NEWS RELEASE
Saturday, October 23, 2010
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 23. 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://physics.indiana.edu/openhouse/

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: “Captain Planet and the Physiteers”, 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: "Earth, Water, Air and Fire: solutions to our 21st century energy problems" (at 10:45 am) by physics professor Paul Sokol; and “Exploring the Autumn Sky” (at 12:30 pm) by astronomy graduate student Randall Hamper, aimed at a general audience, will be presented in the same room.
Local Facilities, Tours:  Back by popular demand are guided tours of the IU cyclotron facility, a large, multi-disciplinary laboratory where research in nuclear physics, material science, and accelerator physics is performed. The facility houses the new Center for Exploration of Energy and Matter, and IU Cyclotron Operations, which supports the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute (MPRI), one of only six 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). The visit will include a brief overview of the facility, followed by a 1-hour walking tour. For safety reasons, only those over 13 years old can be accommodated.

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 23, 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 23, 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://physics.indiana.edu/openhouse/  
Contact:  Susan Brown, (812) 855-1246