

Physics Department Seminar

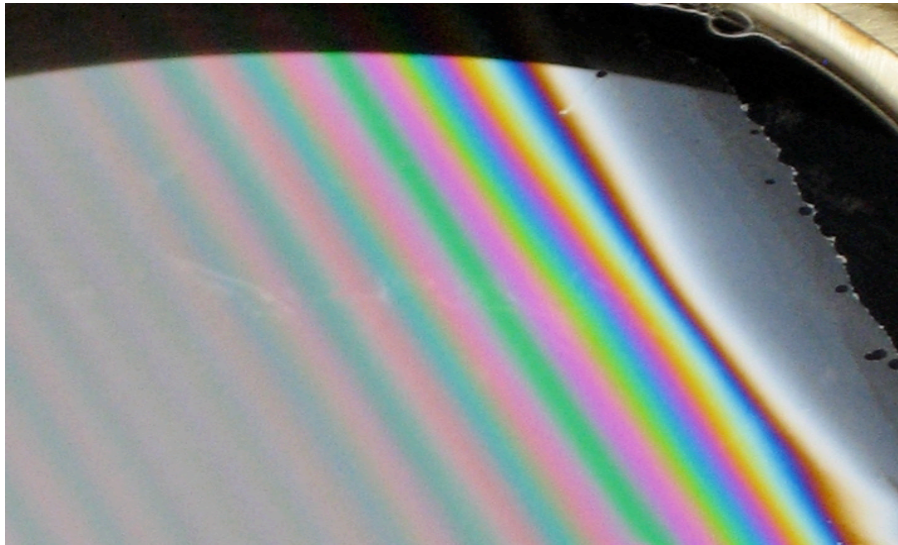
Friday Feb 26th, 2010

11:00am in PhSc 108

“Colors from Thin Films”

Dr. Leslie Atkins and Mr. Jason Belveal

California State University Chico



Abstract:

Thin-film interference is discussed in most introductory physics courses as an intriguing example of wave interference. While students may generally understand the mechanism of interference which determines the colors of a film, it is frequently the case that students have difficulty explaining why soap bubbles and oil slicks bear a distinctive set of colors---colors that are strikingly different from those present in the rainbow. This talk will describe a way to model these colors and a simple and novel method for investigating them, accessible to anyone with a digital camera and computer.