Fermilab Today

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Calendar

Wed., May 23
11:00 a.m.
Fermilab ILC R&D Meeting - 1 West
Speaker: A. Hocker, Fermilab
Title: Status and Progress of the ILC Cavity Horizontal Test System (HTS)
3:30 p.m.
DIRECTOR'S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over
4:00 p.m.
Fermilab Colloquium - 1 West
Speaker: B. Atwood, University of California, Santa Cruz
Title: Physics and the Violin

Thurs., May 24
1:00 p.m.
ALCPG ILC Physics and Detector Seminar - WH-10NW, West Wing
Speaker: C. Milstene, Fermilab
Title: Precision Measurement of the Stop Mass at the ILC
2:30 p.m.
Theoretical Physics Seminar - WH-3NW (NOTE LOCATION)
Speaker: D. Tucker-Smith, Williams College
Title: Mixed-Sneutrino Dark Matter 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.

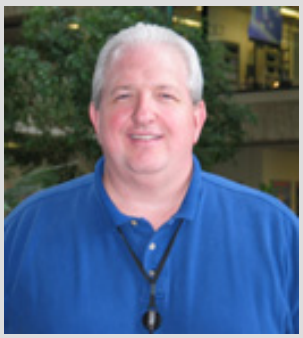
Weather

Scattered showers 90°/65°

Extended Forecast
Weather at Fermilab

Feature

EG&G's Jeff Cotton to lend Fermilab a helping hand


Jeff Cotton

In the grander scheme of things, Jeff Cotton is the onsite contract manager for a global engineering firm, but up close and personal, the calm, cheery man sees himself as just another helping hand. Cotton is the Fermilab onsite manager for the EG&G division of URS, one of the world's largest engineering design firms. URS provides program management and technical services to the U.S. Government. During the next five years, Cotton will lead EG&G in supporting Fermilab as an "industrial partner," by providing consulting services to suggest process improvements in the lab's operations.

"We will use a combination of subject matter experts and best practices observed at other DOE and industrial facilities to bring new ideas and concepts to Fermilab," Cotton said, emphasizing that change is only necessary if it is meaningful and has a positive influence on operations. "As we face tighter and tighter budgets, we need to seek improvements to maintain the high level of productivity that Fermilab has become famous for."

The first two areas EG&G will address are facilities maintenance and work control. The company will also assist the laboratory in instituting a qualified quality assurance program, a new contractual requirement between DOE and FRA.

"This will be a great collaborative effort," Cotton said. "I am looking forward to helping Fermilab find ways to continually improve laboratory standards and practices."

Cotton, who has a background in nuclear facilities operations, nuclear waste management and risk assessment, also served 11 years in the Navy in submarines and as an instructor in nuclear propulsion

From Technical Division

Focus on professionalism

Today's column is written by Particle Physics Division head Jim Strait.


Jim Strait

I have been away from the lab for most of the past month, with much of that time spent at CERN working on solutions to the problems with the LHC inner triplet magnet system. The technical details of the magnet situation have been well-covered in several recent *Fermilab Today* articles, and I won't rehash them here.

Rather, I would like to pay tribute to the spirit of cooperation across institutional boundaries that has characterized the work in solving the problems with the inner triplet system, revealed by the failed pressure test in March. This work is being done by a remarkable team of people, principally from CERN, Fermilab (TD, PPD, and AD), and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, but also with additional help from Brookhaven National Lab, KEK, and others. This team has worked together in a serious and professional way, with everyone focusing on solving the problems as quickly and effectively as possible.

With this situation, there could be ample opportunity for finger pointing and playing the "blame game." None of this has occurred. I have been told by more than one person at CERN that the real test is not whether one's work is free of mistakes -- the only way to avoid mistakes altogether being to do nothing -- but how one deals with the mistakes when they happen. And I have been told a number of times that while ours is a serious problem, it is hardly the only one that must be dealt with before the LHC can be commissioned.

Much work remains to complete the designs of the repairs to the inner triplet, implement them and test the revised system. But with this remarkable team and its strong collaborative spirit, I am fully confident that we will be

Current Security Status

Secon Level 3

Wilson Hall Cafe

Wednesday, May 23
-Vegetable beef
-Fish & chips
-Smart Cuisine: Grilled salmon
-Country fried steak w/ pepper gravy
-Beef & cheddar panini w/ sauteed onions
-Assorted sliced pizza
-Cavatappi pasta w/ Italian sausage & tomato ragu

Wilson Hall Cafe Menu

Chez Leon

Wednesday, May 23
Lunch
- Blackened catfish fillet
- Dirty rice
- Broccoli w/ lemon zest
- Pecan chocolate tart

Thursday, May 24
Dinner
- Tomatoes, fresh mozzarella & basil salad
- Grilled halibut w/ spicy pimiento sauce
- Spinach risotto
- Julienne of multicolored pepper
- Pears & hazelnut soufflé

Chez Leon Menu
Call x4598 to make your reservation.

Archives

Fermilab Today

Result of the Week

Safety Tip of the Week

ILC NewsLine

Info

operations and management. He was educated in electronics, electrical engineering, operations management, nuclear propulsion and maintenance control systems through the U.S. Navy's nuclear training program. He and his family recently relocated to Oswego from Salt Lake City, Utah. Cotton's office is located on the fourth floor of Wilson Hall in the southwest corner and he can be reached at x2327 or by email.

