

**PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – STEVENS POINT**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015  
2:00 PM  
ROOM A109 SCI**

**Paul Stanley**

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Beloit College

**Tales from the International Physics Olympiad**



Paul Stanley and yak

**ABSTRACT:** The International Physics Olympiad is a contest for the top high school physics students from every nation to compete amongst peers from around the world. In the United States, the team is selected by two qualifying exams administered to almost 6,000 students, followed by a ten day intensive training program. Five are selected to represent the nation overseas. The international event is filled with exams and cultural experiences and, usually, opportunities to meet with Nobel Prize winning physicists and visit top research facilities. The United States ranks between second and fifth most years; China regularly places first. In this seminar US Team Academic Director Paul Stanley will share details of team selection exams, training camp challenges, and international competition problems, peppered with anecdotes of strange foods, cultural adventures, and some very interesting, extremely challenging physics questions.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Dr. Paul Stanley, the Beloit College Dobson Endowed Professor of Physics, has research interests involving fluids, acoustics, and chaos that varies between highly theoretical, heavily computational, and playfully experimental. A former Peace Corps volunteer, he has traveled extensively and can communicate in a number of languages, including Fijian and Gilbertese. In his spare time, he plays the trumpet semi-professionally and writes undergraduate physics textbooks. In addition to his work teaching physics and rebuilding the department's 0.5 million volt proton accelerator, he is the director of the US Physics Team, which is charged with selecting and training high school students to represent the United States in the International Physics Olympiad. If he isn't in his office or the lab, then he is probably on some overseas adventure in a remote corner of Asia or the South Pacific.

*Faculty, staff and students are cordially invited to attend.  
Refreshments will be served beginning at 1:45 pm*