Involving young physicists in instrumentation: A personal case study

Jake Anderson Fermilab



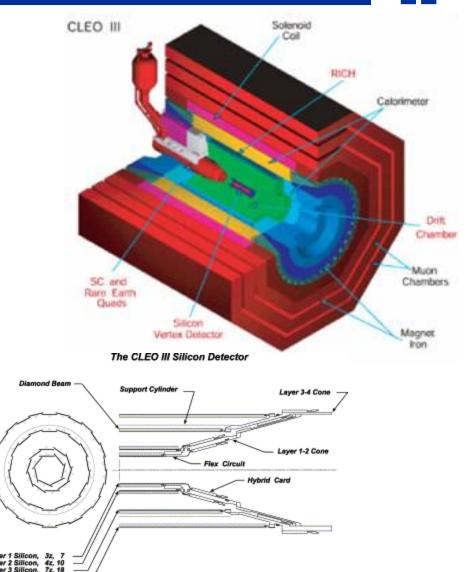




- This view is polled and biased from my experience and my peers.
 - I have not worked in the cosmic frontier (I'm not opposed to it, but nobody has offered me a job there yet.)
 - My work in the intensity frontier was not in neutrinos (but I have who do.)
 - I do work with the Snowmass-Young group which crosses frontiers and I can say that my experience isn't extraordinary.
- Is there any way to abandon the "frontier" model?
 It pigeon-holes people early in their careers.

How did it all start?

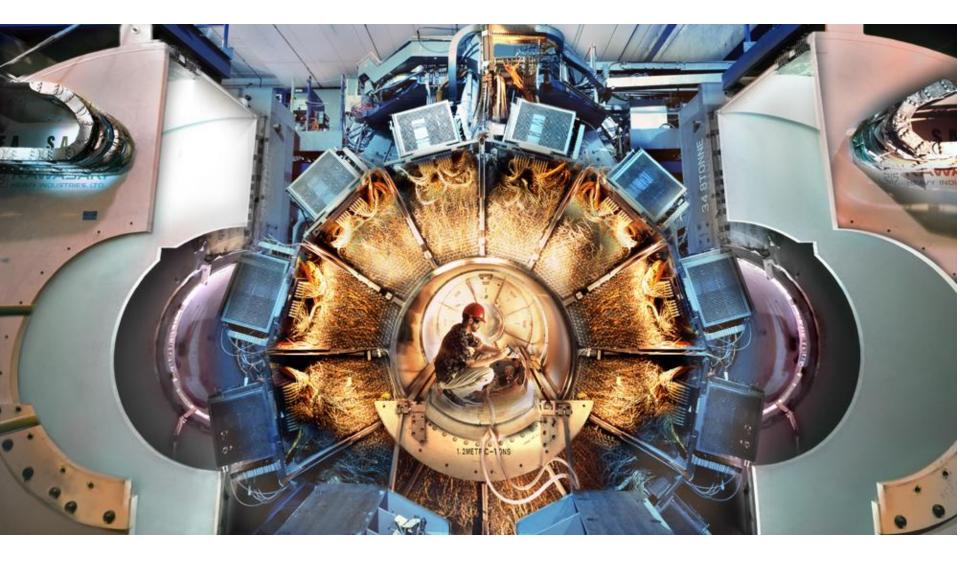
- I was a summer REU
 student at Cornell where I
 had the opportunity to
 work with David Kreinick
 trying to develop a
 tracking algothim for the
 CLEO III Level3 trigger.
 - I don't think it ultimately worked.
- I had to learn about the CLEO silicon tracker and I was hooked.