-- Rhianna Wisniewski

Milestone

Mike Perricone, Fermilab Writer, Retires


Mike Perricone

What do professional hockey, changing diapers, and particle physics have in common?

In what must rank among the more eclectic careers in journalism, Fermilab's Mike Perricone has reported in depth on all three.

For 20 years, first on radio and finally at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Mike covered that most macho of American pro sports, professional ice hockey, a phase of his career that took him to some extremely chilly places.

"If you ever long to feel cold, wind-battered, isolated, and depressed," Mike wrote of his years on the hockey circuit, "try Winnipeg in January."

When Mike's daughter, Jenny, arrived in 1989, he and his wife Joan Vanderbeck decided that Mike would be the at-home parent, while Joan pursued her business career. In brief intervals snatched from bringing up baby, Mike chronicled his and Jenny's experiences during the first year of her life. Oprah Winfrey liked Mike's book, "From Deadlines to Diapers: Journal of an At-Home Father," so much, she had Mike on her show. If she'd had a book club back then….

The career path from the ice rink to the changing table then took another remarkable turn-to the particle accelerator.

When Mike arrived at the Fermilab Public

successful, both in addressing the current problems and in dealing with any new ones that might still arise.

Photo of the Day

Sunrise over Fermilab


Sunrise over the Tevatron

Don Jensen, Jr., AD Mechanical support, submitted this photo of the sun rising over Fermilab. The photo was taken at 5:30 a.m. from AZero.

In the News

From *American Institute of Physics*
May 22, 2007

House Competitiveness Legislation Ready to Conference With Senate

Yesterday, the House Science and Technology Committee secured floor passage of a new bill that now enables the House and Senate to meet in a conference to settle on the final version of an important and wide-ranging S&T authorization bill. By voice vote, the House passed H.R. 2272, the 21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007.

Read more

Announcements

Fermilab Today
is online at:
www.fnal.gov/today/

Send comments and
suggestions to:
today@fnal.gov

Affairs Office in 1997, it is safe to say that he did know the difference between a proton and a hockey puck. Between a quark and lepton-probably not.

Using his seasoned reporting skills and innate ear for language, Mike proceeded to make the subatomic world his beat. In doing so, he helped make that world safe for the millions of his fellow citizens who knew even less about the bosons and the fermions than he did. If Mike could grasp an esoteric particle physics concept, he could bring it to life for his particle-challenged readers-economically, colorfully, and as often as not using a sports analogy. This he did, over and over, for a decade, first in the pages of *FermiNews*, then for *Fermilab Today* and *symmetry* magazine and in countless press releases, video scripts and other projects.

Like the hockey players he covered for so many years, Mike is a pro. Deadlines hold no terrors; they are simply an especially stimulating part of life. He knows a misplaced modifier when he sees one. Legions of science-writing interns have learned from him the basics of constructing a news story-a subject that the current curricula of our nation's journalism schools apparently touch on but lightly. Both Mike and the interns have taken particular joy in watching their writing skills bloom under his mentorship. Dozens of young science writers fanning out across America are writing better stories thanks to a stint under Mike's tutelage at Fermilab, or so one likes to think.

Today is Mike's last day on the particle beat. This afternoon, he officially retires from the Fermilab Office of Public Affairs. Given the trajectory of his journalistic career so far, we can be sure that whatever he does, we will continue to read about it. It might be hard, though, to predict exactly what we'll be reading.

-- Judy Jackson

Fermi Singers concert Friday
Don't forget to stop and listen to the Fermi Singers in the Ramsey Auditorium at noon on Friday, May 25. There will be treats offered in the lobby following the concert.

Recycle old eyeglasses
May is the Lions' Club Recycle for Sight month, and your old eyeglasses and sunglasses (prescription or non-prescription) can help those in need. Reading glasses are also valuable. A donation box is located in the atrium near the elevators on the east side.

Discounted Six Flags tickets / season passes available at Recreation Office
The Recreation Office is now selling discounted daily and season pass tickets to Six Flags Great America. Save up to $15.20 per ticket for season passes and $22.39 for day tickets. Don't stand in line. Order forms can be found online.

Stken Pnfs/Enstore/Dcache system downtime Thursday
There will be a downtime of the Stken Pnfs/ Enstore/Dcache system Thursday, May 24 from 7 a.m.- noon. Several things will be worked on, so the entire system will be unavailable. This includes: Stken Pnfs, Stken Enstore all robots. (FCC and GCC), and Stken Dcache.
The customers that will be affected are: all Public Stken users, CDF, CMS users of the SL8500 in GCC and SDSS in the ADIC. We will be upgrading: Enstore code, Dcache patches, and Optimize Pnfs database.

International Folk Dancing
International Folk Dancing will meet Thursday, May 24 at Kuhn Barn on the Fermilab site. Dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with teaching and children's dances earlier in the evening and request dancing later on. Newcomers are welcome and you do not need to come with a partner. Next week, on May 31, there will be a special workshop with internationally known instructor Erik Bendix teaching Bulgarian and Macedonian dance. And the following week, beginning June 7, the group will move to Ramsey Auditorium for the summer. Call 630-584-0825 or 630-840-8194 or email for more information.

Additional Activities