ATS/CIRA Colloquium

Chris Sorensen

Professor, Department of Physics, Kansas State University

Of Soot and Sunflowers

Hosted by AAAR

Friday, May 1, 2015

ATS room 101; Discussion will begin at 11:15am
Refreshments will be served at 10:45am in the weather lab

Soot, the by-product of combustion, that smoky, black crap from chimneys, power plants and the inside of the tail pipe of my roadster, what scientist would ever bother to study soot? As a "particle physicist", that's what I do, and I find that soot has mysteries and beauties that can entertain any curiosity. In this talk I will describe some of my researches into soot and other aggregate structures; an unlikely journey of discovery to find fractal structures with non-Euclidian dimensionality, gel networks of graphene that tenuously span space and common Fibonacci themes for non-equilibrium phenomena such as sunflowers and soot.

Christopher M. Sorensen is the Cortelyou-Rust University Distinguished Professor and a University Distinguished Teaching Scholar in the Departments of Physics and Chemistry (adjunct). He has won numerous teaching awards. In 2007 he was named the CASE/Carnegie Foundation United States Professor of the year for doctoral universities.

He is also an active scientist with over 280 publications, six patents and three pending. In 2003 he won the Sinclair Award of the American Association for Aerosol Research, and he is a past president of that organization. He is a Fellow of the AAAR, the APS and the AAAS.

Chris graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1969 where he was Phi Beta Kappa and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. He was drafted and served in Vietnam. He earned his PhD in physics from the University of Colorado in 1977. In 2008 he was named a Norlin Distinguished Graduate of that university.

Link to colloquium videos and announcement page: http://www.atmos.colostate.edu/dept/colloquia.php