

Physics Colloquium  
and  
Regents Professors Distinguished Seminar Series  
In Collaboration with OSU Creativity Project

Presented by

**Dr. Peter Freund**

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Physics, Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago*



**Topic: A Passion for Discovery**

**Peter George Oliver Freund** was born, raised and educated in the Romanian city of Timisoara. Because of his participation in an anti-Soviet demonstration in November 1956, Freund was arrested by the communist security police, the Securitate, and lined up with other students between a wall and a line of tanks, essentially an armored firing squad, which, in the reigning confusion, did not fire.... In 1959 he managed to leave Romania. Freund obtained his PhD in theoretical physics at the University of Vienna, with Walter Thirring as his thesis adviser. Since 1965 Peter Freund has been on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

**Editorial Review on Freund's recent book , " A Passion for Discovery"**: Can there be a common endeavour, whether physics or poetry, that can remain objective when the researchers involved are also people? According to Peter Freund, one of the founding physicists of String Theory, in his book A Passion for Discovery, the answer is Yes and No ... Poetry esthetics might seem a lot less imposing than theoretical physics, but it isn't. Outlandish humans make both --Andrei Codrescu, Commentator National Public Radio, Columnist, Novelist, and Poet.

**Abstract-** The human side of doing theoretical physics is explored through stories about the interactions between physicists and about the way world events can affect not only the scientists' behavior, but even their scientific interests and style. These stories cluster nicely around certain bigger themes to create an overarching whole. This happens both on account of some interesting narrative structures intrinsic to the science of Physics itself and on account of the way Physics integrates into the general culture. The stories concern Einstein, Schrödinger, Pauli, Heisenberg, Stueckelberg, Jordan and Fock and also involve some mathematicians like Emmy Noether, Teichmüller and Bers and even the psychologist C.G. Jung.

**October 30, 2008**

**3:30 P.M.**

**Room 106, Noble Research Center**

For further information please contact IRIS: (405) 744-7598 | regentsprofessors.okstate.edu