



The yearlong celebration of science continues...

Physics and Technology:

The YoS2009 March Theme



Image from Science@Cal web site (<http://scienceatcal.berkeley.edu/>)

From the tiniest quarks to the biggest galaxies, everything around us has something to teach us about how the universe works. The laboratory of the physicist extends from the edge of the universe to the inside of the nucleus of an atom. A physicist may work in a laboratory designing materials for the computer chip of tomorrow or smashing atomic particles against one another in a quest to understand how our universe began.

Physicists have orbited the earth as astronauts and plumbed the oceans' depth. Individuals who have studied

physics seek to make instruments that diagnose and cure disease, to develop safer and cleaner fuels for our cars and homes, to harness the power of the sea, and to calculate the movement of arctic glaciers. A conversation with a physicist may well begin with, "Have you ever wondered...

"Assuming that Mario is about 80 Kg in mass, it would take him 55,000 joules of energy to do one leap in Super Mario Brothers. Therefore he would have to eat 672 mushrooms for every brick-breaking leap."

-- http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes_physics_technology/fun-zone/

- how the universe began?
- how food coloring spreads?
- what triggers an aftershock?
- why a flag flaps so beautifully?
- how a liquid turns into a solid?
- how cataracts occur?"



Albert Einstein Memorial at National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC.

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Connecting physics to society

Your day is astonishingly reliant on the findings of physics. A day without physics would be a day without cars, ipods, and even chocolate cookies! Cars, ipods, and ovens would be impossible to build without a basic understanding of how the universe works. Can you imagine trying to design an oven that works without knowing how electricity travels? Or, trying to design an ipod without knowing what sound is? These, and most of the devices we rely on today, are the results of decades of study about how the universe works. Physics and technology go hand-in-hand.

Explore the many applications and technologies reliant upon the science of physics by visiting the Year of Science Web site. You might be intrigued and surprised!