

Welcoming Comments to the 23rd Spring School on Particles and Fields

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National Cheng Kung University, Tainan

Da Hsuan Feng

Senior Executive Vice President

National Cheng Kung University

Good afternoon, colleagues.

It is exciting to see that there are so many students, nearly 150, at this Spring School.

A few moments ago, I was handed for the first time a copy of the School's program. In reading the program prompted me to throw away my prepared comment!

You cannot imagine how excited I was when I read the program.

First, I learned that my **former boss** of nearly 25 years ago, Boris Kayser, is one of the lecturers. It must be at least 20 years since I last saw Boris.

In one of the afternoons in 1982, as I was sitting in my office in Drexel University's physics department, I got a call from a person named "Boris Kayser." Boris at the time was the Program Director of Theoretical Physics in the Physics Division of the National Science Foundation (in charge of, you guessed it, particles and fields.) The essence of the call was to explore with me whether I would be willing to become a "rotating program manager" in the Foundation, in charge of nuclear theory and some mathematical physics projects. The rest is of course history. From 1983-85, I was associated with the Physics Division of the NSF!



I see that Boris will be giving lectures in neutrino physics in this school. Except perhaps for the late Ray Davis (who was in my neighboring university, the University of Pennsylvania and Nobel laureate in physics in 2002) and the late John Bahcall of Princeton University (which is down Route 1 from Philadelphia,) I cannot think of anyone more appropriate to give these lectures. I can recall in those two years at the NSF, the issue of the “mass” of the neutrino was drummed into me incessantly by Boris.

Also, I was so pleased a month ago when Professor Makoto Kobayashi (2008 Nobel laureate) came to NCKU for the ROC Physical Society Meeting. I was pleased not because he came. I was pleased because I finally met the man whose name I learned almost on a daily basis in the NSF from Boris!

What I really learned from Boris and our mutual boss, the Physics Division Director the late Marcel Bardon, was how to have fun. As I am sure Boris would agree with me, Marcel was by far one of the most caustic yet intellectual deep person we have ever known, or worked with. Marcel was a person when he insulted you, you would inevitably walk away feeling giddy! Now that is an art that few people possess!

From Marcel, I learned so many truly memorable and real “liners,” and here are a few:

“Vision without is hallucination!”

“First rate people always look for first rate people. Second rate people always look for third rate people.”

“How do you ascertain the quality of a university? Just see how often its faculty take sabbaticals!”

Second, I am excited to see that **Paul Langacker** of Princeton University is another lecturer.



Although I do not know Paul as well as I know Boris, he and I did overlap a significant number of years in Philadelphia when he was with the physics department of the University of Pennsylvania, which is literally across the street from my office. I remembered very vividly sitting through some of his eloquent colloquiums and seminars, and if I am not mistaken, they were, even then, about “post standard model.” Again, I must congratulate this School’s organizers for inviting such an outstanding and appropriate lecturer.

Third, although I have not met the third lecturer **Chris Quigg** of Femi Lab before, his name certainly is what we Chinese would refer to as 如雷貫耳, or “*thunder funnels into one’s ears!*”



Of course, Chris is also the thesis advisor of a very good friend of mine, Lai Choy Heng, who is now Pro-Vice Chancellor of National University of Singapore. There is no question that today Chris is one of the leading particle theorists in the world.

Well, having these world class lecturers here in NCKU, one day after the LHC in CERN made its “big bang” is truly serendipity and exciting. I hope that students and other faculty members in Taiwan in the next few days will take every opportunity to learn from these maestros, and pump them for as much information as you possibly can.

Thank you so much for your attention.

