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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations Physics Class of 2007

The 2007 UMD Winter Commencement was held, campus wide, on December 19, 2007 at the Comcast Center. The CMPS Recognition Ceremony was held the following day in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The guest speaker was Ms. Judy F. Marks, President of Lockheed Martin Transportation and Security Solutions.

Doctoral Degree: The doctorate represents the most advanced earned degree conferred by American Institutions. There are two distinct types: the practioner's degree and the research degree.

Benedetta Camarota
Matthew Cornick
Chad Galley
Emmanouel Hourdakis
Patrick Houghes
Chad Jarvis
Jonghee Lee
Chad Mitchell
Giridhar Nandikotkur
John Palastro

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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Berg Tours India with Demonstration Lectures

By: Richard Berg

In December I was privileged to present a series of six lecture-demonstration programs at several major science India. Topics for the lectures were *Sound and Light* and *The Physics IQ Test*, each of which was presented three

The government of India now supports about 29 science centers around the country, and is in the process of de centers. The centers at which programs were presented included the *National Science Centre* in Delhi, the *Birla Museum i*n Kolkata, and *Science City* in Kolkata. *Science City*, the largest science center in India, includes a larg in the photograph, at which the program was held.

The targeted audience for most presentations was teachers and students, with some being also open to the p National Science Centre in Delhi were held in conjunction with a workshop for area physics teachers, with whom discussions about physics education in India and the United States as well as the use of demonstrations using now popular here at the University of Maryland with the “clicker” system. Although reasonably common here in the *question and answer* type of demonstrations as a tool in physics education is relatively new to Indian secor purposes of my visit was to illustrate how these demonstrations can be used in physics teaching, both in the sta and in demonstration presentations at such venues as the Indian science centers.

The student groups, including both middle school and high school levels, seemed genuinely interested and excit and the arguments that ensued, and were in my experience very well educated both in English and in physics. T about the possibility of using more demonstrations in their classes, and agreed that expanding use of demon something from which Indian students could greatly benefit. I was quite surprised by how many of the tea Lecture-Demonstration web site and had even used some of the *Question of the Week* material in their classes the science center physics programs felt that additional demonstration programs including question an demonstration experiment would make an excellent addition to their programs.

As the Indian economy continues to grow and as educational opportunity expands in India, it is likely that demons as an important tool in physics education for Indian students, as they have in the United States.

Dr. Berg is a Professor at the University of Maryland Department of Physics. He is a member of the Education Se of the Lecture Demonstration Facility. He is also the host for UMD's Physics is Phun lecture series. For questions contact him at reberg@physics.umd.edu.

Violeta Prieto
Chenggang Tao
Patrick Truitt
Hua Xu
Haibo Yu
Shixiong Zhang

Master's Degree: The master's degree is an academic honor bestowed upon students who have successfully completed work beyond the baccalaureate. A thesis and an oral examination are usually required.

Kwan-Yuet
Adrian Perez Galvan
Matthew Reames
Mulyadi Tjoa