



METALLAGRAM

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Volume 57 Issue 5

Chapter website: <http://www.matscieng.sunysb.edu/asm/>

Joint Meeting with Long Island Section of the American Nuclear Society

Next Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Where Pollo Rico, Centereach, NY

*******John Weeks Lecture*******

Topic: From Army Private to Atomic Physicist for the Manhattan Project

Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Bederson, NYU

Social Hour ... 6 pm Dinner ... 7:00 pm Meeting ... 8:00 pm

Members ...\$25 Guests ...\$27 Students ...\$15

(New and recently transferred-in members free)

Reservations appreciated – email Peter Indrigo peterd@unitronusa.com

or call 631-589-6666

Directions to Pollo Rico Latin Bistro

Pollo Rico is located at 2435 Middle Country Road (Rte. 25), Centereach. Probably the simplest way to get there from the LIE is to take Exit 62 (Nicolls Road) and go north on CR 97 (towards Stony Brook). Continue north for about 3 miles then take the exit to Rte. 25. At the traffic signals at the end of the ramp go left and head west (Smithtown). The restaurant will appear after about 1.5 miles, on the right side of the highway. Their telephone number is 631-471-0585. Their website is: <http://www.polloricolatinbistro.com/>

The Topic

The Manhattan Project was one of the most significant government projects in history. It was a research and development program that produced the first atomic bombs during WWII. It was led by the U.S. with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada. From 1942 to 1946, the project was under the direction of Major General Leslie Groves of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, was the director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory where the bombs were designed. The story of how Dr. Benjamin Bederson was present at one of history's turning points can be attributed to fortuitous career choices, extraordinary army assignments and many life-changing events that were beyond his control.

Our Speaker

Benjamin Bederson, a native New Yorker, grew up in the Bronx and Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. Dr. Bederson earned a Bachelor of Science degree from CCNY in 1946 and Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1948. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1950 from New York University (NYU). He is Professor of Physics Emeritus at NYU and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus at the American Physical Society.

He was drafted in 1942. Because he had no military experience he was sent to Radio School to become a tail gunner on a B-17. Shortly thereafter, he was selected to participate in a new Army program called the Army Specialized Training Program where he took a course in electrical engineering at Ohio State University.

By chance, an interviewing board came to Ohio State and his commanding officer encouraged him to apply for something called the Manhattan Project. As a U.S. Army private in his early twenties, Bederson was one of the lowest ranking soldiers assigned to the project. He was chosen for his natural talents as a budding scientist and became part of the Special Engineering Detachment and was transferred once again, this time to Los Alamos. There he worked on wiring the switches for the atomic bombs and tested the switches for the bomb that would eventually be dropped on Nagasaki.

After that fateful summer of 1945, Bederson continued his research as an experimental atomic physicist, working for many years as a professor at New York University teaching a course called Physics in Society. He also served as editor-in-chief of the American Physical Society and helped usher physics journals into the electronic age.



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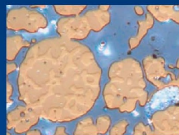
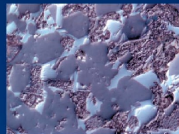


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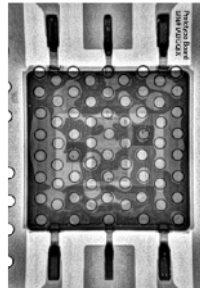
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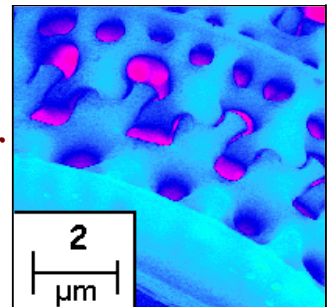
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Long Island Chapter Meeting Schedule

February 17, 2016 **Topic: Welding Materials**
Speaker: Clement Marmorat, SBU
Location: Pollo Rico, Centereach

March 9, 2016 **Topic: Ocean Acidification and Bio/Marine Materials**
Speaker: Chris Gobler, SBU
Location: Pollo Rico, Centereach

April ??, 2016 **Topic: Student Night**
Speaker: tbd plus poster presentations
Location: Old Field Club

Metro NY-NJ Chapter

(<http://www.asminternational.org/web/metro-ny-nj-chapter/home>)

No technical meetings in December, 2015 and January, 2016

Long Island Metal Workers Society

(website <http://www.limws.org>)

No events listed

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