The UIUC Physics Van

Deans Banquet
(Mats Selen, Oct/25/02)
UIUC Physics Van Overview

- Traveling science show of exciting experiments staffed by volunteer undergraduates from all over campus.
  - Target area elementary schools (~100 mile radius).
  - Other venues...
    - Illinois State Fair
    - Adler Planetarium
    - Snowmass (Colorado!)
    - Chicago Academy of Sciences
    - Girl/Boy Scouts, Home Schools, BOAST, IMSA etc...
    - Many others...

- We have done ~320 shows since 1994:
  - Seen by over 43,000 kids & 3400 adults !

See http://van.hep.uiuc.edu/
Physics Van: How it’s done...

Coolest Flyers on Quad Day

First recruit volunteers
Rent Van from the UIUC motor-pool and pack it with interesting experiments

Drive to the show (~ 1 hour)
The Volunteers love it too!
Meet the kids...
Everyone Has Fun

5 sec video clip
The UIUC Physics Van is a traveling science show for kids!

By performing and explaining exciting physics demonstrations, we show our audiences that science is fun and worthwhile for people who wonder about why the world acts the way it does. We challenge kids' mental picture of what kind of people scientists are. We show them that as long as you want to learn and have fun, there's a world of physics waiting to be discovered.

The Van travels to elementary schools in Champaign-Urbana, IL and towns in the surrounding area. We have been as far as Snowmass, CO, where we performed at the Snowmass Science Weekend.

The Physics Van is an outreach program of the University of Illinois Physics Department, itself part of the UIUC College of Engineering. For more information (or to find out how you can get involved) please contact us!
Ask us a Science Question!

Before you begin you might want to ask yourself: How reliable are answers you find on the Web?

We may have already answered your question! To find out, you can **SEARCH** our answers collection.

If you would like to ask the Physics Van a science question, just fill in the blanks below. All questions are answered by volunteers, so please be patient if it takes us a while.

**Check out some of the last questions we’ve answered so far!**

Here are the **newest answers, sorted by date**

**Ask a question:**

First, tell us a little about yourself:

Your name and (optional) age:

[ ]

School or Organization:

[ ]

City, State, Country:

[ ]

Now type your question in this box and click "Send"!
**“Whys Guy Wednesday” Live Shots**

- We do “Live Science” shots every Wednesday morning on Channel 3 (WCIA).
- Connection to Ch. 3 developed because of Physics Van (long story).
Personal Note:

- It's wonderful to be a faculty member at UIUC.

- Both the College of Engineering and the Department of Physics have been very supportive of these and other outreach (and teaching) efforts.

- I am very impressed with the level of involvement by alumni!

- All three pillars of this institution are taken very seriously.

Thank You