



## First FFSE “Members Only” Tour a Success

On a cold and gloomy Saturday, just as the holiday shopping season was getting underway, thirty people ventured out to Fermilab for FFSE’s first “Members Only” tour.

They were rewarded with a Fermilab fan’s delight: a talk about the uses of magnets at Fermilab by scientist David Harding; an “inside visit” to Fermilab’s industrial area led by scientist Mike Tartaglia and engineer Tom Nicol; tours of the Linac and Wilson Hall by docents Mary Jo Murphy and Felicia Svoboda; and refreshments and conversation with fellow FFSE members and their guests.

The members who attended were enthusiastic in their praise of the event.

Said teacher Douglas Zimmer, “I liked that you got to go where visitors ordinarily don’t go. It was very interesting to see all the equipment and gizmos, even if you couldn’t understand exactly what they all did.”

He added, “The event was very well organized and planned, and the schedule was great. Every part was worthwhile—I’d forgotten how much there is to see out there.”

Middle school teacher Aaron Mueller selected a few of his 8th grade students who had finished the Beauty and Charm unit (about Fermilab and discovering the building blocks of nature) to come as his guests.

He reports that, “They loved it. They loved seeing the facilities and learning about what scientists feel and use. The B&C unit was good preparation, but once they saw the equipment, the reality came through to them.

“Seeing the lab makes science very tangible, and the scientists’ descriptions reinforced what I tell them about the scientific process at school. They could see direct applications of what we talk about in the classroom.”

The FFSE Executive Committee was equally pleased with the tour and very happy to have such a good response to the first “Members Only” event.

For Cynthia Marler, Vice President, Membership, the tour was “a great success.” She comments, “FFSE members and their guests were treated to tasty snacks, a superb overview lecture, and a cozy van ride to the magnet facility. It was a rainy Saturday

morning, but that did not dampen our interest in, and appreciation for, this special behind-the-scenes peek at world class magnet making.”

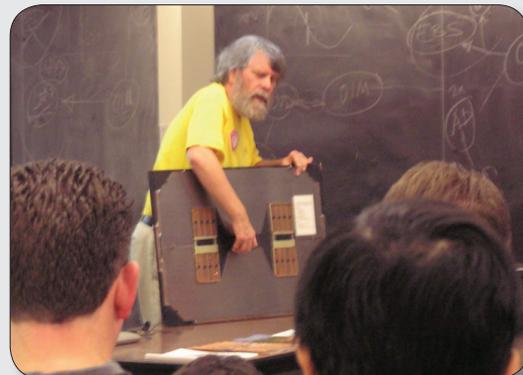
David Harding, Vice President, Programs, commented, “As a presenter I enjoyed it very much. We had a good lively group and they asked interesting questions.

“From an organizer’s point of view, I felt we had a good mix of adults and students. We were able to offer a small group a chance to take a tour with like-minded people and to go where not many groups go. It was meant, in part, as a chance for members who have some familiarity with the lab to bring friends and family along to share their interest and excitement, and I think we succeeded at that.”

The FFSE Board has already scheduled another “Members Only” tour for Saturday, September 17. This tour will feature a walk through the Fermilab prairie led by Fermilab’s prairie experts. Members will receive a postcard announcing the date so that they can invite friends for their own “inside view” of the lab.



*Mike Tartaglia explains magnet-building equipment to FFSE visitors at the Magnet Factory.*



*David Harding describes the structure of a dipole magnet in his opening presentation.*

## Our New Look

The cold days of winter are a time to dream of transformation and renewal. Friends has used the winter to transform our website and renew the newsletter with graphics more in tune with those on the website.

The new header on this issue of the newsletter is the same one which will welcome visitors to our website.

It features an image of Robert Wilson's *Möbius Strip* sculpture, one of Fermilab's iconic symbols.

Slicing a Möbius strip lengthwise results in two interlinked loops—an apt metaphor for the relationship between Friends and the Fermilab Education Office: separate, yet tightly linked.

One of the goals of the new website design was to make membership renewals and donations more convenient. To accomplish this, we added interface pages

that allow secure submission of contributions via PayPal or credit card.

