

POLO:

Players share bikes, and make their own mallets.

FROM A13

mark the goal lines. And open doorways provide just enough light, with the afternoon sun casting long shadows across the concrete floor.

"I know some of these people," Dillon says, counting roughly two dozen players on a recent Sunday. "Some of them just show up. We don't care."

Some people don't even bring bikes. Dillon or his friends will share. And when they run out of mallets, Dillon runs to Home Depot for supplies.

In the makeshift sport of bike polo, it's a tradition for players to make their own mallets. Dillon likes to cut off the tip of an old ski pole, then bolt on a short section of plastic pipe for the mallet's head.

"You can use an old golf club for the handle, too," he suggests. "Whatever you got."

The rules are simple, and — frankly — often ignored. For one, if a player's foot touches the ground, he has to leave play and tap his mallet on a designated part of the floor before rejoining the game.

A match begins with the ball in the middle of the court and both teams behind their goal lines. One team says "Ready," the other team says "Set," then both

yell "Polo!"

Then everybody races for the ball, sometimes hitting it and sometimes colliding with each other into a heap.

Games keep going until one team scores five goals — sometimes a few minutes, sometimes half an hour.

"Really, it's pretty much anything goes," Dillon admits. "As long as everybody's having fun."

And everybody definitely seems to be having fun. After sunset, the game will keep going for several more hours under the glare of portable construction lights.

With the groundwork under way for the Drillers' new ballpark across the street, crews are already using the front part of this warehouse for storage.

As the construction picks up speed, Dillon expects his bike polo court to be crowded out.

They might try playing in the parking lot out back, but the asphalt slopes toward the street, making the balls roll unpredictably.

Dillon hopes, instead, to ask the city Park and Recreation Department to find a permanent site.

"This is something really cool for Tulsa to have," he says. "I don't want to lose it."

He knows about a bike polo group in Dallas, but other than that, Columbia, Mo., would be the next closest town with the sport — six hours away.

"It's not big in the Midwest yet," Dillon says. "I guess Tulsa is on the cutting edge — where it should be."

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FENCE:

EPA will cap tons of waste before land is ready for reuse.

FROM A13

company, the DEQ is extending 4,066 feet of the chain-link, barbed-wire barrier around a large segment of the perimeter, Downard said. Slowed at times by inclement weather, the effort started last month and could be completed next week, Downard said.

The \$85,500 cost is covered through an EPA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study grant, she said.

As for EPA's cleanup, it includes on-site consolidation and capping of about 164,000 cubic yards of on-

site soil and waste, about 33,000 cubic yards of on-site sediment and about 1,600 cubic yards of off-site soil, sediment and waste.

It also includes institutional controls that will help ensure the appropriate reuse of the land.

A future phase of the cleanup is remedial design, which develops technical specifications and drawings that provide the blueprint for creation of the remedy. Following that is a remedial action, which involves the actual construction and cleanup, and which could take several years.

"Evidently, the cleanup process is getting closer," Beauchamp said. "After the cleanup process starts, we're open for suggestions on what to do with the place."

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Swarthmore appoints woman as its president

SWARTHMORE, Pa. (AP) — Swarthmore College has named Rebecca Chopp as its new president, making her the first woman to hold the position in the elite liberal-arts school's 145-year history.

Chopp, the president of Colgate University since 2002, was selected by Swarthmore's board Saturday.

She will succeed Alfred Bloom, who announced in May that he would step down. He is becoming the vice chancellor of New York University Abu Dhabi.

Bloom has been credited with revitalizing Swarthmore's honors program, broadening its multicultural curriculum, expanding foreign study and renovating and building academic buildings.

Chopp, 56, a scholar of religion and American culture, has written or edited five books and has published more than 50 articles in her areas of expertise.

Swarthmore, founded by Quakers in 1864, has about 1,500 undergraduate students. It was one of the country's first co-ed colleges.

Professor is extra dimensional

BY KIM ARCHER
World Staff Writer



SPEAKER

Lisa Randall: Named one of Esquire Magazine's "75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century" in 2008, the Harvard physics professor says she likes to solve puzzles. She has up-ended some long-held theories and sees an infinitely larger extra dimension that warps gravity as it flows from our dimension to others.

If a theoretical physicist can be considered popular, Harvard physics professor Lisa Randall is the "it" girl of particles and electromagnetic waves.

She has inspired new interest in searching beyond where we live to what might be possible.

"I'm interested in what is that's out there that we can't see," the 46-year-old said recently in a telephone interview with the Tulsa World.

And what we can't see, Randall imagines, may be extra dimensions beyond space and time. What those are aren't known. Yet.

As a child growing up in Queens, N.Y., she took to mathematics easily. She said she loved the fact that she could come up with a definitive answer. But now, she says it is the seemingly unsolvable that draws her attention.

