

Physics Colloquium

Michigan Technological University

Thursday, February 15, 2007

4:00 pm

Room 139, Fisher Hall

What It's Like To Be An Applied Physicist In Industry: The View Of A Corporate Consultant

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Abstract:

Working as an applied physicist in industry is one of several options for students considering where their degrees may take them. I offer a viewpoint of what it is like to work daily as a consultant to a wide variety of corporate clients, the type of projects that are encountered, and how the work eventually gets done. I will give several examples from past projects that I hope will clearly illustrate a good feel for what it is like being a physicist in industry.

Biography:

Dr. Doug Wilken is currently an applied physicist working for Aspen Research Corporation in St. Paul Minnesota. Aspen Research specializes in providing technical consulting to a wide cross-section of industry and governmental concerns. He completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in experimental physics at Michigan Technological University under the direction of Bryan Suits. After graduating, he accepted a post-doc at the University of Florida, Gainesville, in the College of Medicine inventing new NMR probes and instrumentation for the advancement of medical imaging. During the eleven years that Dr. Wilken has worked at Aspen Research, he has had the opportunity to work as a technical consultant for Fortune 500 companies, and the U.S. Government in areas ranging across consumer products, medical devices, building products, and military hardware. In his spare time, Dr. Wilken enjoys finding new applications for 19th century applied mathematics, and following the Minnesota Twins.