



SACRAMENTO STATE

Department of Physics & Astronomy Spring 2008

Physics Colloquium Series

"Secrets in the Ancient Goatskin: X-rays Reveal Oldest Writings of Archimedes"

Archimedes of Syracuse (287 – 212 BC) is considered one of the most brilliant thinkers of all times. The 10th century parchment document known as the Archimedes Palimpsest is the oldest surviving copy of his work. Much of the writings have been imaged by various optical techniques, but on some pages and passages these methods failed. A breakthrough in uncovering the missing writings has recently been achieved at Stanford, with a technique called x-ray fluorescence imaging. Please join me in a fascinating journey of a 1000 year old parchment from its origin in Constantinople to a particle accelerator in Menlo Park, California.

Uwe Bergmann

**Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center**

Thursday, February 28, 2008

***4:30-5:50 PM MND 1015**

*Note new times this semester

Open & Free to all Students, Faculty & Public