What is our universe made of? Are there hidden dimensions? And one of the core questions she asks is, why is gravity so much weaker than

other forces?

Most people don't think of gravity, the force keeping us glued to the planet, as weak. But consider, Randall says, that a small magnet can hold up a paper clip despite the earth's gravitational pull.

"I like puzzle solving," she said. Even without the promise of a definitive answer.

In 2008, Randall was named one of Esquire Magazine's "75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century." The previous year, Time Magazine included her among its "100 Most Influential People."

What put Randall on the map, so to speak, were two papers she and a colleague wrote that up-ended some essential theories other physicists had long held about extra dimensions. Basically, she

sees an infinitely larger extra dimension that warps gravity as it flows from our dimension to others.

More recently, she has written a book for the masses called "Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions."

Randall expects to test her theories about extra dimensions and perhaps find evidence to back them up later this year at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland.

"Anything we find is interesting," she said.

The collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator, was expected to be operable earlier. But electrical glitches delayed its start until this fall.

EVENT

What: University of Tulsa 2008-09 Presidential Lecture Series
Who: Lisa Randall, renowned theoretical physicist and Harvard physics professor
When: Tuesday
Where: TU's Allen Chapman Activity Center, Great Hall
Time: 7:30 p.m.
The event is free and open to the public.

"Yes, I was disappointed. Everyone was," Randall said.

When asked the purpose of pondering these seemingly abstract theories and whether we really need to know these things, she became increasingly passionate.

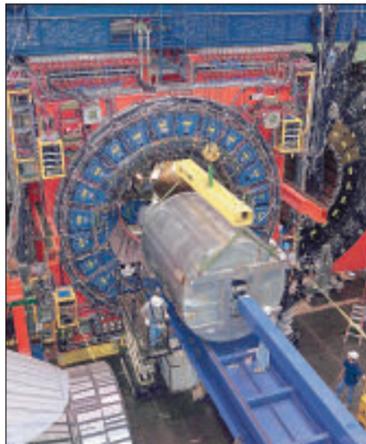
"That's interesting. Do we really need our Blackberries?" Randall said. In fact, she noted, when quantum mechanics was discovered, who knew it would become the basis for much of modern electronics?

"Who knows what we may find because of our curiosity?" Randall said.

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Scientists racing to find 'God Particle'

BY DON BABWIN
Associated Press



Workmen install a tracking chamber at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. Fermilab and scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research manning the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland are in a race to find evidence of the "God Particle" because it is believed to give mass to matter that makes up the universe.
FERMILAB/AP file

CHICAGO — So, does the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's Tevatron accelerator have a shot against the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland?

It may not be the question all the boys at the end of the bar are asking — but it gets particle physicists psyched.

After all, they're racing to find evidence of a hypothetical particle called the Higgs boson, better known as the "God Particle" because it is believed to give mass to the matter that makes up the universe.

"This has been the holy grail of high-energy physics for the last 30 years," said Joe Lykken, a senior scientist at Fermilab in the Chicago suburb of Batavia.

Just months ago, it appeared that evidence of the Higgs would be found by scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research manning the Large Hadron Collider — not those at Fermilab.

The idea that Fermilab could pull ahead seemed about as likely as a Model T beating a Corvette in a drag race.

"People laughed at the idea of (Fermilab) finding the Higgs," Lykken said. "Our accelerator was not built to find the Higgs."

The LHC was. It's the world's largest atom smasher, far more powerful than the Tevatron. It kicked off with an impressive show of force in September, when beams of protons were fired at nearly the speed of light — first in a clockwise direction and then counterclockwise.

But just more than a week later, the LHC was shut down because of major damage. Blame fell on a faulty wiring

splice that caused an electrical arc. The operator said this month that repairs and additional safety features will keep it from firing up again until the end of September.

Fermilab scientists say their accelerator is running very well — raising hopes that its ongoing tests, smashing beams of protons into beams of antiprotons, eventually will result in Higgs particles.

Things are looking up money-wise as well.

"We were looking at huge budget cuts last year and now we are hoping to get stimulus

package money and scrambling to see the best way to use it," Lykken said.

A Fermilab scientist, Dmitri Denisov, said Thursday that Fermilab's "probability of discovering" the Higgs is between 50 percent and 90 percent. Read: They think they have a real shot.

"The bottom line is we have a very reasonable chance to see hints of the Higgs particle by 2010 or 2011," Denisov said.

The scientific world widely believes that finding the Higgs boson would lead to a Nobel prize in physics for the discoverer.

"It's really what we live for, to have the opportunity to embark on such crazy quests," said Jacobo Konigsberg, a University of Florida physicist working at Fermilab.

He and others, including those who work with the LHC, play down competitive talk, pointing out how much the scientists work and cooperate with each other and readily share information.

"It would be an incredible triumph for the U.S. program to take this underpowered accelerator at Fermilab and make this discovery," Lykken said.

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