The LHC will dominate the energy frontier after the Tevatron, probably for as long as the Tevatron has dominated the energy frontier in the past. At the intensity and cosmic frontiers the US can maintain a leadership position, but this requires significant investments now, especially as other regions continue to develop their basic research in these areas as well. A clear definition of the US role in the field would help stabilize the balance and level of support.

The role that Office of Science plays as a steward of particle physics relative to the energy mission of the DOE: Within the overall investment in research in the US, which exceeds $60 billion, the fraction devoted to fundamental research is relatively small. The DOE's role in this small fraction is quite large. In recognition of the role that DOE plays in basic science, the name of the Office of Energy Research was changed years ago to the current name of Office of Science. The Office of Science recognizes the special role that DOE plays as steward of particle physics: it is still the second largest office within the Office of Science.

Although it is difficult to assign a specific weight to each of these four factors, they all contribute to establishing a balance. Underlying the whole, and needed to establish the right balance in today's competitive environment, is the set of opportunities that we develop in our plans and their support by our community, the broader scientific community and the public.

Announcements

Info

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Will the next government fix UK physics?

From ***New Scientist's The S Word***, April 27, 2010

I've been interviewing candidates for doctoral and post-doctoral positions in particle physics at my university, UCL. It's been an alternately uplifting and depressing experience.

Uplifting because of the large number of highly qualified and motivated applicants: we have twenty good, serious candidates for every place. They're smart people, who've (mostly) come through our educational system with a love of physics and the intellectual drive and capability needed to do research at the forefront of fundamental physics.

Depressing because we have less and less to offer them. Under current plans, more than £50 million per year will have been removed from the budget for particle physics, nuclear physics and astronomy by 2012 - a budget that only amounts to about £200 million anyway, after international subscriptions have been paid.

The turning point for British physics was 2007, when a spending review betrayed the investment and endeavour of previous governments - including Blair's post-1997 Labour government - and led to the ill-conceived merger of two research councils to form the Science and Technology Funding Council (STFC).

Read more

Latest Announcements

Next yoga session begins May 4

Ask HR in Wilson Hall atrium - April 28

English country dancing -May 2

Celebrate National Humor Month

Toastmasters meet in cafeteria - May 4

IMAP users: Configure your e-mail client by May 5

National Lab Day 2010

AutoCAD Intermediate classes - June 22 - 24

AutoCAD Fundamentals class - June 8 - 10

FORE! The 2010 golf season is about to hit you

SciTech summer camps start June 14

Butts & Guts class - sign up now

Employee discount at Batavia Rosati's

Country House discount for Fermilab employees

Qi Gong, Mindfulness and Tai Chi Easy for Stress Reduction

Argentine Tango through April 28 - Student discount available

Fermilab Arts Series presents Leo Kottke - May 8

Fermilab Arts Series presents Corky Siegel and Chamber Blues June 26

Calling all softball players

ANSYS Mechanical Application classes - May

Submit an announcement