

Nuclear and Particle Physics Colloquium (NPPC)

Fermi Day 2012 *

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012
3:30 PM ~ 34-101

Refreshments: 3:15 PM outside the room

"Fermi As We Knew Him"

Recollections by distinguished former Chicago graduate students who interacted closely or worked directly with Fermi, involving presentations by

James W. Cronin, University of Chicago
(Nobel in Physics 1980)

Jerome I. Friedman, MIT
(Nobel in Physics 1990)

and addenda by

Irwin A. Pless, MIT (Emeritus)

Every ten years at MIT, on the anniversary of the Chicago Pile Experiment, we have celebrated the wide-ranging accomplishments and contributions to science by Enrico Fermi. This year (the 70th anniversary of the experiment) the Fermi Day event will replace the regular colloquium of the Laboratory for Nuclear Science and will feature interesting recollections by former graduate students at the University of Chicago who had the opportunity to interact closely or work directly with Fermi. In addition to serious discussions of Fermi's ideas, the speakers "experiences with Fermi as classroom students" will be recounted referring in particular to "the remarkable class that J. Cronin, J. Friedman, I. Pless and L. Rosenson (MIT) were in and which began its studies in the Fall of 1951". Also, spicy and little-known anecdotes will be mentioned such as that of Fermi and Rossi facing the hopeless problem of reassembling a washing machine at home in Los Alamos, R. Oppenheimer's uninspiring assignments for Fermi at Los Alamos, Fermi's early premonitions of nuclear weapons in the privacy of a kitchen at Ithaca, the number of books that Fermi kept in his last days, etc.

Finally, if time will permit, current dilemmas we have with fission and fusion energy research will be discussed.

***Sponsored in part by the Laboratory for Nuclear Science (MIT)
and the Italian Consulate of Boston.**