RARE SCIENCE

The Science Foundation for Physics (SFP) held Rare Science in the Fisher Library recently. Featuring first editions of Sir Isaac Newton’s *Principia* (including marginalia) - seen at left with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and SFP Director, Professor Anne Green - as well as works by Benjamin Franklin, Nicolaus Copernicus and Galileo these extremely rare and valuable books were available for guests to look through under the guidance of Senior Librarian, Dr Neil Boness. Other science related works were also displayed including Gould’s Book of Birds with each hand painted page worth around $10,000. The *Principia* in the University of Sydney’s collection is one of four annotated editions and is valued at around $8million. It was donated from a private collection. The Fisher Library Rare Books Section is open to the General Public from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Exhibitions change frequently and the books on display at Rare Science are not generally on public view. For more information on the Rare Books Section of the Fisher Library please visit: www.library.usyd.edu.au/libraries/rare/

KICKSTART ON THE ROAD

Science Communicators extraordinaire, Dr Phil Dooley and Ms Lara Davis, recently packed up the School of Physics’ car and headed off with enthusiastic physics students (some of the Kickstart team, Dr Dooley the Team Leader wears the (red) pants - right) and equipment to enthuse high school students in Armidale, Dubbo and Wagga Wagga about the wonders of physics. With liquid nitrogen and a whole lot of balloons (as well as many other experiments and demonstrations - the Kickstart team made quite an impact. For one student’s first hand account on Kickstart on the Road (posted on the ABC’s Western Plains website) visit: blogs.abc.net.au/nsw/2008/07/science-experi.htm The Kickstart Workshops are aimed at HSC science students and teachers. The workshops meet the needs of NSW science teachers responding to changes to the HSC science syllabuses and they encourage secondary students to study tertiary science. HSC science courses call for equipment and knowledge that many schools aren’t able to provide. For more Kickstart information email: Louise Freys at alliance@science.usyd.edu.au

CALLING ALL POTENTIAL POSTGRADUATES

Friday 3 October 2008 is the School of Physics Postgraduate Information Day. The School will pay airfare and accommodation of potential Postgraduate students* from within Australia. Accommodation only will be paid for prospective Postgrads from overseas. Accommodation is for Thursday 2 & Friday 3 October. Our School is one of the strongest Physics Schools nationally and internationally. With six ARC Federation Fellows conducting leading edge research, Institutes of Nuclear Science, Medical Physics, Astronomy, and another in Photonics and Optical Sciences and many other areas of physics, you’ll be spoilt for choice. With a friendly atmosphere, gorgeous grounds - what are you waiting for? Visit: www.physics.usyd.edu.au/Physics@Sydney. * Conditions apply

OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

David Deutsch (ISS 1971) contacted me recently to let me know he has recently been made a Fellow of the Royal Society. A physicist at the University of Oxford David is a non-stipendiary Visiting Professor in the Department of Atomic and Laser Physics at the Centre for Quantum Computation, Clarendon Laboratory. He pioneered the field of quantum computers by being the first person to formulate a specifically quantum computational algorithm, and is a proponent of the many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics. He was awarded the Dirac Prize of the Institute of Physics in 1998, and the Edge of Computation Science Prize in 2005. The *Fabric of Reality* was short listed for the Rhone-Poulenc science book award in 1998. David is currently working on his book, *The Beginning of Infinity*, which he hopes to have finished in 2009. Congratulations David!