News Release

Saturday, October 7, 2006
Physics & Astronomy Open House

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The Event: The Departments of Physics and Astronomy at Indiana University warmly welcome you to their annual Open House from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 7. This free event features enjoyable and enlightening experiences ranging from an indoor and outdoor exploratoria of hands-on physics and science activities, traditional and demonstration lectures, and exciting tours of local facilities. The Open House is organized primarily for high school and middle school guests from across the state of Indiana, and is open to the general public and college students. Faculty and students will be on hand to assist, explain and discuss results, as well as chat with those interested in a career and/or education in physics, applied physics, astronomy, and the history & philosophy of science at Indiana University.

Where? The Open House is being held in and around the Physics and Astronomy Building, Swain Hall West, at 727 E. Third Street on the IU campus in Bloomington. Come join us for refreshments and a day of enjoyable science. Details can be found at http://physics.indiana.edu/Openhouse2006/

Hands-On Physics: The Open House emphasizes hands-on experimentation and science theory. Indiana University professors and their students will be available to contribute to an understanding of the experiments you will be doing. Make waves and analyze sounds in the Acoustics room, dizzily spin in the Mechanics room, create crackling sparks in the Electromagnetism room, explore quantum effects and subatomic particles in the Modern Physics room, play with optical illusions in the Biophysics room, and see deep-frozen objects shattered after being plunged in liquid nitrogen in low-temperature demonstrations. The always popular Contest Room will challenge your science knowledge and reward your brainpower with cool prizes. The Outdoor Exploratorium features the perplexing Coriolis Force Merry-go-Round, dry ice bowling, and a sensitive seismometer from the Geology Dept.

Spectacular Science: The highly popular demonstration lecture titled Super Heroes: Super Physics by the IU Physics and Astronomy Club members dressed as historical physicists will include the deadly bed of nails, the Physics Department Rocket Car streaking across the auditorium, soda cans ripped asunder by magnetic fields, and catastrophically imploding oil drums. The shows (9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Swain West 119) are suitable for children in grades 1-12 as well as college students and adults. A fascinating lecture: "Pluto and the New Solar System" will be presented in the same room at 11:00 a.m. Films and information will be presented about the history and genius of Einstein, the physics of hearing, and the wonders of huge particle detectors.
Local Facilities, Tours: Guided tours of the IU Cyclotron Facility will be available. IUCF is a large, multi-disciplinary laboratory where research in nuclear physics, material science, and accelerator physics is performed. The Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute (MPRI) is also based at IUCF and is one of only four facilities in the nation that offers proton radiation therapy, a precise method for delivering radiation to a disease site, while minimizing the dose to healthy tissues. Space is limited: only those who arrive on the shuttle buses from Swain (departing at 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., minimum age of 8 years) will be allowed on the tours. A special time slot of 1:30 p.m. for arrival at the Cyclotron is available for tour groups with their own transportation: contact moywrigh@indiana.edu. IU Astronomers will hold tours of adjacent Kirkwood Observatory and the solar observatory every half-hour starting at 10:00 a.m. Check out huge images of the sun: spots and all.

Summary: The Indiana University Physics and Astronomy Departments invite you to their Open House on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., at Swain Hall West at 727 E. Third St. Have fun while learning about physics and astronomy!

Critical Information

What: Physics and Astronomy Open House
When: Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: Indiana University, Swain Hall West, 727 E. Third St., Bloomington.
Who: Everyone interested in the world around them.
Why: The sheer pleasure of doing Science.
Free entrance and refreshments for all.
Details: http://physics.indiana.edu/Openhouse2006/
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