

## A REPORT ON MY ATTENDANCE AT THE 2012 CERN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS CONFERENCE

27 June 2012

To receive the 2012 CAP Award for “Excellence in Teaching High School/CEGEP Physics (Prairie provinces and the Northwest Territories)” is both an honour and humbling. Upon the announcement, the support from my students has been overwhelming. To find out that I have been selected to travel to CERN (being sponsored by the Institute for Particle Physics, the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, TRIUMF, and the Canadian Association of Physicists) has to be one of the biggest highlights of my career as a physics teacher. Since my childhood I have known about CERN and have had a keen interest in astronomy and physics.

I expect to take a great deal back to my students, school and other teachers.

26 July 2012

I arrived at Geneva in the rain which continued while making my way to CERN. The 15 minute walk in the rain from the entrance gate to the residence was a great ending to the trip from Winnipeg (Air Canada really messed up and left me stranded and it took over 40 hours to get to Geneva, with several errors on the part of Air Canada). But, the warm reception the next day started to put that two day experience out of my mind.

I did not know that I was going to be part of the HST programme and what the HST programme was all about. Now that I have gone through it and I reflect on my experience, I must recommend it to all physics teachers. It is an amazing, intense programme. The international atmosphere and meeting teachers from around the world to share ideas and experiences is great.  
<https://cdsweb.cern.ch/record/1476906>

So, what was it all about?

At CERN, the stated goal of the HST programme is to help physics teachers to:

### 1. RAISE AND MAINTAIN THE INTEREST OF STUDENTS IN MODERN SCIENCE

- Motivate them to continue scientific education at school
- Help them to better understand the physical world

### 2. INSTILL A FEELING OF MYSTERY AND DISCOVERY POTENTIAL

- Motivate students to take up physics at universities
- Improve scientific literacy
- Prepare the future generation of physicists

### SCIENCE IS ALIVE!

There is not much that I can tell about CERN to anyone who is a member of CAP, PI, IPP, or TRIUMF, that they do not already know. But to be at CERN on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, for the big announcement of a new particle could only be surpassed by being able to spend part of the morning before with Peter Higgs and talking with him about his work.



Goronwy Jones (middle) introduces Brian Dentry (right) to Peter Higgs (left) after Dr. Higgs gave a talk about “The Higgs Boson”. This talk took place the morning before the big announcement on Wednesday, July 4, 2012.



The 2012 CERN HS Workshop participants.



Part of the group at work just before another lecture at 4:23 p.m.

As a teacher, this experience was great. Not only do I have a great deal to share with my students, but it will have an effect on what happens in my physics classes. Also, I owe it to my profession and to those who have supported me in this experience, to share with other teachers.

If you wish, I will keep in contact with you and share with you what this positive experience at CERN has meant. I have attached just a few of the couple of thousand pictures that I took.

16 October 2012

I must add the following:

Upon my return to school at the beginning of September, I found out that my school division has made major changes to the computer systems that included the software which everything runs under. This has created "Very Interesting Times".

Still, I have been able to share this summer's experience at CERN several times already and this Friday, 19 October, 2012, I will be giving an hour presentation to a group of physics teachers (I will also be conducting 2 other workshops/presentations on that day). I want to thank everyone involved who supported me so that I can do this.

While at CERN, it was a very pleasant surprise to have PI show up and give a workshop and make themselves available to us. I had the pleasure of meeting Dave last year when he came to Winnipeg and gave a workshop.

Once again, thanks.

Brian Dentry

<https://cdsweb.cern.ch/record/1476906>

<http://www.discoverthecosmos.eu/news/92>



I am demonstrating how to assemble a cloud chamber.