

NEWS RELEASE

Saturday, October 31, 2009 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 31. This *free* event features a wide range of experiences including 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 aimed at people of all ages from across the state of Indiana, and is open to everyone. Faculty and students will be on hand to assist, explain and discuss results, as well as to chat with those interested in a career and/or education in physics, applied physics, and astronomy 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://www.iub.edu/~iubphys/outreach/openhouse.shtml>

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, spin dizzily in the Mechanics room, create crackling sparks in the Electromagnetism room, experience strange optical effects in the Light & Color room, explore quantum effects and current particle physics experiments being done at Fermilab and the LHC in the Modern Physics room, play with optical illusions in the Biophysics room, and see 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 seismometer and ground-penetrating radar from the Geology Dept.

Spectacular Science: *Phreaky Physics*, the highly popular demonstration lecture by the IU Physics and Astronomy Club, will include the perilous 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 1:45 p.m., Swain West 119) are suitable for children in grades 1-12 as well as college students and adults. Fascinating lectures: "Hubble's Bounty" (at 10:45 am) by astronomy professor emeritus Martin Burkhead; and "Planning for the H1N1 flu: how physics and computers help to fight off global pandemics" (at 12:30 pm) by informatics professor Alessandro Vespignani, aimed at a general audience, will be presented in the same room.

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. Ride to IUCF on free shuttle buses departing from Swain Hall at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m or drive to the facility in your car (parking is available). Only those over 13 years old can be accommodated. A special time slot, starting at 1:45 p.m. is available for tour groups with their own transportation. Contact Moya Wright (moywright@indiana.edu) for more information. 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 31, 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 31, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: Indiana University, Swain Hall West, 727 E. 3rd St., Bloomington
Who: Everyone interested in the world around them.
Why: The joy of doing Science.
Free entrance and refreshments for all.
Details: <http://www.iub.edu/~iubphys/outreach/openhouse.shtml>
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