

Physicist to Lecture on Importance of Science to National Security

May 25, 2011

Henry DeVries

Governmental science and technology advisor Roy Schwitters will speak on "Wanderings of a Physicist around Washington: The Importance of Technical Content Supporting Policy" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 19 at Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography on the campus of the University of California San Diego. The event is free and open to the public with no tickets or reservations required.

Schwitters is a professor of physics and former chair of the department of physics at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches and conducts research in experimental high energy physics. Since 1996, Schwitters has been a member of JASON, a group of academic scientists and engineers who advise agencies of the U.S. government on technical matters related to issues of national security. Currently, he is chair of the JASON steering committee.

He was director of the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) laboratory in Dallas, from its founding in 1989 until cancelled by Congress in 1993. Before moving to Texas, he was a professor of physics at Harvard.

Schwitters joined the Harvard faculty in 1979 after serving as an assistant and then associate professor at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Stanford, California. He joined SLAC in 1971 as a research associate after receiving his Ph.D. degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he also earned his bachelor's of science degree in physics in 1966.

Schwitters is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received the 1980 Alan T. Waterman Award of the National Science Foundation, the 1996 Panofsky Prize of the American Physical Society and was awarded a Research Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany in 1998.

The lecture is presented by the Helen Edison Lecture Series and Birch Aquarium. In accordance with a major gift from a late philanthropist, the Helen Edison Lecture Series presents ongoing free public lectures on issues that advance humanitarian purposes and objectives. Attended annually by thousands, speakers include former Vice President Al Gore, Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, double Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof, Nobel Prize in Literature winner Toni Morrison and Hispanic dramatist Luis Valdez, just to name a few.

Lecture guests should park at Birch Aquarium, for directions visit <http://aquarium.ucsd.edu> Parking at the Aquarium is free. For additional information contact UC San Diego Extension's Helen Edison Lecture Series at (858) 822-0510, email emunk@ucsd.edu or visit <http://helenedison.ucsd.edu>

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