We chose a new symbol and color scheme to create a clearer distinction between our website and that of the Fermilab Education Office and reformatted text to enhance readability. We included large photographs to provide glimpses of the impact of our programs on teachers, students and the public. And finally, we added brightly colored buttons to invite readers to join, donate or buy Fermilab gear online.



*Robert Wilson's Möbius Strip sculpture on the roof of Fermilab's auditorium.*

Kevin Munday of Xeno Media, Inc. provided professional design. Liz Quigg, the Fermilab Education Office's web developer, constructed the site.

You can take a look at the new website at <http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse>.

## Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar!

- FERMILAB FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, February 27, 1-5 p.m.**

The open house features hands-on activities, demonstrations, talks and tours appropriate for the whole family. Adult visitors learn what Fermilab is all about and children get a taste of the excitement of science.

Please attend—**and wear your official FFSE button to inspire questions and promote membership**. Bring the button you have at home or ask for one at the FFSE information booth in the atrium. FFSE officers will be on hand to answer questions and encourage visitors to join.

[http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse\\_new/openhouse/](http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse_new/openhouse/)

- WONDERS OF SCIENCE

**Sunday, March 27**

<http://ed.fnal.gov/events/wos>

- FFSE ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 17**

- FERMILAB FAMILY OUTDOOR FAIR

**Sunday, June 12**

<http://ed.fnal.gov/events/outdoor-fair/>

Would you like to volunteer at any of these events? Have questions? Send e-mail to Gayle Millman at [millman@fnal.gov](mailto:millman@fnal.gov).

## New Face at the LSC

Ketevan Akhobadze (“Kathy” to us) is the new building/exhibits coordinator at the Lederman Science Center. She takes over from Waylon Meadors, who has moved to a position in the Computing Division.

Originally from the Republic of Georgia, Kathy worked as a physicist at the Institute of Physics there and taught physics and programming at a college connected with the institute. It was in Georgia that she got her first taste of working on exhibits, maintaining displays designed for

high school students.

At Fermilab she has worked with groups of Italian students who arrive at CDF each year, helping them with all the administrative tasks which come with settling in to a large experiment.

She currently teaches science at Aurora University and looks forward to part-time work so that she can spend more time with her young daughter.

Welcome Kathy!

## For Outstanding High School Science Students

FFSE offers annual awards to outstanding students attending high schools in DuPage or Kane County. Information about the award is sent each year to the department chairs at eligible high schools. Awardees receive a certificate and a book at their school’s award ceremony.

Any teacher—not just FFSE members—may nominate a student for the award. Please let your colleagues know about this opportunity! They should contact the science department chair at their school, or LaMargo Gill at [lgill@fnal.gov](mailto:lgill@fnal.gov) for an application.

### FFSE Board Seeks Members

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the FFSE Board. Board members represent the Fermilab community, teachers, and the general public.

If you or someone you know is passionate about science education and has ideas for making use of Fermilab resources to help connect to the FFSE mission, please contact **Karl Craddock**, Vice President, Nominating, at [kcraddock@d211.org](mailto:kcraddock@d211.org).

### Proxies Needed!

The FFSE annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17.

**Watch your mail for the FFSE ballot, which will allow you to vote on officers for the coming year.**

Please remember to return this proxy! It is very important to us. The mailing will include information about the annual meeting program. All members are welcome to attend.

FFSE members are partners with Fermilab in support of K-12 education.

As a not-for-profit organization FFSE underwrites:

- Teacher scholarships
- High school student awards
- Family Science Adventure scholarships
- Field trip transportation assistance scholarships
- Annual Fermilab Family Open House
- Van to transport scientists and equipment for classroom presentations
- Programs in need of special funding arrangements

FERMILAB FRIENDS FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



## Membership Form

Annual Dues: Director's Club..... \$1,000  
Patron..... \$500  
Sponsor..... \$250  
Dual..... \$100  
Regular..... \$50  
Joint FFSE/ISTA membership..... \$39  
Teacher..... \$10

*Please check the appropriate membership category and enclose your check made out to **Fermilab Friends for Science Education**. Include matching funds from your company, if applicable.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Partner) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (self) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (partner) \_\_\_\_\_

Matching Funds (yes) (no)

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Visit Fermilab Friends for Science Education at:  
<http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse>

## Fermilab Friends for Science Education

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