## **The CERN MasterClass**

Teachers and Students Experiencing Hands On Science

Helio Takai

## Physics Department Brookhaven National Laboratory

takai@bnl.gov

"It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be"

Isaac Asimov



QuarkNet (started in 2000)





"Design and Implement a Science Experiment together with Science Teachers and Students (2005)"





### MARIACHI

By Carie Windham

Edited by Diana Oblinger

ELI Paper 6: 2007 July 2007



Jack Steffens, a senior technician from Stony Brook University, explains detector construction to students from Roosevelt High School as their teacher, Mahyar Nikpour, looks on.

Photo courtesy of Helio Takai.

#### Abstract

The Mixed Apparatus for Radar Investigation of Atmospheric Cosmic-Rays of High Ionization (MARIACHI) project is setting a new standard for authentic learning enabling students to learn by doing. Under the direction of scientists, students are building, monitoring, and analyzing data from devices that detect ultra high-energy cosmic rays in the atmosphere. They are also learning how to connect those devices to a larger cyberinfrastructure so they and the scientific community can learn more about these highly charged energy particles.



## Where is that roll of Duct tape?

# TARA

### Welcome to TARA The Telescope Array RADAR Project

The TARA project works in conjunction with the <u>Telescope Array</u> observatory in Millard County, Utah, towards the goal of detecting cosmic rays using radar technology. TARA researchers use a modified television transmitter, donated by local television stations, as a source of radio waves. These waves are scattered by the atmospheric ionization produced by a cosmic ray and collected many kilometers away by digital radio receivers. One day this technique may be used to cover thousands of square



kilometers of the Earth's surface at a fraction of the cost of a "conventional" cosmic ray observatory.

#### News

### TARA Receives \$1M Grant from W.M. Keck Foundation

<u>September 25, 2012:</u> TARA investigators, on behalf of the University of Utah, have received a \$1,000,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to create "A Radar Observatory for the Universe's Most Energetic Particles". Construction has already begun on the new W.M. Keck Radar Observatory in Millard County, Utah.

Read the full story here, and read the project abstract here.

#### FCC License Awarded

<u>December 15, 2011:</u> The TARA project has received a new experimental broadcast license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This license will enable us to increase our output power at 54.1 MHz to 40 kiloWatts and our Effective Radiated Power (ERP) to 6 MegaWatts, substantially enhancing our search for a radar echo signal.

Construction of the new transmitter will begin early in 2012, and broadcasts as station WF2XZZ should commence by late spring.

## **TARA - Telescope Array Radar Project**



Discover

#### **Buzz Blog**



#### Shocking Study from the Largest Cosmic Ray Physics Experiment in the Northern Hemisphere

Thursday, April 03, 2014 There's a chance that the mystifying phenomena we call lightning would not exist without cosmic aid. The same high-energy particles that light the night sky with colorful auroras, scientists think could also explain a longstanding problem in the process of lightning production.

When you shock yourself after reaching for a metal doorknob, you're experiencing a similar process that leads to lightning. As long as the extra charge you accumulate from, for



Lightning detector in the foreground with a cosmic ray detector in the background. Credit: William Hanlon, University of Utah

example, rubbing your feet across a carpeted surface reaches a minimum value, called the breakdown voltage, a shock will travel from you to the doorknob.

Storm clouds can also build up extra charge, which must go somewhere. Often times it will either strike the ground or branch outward across the sky in the form of a

## **TA/LMA Experiment**



#### Home

**Participate!** 

Schedule

**My Country** 

**Physics** 

**Local Organisation** 

In the Media

**Teachers and Educators** 

Archive

Contributors

Contact Us

facebook

Name:



hands on particle physics



#### **International Masterclasses**

10<sup>th</sup> International Masterclasses 2014

Each year about 10.000 high school students in 🗗 40 countries come to one of about 200 nearby universities or research centres for one day in order to unravel the mysteries of particle physics. Lectures from active scientists give insight in topics and methods of basic research at the fundaments of matter and forces, enabling the students to perform measurements on real data from particle physics experiments themselves. At the end of each day, like in an international research collaboration, the participants join in a video conference for discussion and combination of their results. See 🛃 here for media coverage.

International Masterclasses 2014 will take place from 12.3. - 12.4.2014, including U.S. Masterclasses.

#### Discover the world of Quarks and Leptons with real data



- get out of school for one day and come to a nearby university or research centre
- get insight into topics and methods of basic research at the

## http://www.physicsmasterclasses.org



## The ATLAS Experiment at CERN





## **The ATLAS Event Display**

## symmetry

A joint Fermilab/SLAC publication

Entwistle's students learned what it is like to break new ground in science, relying on collaboration and the answers of your colleagues to check your work. "You come away with a deeper appreciation for what scientists do—how they collaborate with each other," Bohlman says. "Scientists aren't the classic Back to the Future scientist with the white lab coat and the crazy gray hair."



## Looking for Leptons in Althe Right Places by Jennifer Lauren Lee



Above: Tania Entwistle's team of students from Ward Melville High School in New York. Front from left: Stephen Bohlman, Sammi Qin. Back from left: Ram Gupta, Lucas Janson, Ari Richman, Josh Steinberg. Right column: Students around the world participate in videoconferences, lectures, and analysis of particle physics data.

Photos: Ken Cecire, Hampton Üniversity; Ivan Melo, Žilinská univerzita, Slovakia; and Christine Kourkoumelis, University of Athens, Greece













"Enrichment, please"

Data Analysis at William Floyd HS

湖

Is that for real?

# 2013 Video Conference (before Harlem Shake)

**2014 Video conference** 

0

1

a la la

William Floyd, Shoreham - Wading River, Smithtown, Farmingville



*"The International Physics"* Masterclass is a unique opportunity for students to interact in a challenging, active and international learning environment," said <u>Cristina</u> Brazzelli, AP Physics teacher, <u>William Floyd High School.</u> "It also gives them the opportunity to work elbow-to-elbow with scientists and get a taste of how modern research in physics works. This program pulls highenergy physics out of the classroom and into real-life applications."

LOCAL NEWS / THINGS TO DO / SHOP LOCAL / COMMUNITY RESOURCES / ARCHIVES

### William Floyd Science Students Participate in International Physics Masterclass

APRIL 15, 2014 / NO COMMENTS / 210 VIEWS





"<u>She helps lead a particle physics</u> <u>master class</u> that allows students to analyze data collected by CERN, the world-famous laboratory near Geneva, and to talk with its scientists about their findings."



## At the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting

MARIACHI



"Behind the scenes" tours of Metropolitan Museum, AMNH and of course Brookhaven Labs.

## Hailing a cab

ARD

RN

"Thanks for the pics and for the invitation. It was fun to talk about the stuff we have worked on, and I had an interesting conversation with Boris from Uzbekistan"

17. Low FECH



## **Reunion Lunches**

## **Concluding Remarks**

There are *many good reasons* why scientists should interact with teachers, students and the public.

"Crowd-sourced" science can lead to *new science* and *new educational initiatives* - planting new seeds!

The CERN MasterClass is a *good initiative* - It gives students a glimpse of "big science". Students meet peers from other schools and countries to understand (a bit) what we do.

We should also listen to *critics*: "Why don't we do the same with RHIC data?"

It has been a good run!

