About the Program

High school teachers invite university professors to visit their classrooms and speak with students. Teacher and professor plan a format for the visit, e.g. talk about a research topic, present added perspective on classroom material, answer student physics questions, reveal the life of a professor.

Teacher and professor collaborate for 1-2 years.

Teachers and professors gather each semester at Northeastern to arrange pairings, share experiences and develop a learning community.

Participating teachers and professors from:

Coe-Brown Northwood School, NH

Commonwealth School

Lawrence High School

Medford High School

Needham High School

Roxbury Latin School

Wachusett Regional High School

Boston University

Brandeis University

Harvard University

M.I.T.

Northeastern University

Tufts University

University of New Hampshire

Student Comments

"Physics is more about curiosity than math."

"The huge [particle physics] experiments really amazed me. He was on the frontier of knowledge."

"[I liked] the humor and personal aspect he brought."

Contact:

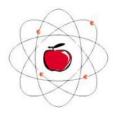
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Physics Theorynet



Bring Scientists into Your Classroom



An outreach program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, that arranges visits to high school classrooms by university physics theorists working on elementary particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology.



Quarks, Black Holes, Dark Matter, Dark Energy, Superstring Theory, Multiple Universes, Time Travel, University Life...

These are some of the topics discussed in classrooms from all over New England by university theorists and high school students and teachers. Since 2003, the Physics Theorynet program has connected professors with high school teachers and their students to provide insights about current ideas in physics and about the working life of people in physics.



Monday, April 26, 2004

Physicist makes string theory look simple

By Julie Kirkwood Staff Writer

Only a small percentage of humans will ever understand the details of what Harvard theoretical physicist Shiraz Minwalla does for a living. He specializes in string theory, a way of looking at the universe that boils everything down to one or two fundamental laws. Researchers in this field don't just use math. They invent math. Not exactly the kind of thing Minwalla can debate at cocktail parties.

Yet in shorts and sandals on a recent spring afternoon, Minwalla communicated at least the basics to an astronomy and modern physics class at Lawrence High School.



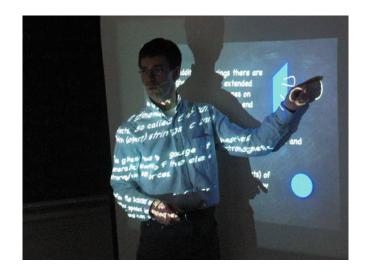
JULIE KIRKWOOD/Staff photo Shiraz Minwalla lectures on string theory for a Lawrence High School physics class. "The goal of physics is always to characterize the universe in some kind of physical way," Minwalla said. "Given the state of the universe now, can we determine what the state of the universe will be any time in the future?"

Minwalla visits this class every three weeks through a new program sponsored

by the National Science Foundation. Lawrence is one of five school districts in the Boston area participating this year. The

Physics Theorynet

Physics professors connect with high school students and teachers



For more information contact

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Visit the website at http://physicstheorynet.org

Benefits for Students

Learn about exciting new research

Get the "inside" story about recent discoveries

Ask questions about the structure of matter, the Big Bang, black holes, multiple universes, time travel, and other topics

Learn how to get paid for thinking

Benefits for Teachers

Establish contacts with university professors

Gain PDPs for continued certification

Obtain equipment for your classroom like video projectors, computers, or demonstration apparatus funded by NSF through the program

Earn cash stipends for attending meetings

