Have a safe day!

Wednesday, Dec. 2
3:30 p.m.
DIRECTOR’S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over

4 p.m.
Fermilab Colloquium - One West
Speaker: Keith Dienes, University of Arizona/National Science Foundation
Title: Probing the String Landscape: Implications, Applications and Controversies

Thursday, Dec. 3
2:30 p.m.
Theoretical Physics Seminar - Curia II
Speaker: Andrey Katz, University of Maryland
Title: Signals of Sneutrino NLSP at the LHC
3:30 p.m.
DIRECTOR’S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over
THERE WILL BE NO ACCELERATOR PHYSICS AND TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR TODAY

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

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Tevatron's doctors keep the machine running well

Tevatron mechanical support team members during the 2009 shutdown: Top, from left: Earl Shaffer, Sabina Aponte, Bill Dymond and James Williams. Bottom, from left: Derek Plant and Jerry Szabo.

The mechanical technicians in the Tevatron's mechanical support group aren't doctors. But they play some at work, caring for the Tevatron.

"You’re working long hours and the list of things to do is endless," said Sali Sylejmani, an employee in the mechanical support group. "It is like starting a surgery, you open the system and it needs to be closed up."

On a hot summer day during the recent shutdown, a pressure indicator showed a possible leak in one of the Tevatron magnets. The team, made of five permanent members and a handful of other specialized technicians, carried several tons of diagnostic equipment into tight quarters underground. They used it to check for leaks in each problem area in the sector until they found and repaired the leak.

Repairs can include replacing something small, such as a bad seal, or replacing a magnet, which could take up to two or three shifts.

"What we do is not easy," said Derek Plant, mechanical technician. "We have to pay close attention to many variables."

Often, the process for finding a leak or a malfunctioning or broken piece of equipment takes a unique instinct and mechanical aptitude, said McCormick, supervisor for the Tevatron's mechanical support group.

The stressful work and long hours creates...
camaraderie. The team members joke with each other, but they also know about each others' families and more.

"It takes a very special group of people with good communication and a good demeanor," Plant said.

That openness also translates into a team with a good safety record. Each day for the team begins over coffee, where they go over any pertinent information.

"During coffee, we relay information, talk about the previous day and any safety issues. We'll review the safety procedures and make sure that we have the tools and equipment we need," McCormick said.

When the machine breaks, the team often turns their lives upside down to make repairs.

"Without that type of dedication, it would be impossible to get the work done," McCormick said. "These team members really give a lot to keep the Tevatron operating well."

-- Rhianna Wisniewski

Read more

Special Announcement

Register now for the ITEP Winter School of Physics

Registration is now underway for the 13th International Moscow School of Physics taking place Feb. 13-20. The deadline to register is Dec. 17.

Advanced undergraduates, graduates and postdocs who want to or plan to work in particle physics may attend. The workshop will include high-level sessions on some of the most cutting-edge physics topics dominating the field today, including:

- Flavor physics
- Perturbative and non-perturbative QCD
- Physics beyond the Standard Model
- Physics at LHC and ILC
- Neutrino physics
- Cosmology and astrophysics

A full preliminary list of speakers is available on the ITEP Web site.

The ITEP Winter School of Physics began in 1973 and became international in 1994. Since 1998, the Moscow government has been a general sponsor. The official school language is English.

More information is available on the ITEP Web site.

In the News

Fermilab has no hard feelings toward lab that bested it

From the Daily Herald, Dec. 1, 2009

Fermilab lost its title Monday as the world's most powerful accelerator.

But instead of being hurt or jealous, officials at the federal laboratory in Batavia say they are thrilled.

"Extremely happy" is how Young-Kee Kim, the lab's deputy director, described the mood after the new Large Hadron Collider, located on the French-Swiss border near Geneva, bested Fermilab's eight-year-old record. "We are a big part of the LHC."

Read more
Dark Energy Survey collaboration meets at SLAC

From SLAC Today, Dec. 1, 2009

Ninety-five percent of the universe is made of something mysterious and "dark," according to the standard cosmological model. And while a portion of that darkness-dark matter-may soon be better understood through experiments in deep underground mines and at CERN's Large Hadron Collider, most of it-dark energy—remains almost entirely inexplicable.

An international collaboration of researchers seeks to change that through the Dark Energy Survey. More than 100 DES collaborators are meeting at SLAC this week to discuss how they will map dark energy, the mysterious force that seems to accelerate the universe's expansion, to reveal why the universe is expanding at an ever-increasing rate.

"Dark energy is one of the biggest puzzles in physics and the Dark Energy Survey will explore new territory with four independent measurements," said Kavli Institute of Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology researcher Risa Wechsler, who chairs the science program for this week's collaboration meeting.

Read more

Special Announcement

"The Night Before Christmas Carol" performance Saturday

Actor David zum Brunnen performs as Charles Dickens and 17 Dickensian characters in "The Night Before Christmas Carol", which will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday at Fermilab.

If you've read or watched performances of "A Christmas Carol," you've met Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and three Christmas ghosts. Now meet Charles Dickens, the man behind the novel, in a one-man performance at Fermilab Saturday.

Read more
"The Night Before Christmas Carol" will give audiences a historically accurate and humorous glimpse into the life of Charles Dickens in 1843 on the night before he dreamed up his world-famous novel. Renowned Dickens scholar and playwright Elliot Angel wrote the play, which is appropriate for the entire family.

The 90-minute performance, which is part of the Fermilab Arts Series, begins at 8 p.m. Saturday in Ramsey Auditorium.

Tickets are $18 for general audiences and $9 for ages 18 and under. To purchase tickets call (630) 840-ARTS (2787), or go to the Box Office, temporarily located on the 15th Floor of Wilson Hall weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information is available here.