



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.”

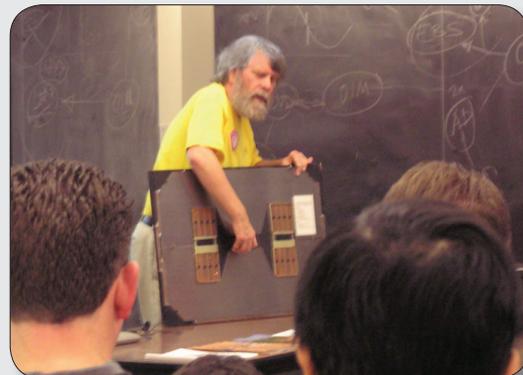
David Harding, Vice President, Programs, commented, “As a presenter I enjoyed it very much. We had a good lively group and they asked interesting questions.

“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 quadrupole magnet in his opening presentation.

