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DPG

Scientific Evening Talk

Friday, 4th July 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Magnus-Haus Berlin, Am Kupfergraben 7, 10117 Berlin

David A. Shirley, Ph.D.

Director Emeritus, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

An Insider's Reflections on 50 Years of Science at Berkeley

The discussion will be chaired by

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Eberhardt

Scientific Director of the Magnus-Haus Berlin

To attend the Scientific Evening Talk please register:

http://www.dpg-physik.de/dpg/magnus/formulare/formular_2014-07-04/anmeldung-2014-07-04.html

Person

David Shirley was born in New Hampshire in 1934. After his Ph.D. at Berkeley with W. F. Giaouque, he joined the Radiation Lab in 1958, staying there throughout his active research career, with a joint position as Professor of Chemistry. He served in several scientific administrative positions, including, in 1980-89, as the fourth Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Over 80 doctoral students and 40 visiting scientists did research in his laboratory, in hyperfine interactions and electron spectroscopy. From 1992-1997 he served as Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at the Pennsylvania State University. Since 1997 he and his wife Barbara have lived in both Hawaii and California.

Abstract

A childhood interest in science can evolve in unexpected directions. In this case a borrowed chemistry set led to an interest in thermodynamics, then cryogenics, then nuclear physics. Lucky accidents promoted these changes, leading finally to spectroscopic studies with developing light sources. Finally participatory individual research ("small science") interests gave way to science administration ("big science"). Reflections are given on this journey.