Physics Colloquium
Over a Barrel:
A Worldwide Energy Crisis

Dr. Fred Schlachter
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
University of California

Abstract:
The world’s political and economic stability is threatened due to increasing energy demand and wildly fluctuating prices for petroleum. America is particularly threatened due to our reliance on imported oil. At the same time we face the additional threat of global climate change caused by combustion of fossil fuels. America has less than 5% of the world’s population, yet we consume nearly 25% of the world’s energy. Reducing our energy consumption without changing our quality of life will require political will, significant changes in our use of energy, reducing our “carbon footprint,” and major improvements in technology. This talk will focus on sources of energy for the present and future, including solar, wind, and biomass; transportation and future means of powering cars without use of petroleum; and research directions in science and technology to help alleviate our energy crisis.

Friday, February 6, 2009
4:00-5:00 pm

Goudsmit Conference Room, LP 208