

# Manchester Particle Physics Group News April 2010



**Hywel Owen** organised this year's Particle Physics Masterclass for A-Level Students. As in previous years, around 140 students attended and listened to talks on physics by HEP group members before taking part in a hands-on particle identification session and being shown around the school by some of the group's postgraduate students; in particular the students got to see the group's silicon detector work. A highlight was no doubt having our own celebrity, **Brian Cox**, giving the first lecture.

One of the teachers had this comment on the day:

*'Thank you very much for arranging today's Masterclass - our group had a fantastic day and it was even better than I had hoped for. Thank you to all those involved, will certainly be bringing another group of students next year.'*

Hywel would like to thank those group members who gave up their time and effort to help out, in particular Sabah, Stuart and Anne who did a lot of work behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly.

## More conferences here!

The first annual conference of the IoP Particle Accelerators and Beams group will be held in Manchester on July 9th. We have both **Hywel Owen** and **Adina Toader** on the organising committee, which helps explain the choice of venue. See <http://www.hep.man.ac.uk/pab2010/>.

And in September we have the Tau2010 international conference here, thanks to **George Lafferty**, helped by **Stefan Söldner-Rembold**, **Jo Pater**, **Sabah Salih** and **Anne Morrow**, any of whom will explain to you the meaning of the poster design on the right...

## Congratulations

To **Steve Watts**, who takes over as the new Head of School, replacing **George Lafferty**, the acting Head, after Helen Gleeson finished.

Steve has taken on a very tough job at a very tough time - which is going to get worse as the politicians inflict "efficiency savings" on us in the next year or so.

To **Ian Jordan**, **Joel Klinger**, **Matt Budsworth**, and **Mark Acheson** who were shortlisted for the Student Team Working Awards for the work they've been doing on the Drift Chamber project. They didn't win through not being sufficiently politically worthy: next time we should be saving dolphins or helping cuddly kittens.

## Grants

**Stefan Söldner-Rembold**, has succeeded in getting the SuperNemo continuation grant through the STFC and university systems. This will help keep our labs (and people) busy and funded in future.

