Physics Seminar

Wednesday 10/24/2007, 4:30 pm
Science & Engineering Building Auditorium

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Nikola Tesla, an Overview of His Life and Inventions

NIKOLA TESLA 1856-1943
LIFE Magazine – 2000 had a special edition on the 100 most important people of the last 1000 years. Tesla was # 57.

He may be second only to his ex-boss Thomas Edison (#1) as the most farsighted inventor of the electric age. His work on the rotating magnetic field and alternating current (AC, as in AC/DC, the patents for which he sold to George Westinghouse in 1888) helped electrify the world by enabling power to travel over wires to customers over great distances. A tireless and eccentric inventor, Nikola Tesla came up with some things -- for instance, a "death ray" to shoot down attacking aircraft -- that don't seem nearly as farfetched now as they must have in his day. He also had a unique theory of sending power directly through the earth (wireless power), which he says he proved at Colorado Springs, CO. His Tesla Coil evolved from a source of electrotherapy to a Magnifying Transmitter to power the earth. His US Patents numbered at least 111 and worldwide patents several hundred. Who was Tesla, mad scientist or prophet? Many still do not know about his life, come listen then you decide…

Please join us for light refreshments at 4:15pm outside SEB 203.