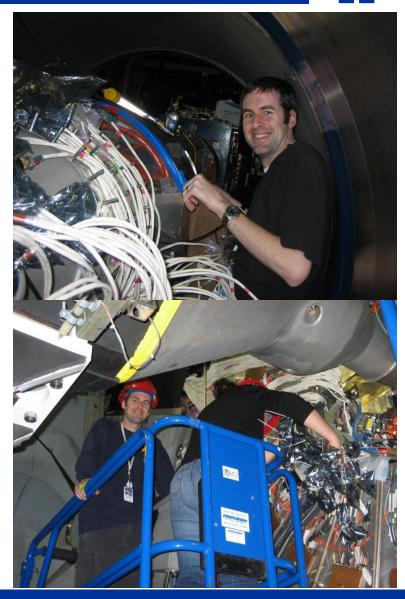


My next experiment





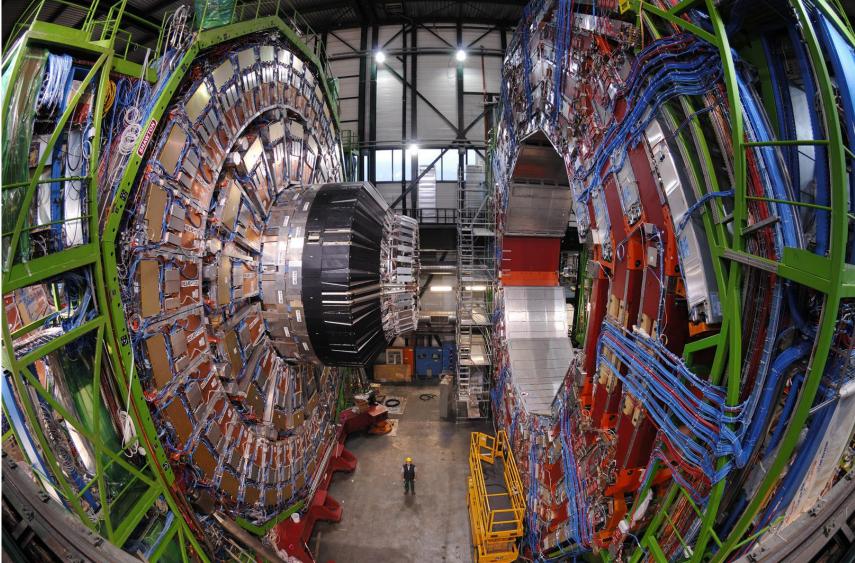
- In graduate school, I worked on the BaBar silicon tracker.
 - I was mostly maintenance and operations.
 - changing power supplies
 - topping-off chillers and bubblers.
 - etc.
- I also had the opportunity to actually undress and re-dress the SVT, twice.
- Still hooked on having my hands on a detector.





Another move





CPAD/Snowmass meeting, Boulder, CO

Moving to bigger projects



- As I joined CMS, I
 specifically sought out a
 project that would let me
 work on new hardware.
- I joined the Hcal upgrade project and immediately began contributing to the understanding of SiPM sensors and how they would and could be used within CMS.



Along the way I have:

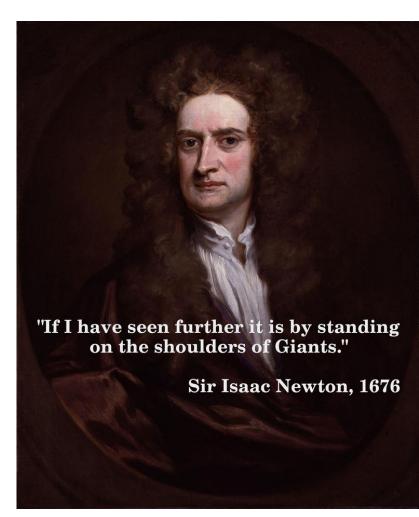
- Laid out a circuit board for ASIC irradiation testing.
- Worked on the beam line of two test beam efforts and participated in two others.
- Helped assemble SiPM boards for our upgrade.
- Written large portions of the CMS upgrade simulation code.
 - Helped write a chapter in the CMS Hcal upgrade TDR.



What I still need to do

I haven't ever started and finished a project.

- BaBar had been running for years when I joined in 2004.
- The CMS Hcal was started while I was still in high school.
- CMS Hcal had been using SiPM's in test beam for a couple of years before I joined in 2009.
- I'd like to help design a new detector.



How can the youth be engaged?

- Start them young. Hardware is fun to work on. The signal purity will be low at this stage, but we don't have any other options.
- Test beams are crucial.
- Don't be afraid to slow down a little.
 - I've had high school students working on CMS Hcal studies.
 - They don't go as fast, but the work is still valuable.
- Occasionally take the short view.

Provocative statements to discuss

- "All of the jobs go to 'analysis-jocks'. Why would I work on hardware?"
- Do the labs and universities have a plan to train, maintain and grow instrumentation expertise?
- What are hot areas of instrumentation? is it 3D sensors, is it SiPMs and their relatives, is it fast timing, is it FPGA's, ... does it really matter?
- What would be a career arc for a young instrumentalist to keep in mind?
- Can a young person really move from one "frontier to another"? Why do we need the frontiers any more?