

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Top Tasmanian-born physicist returns home for Science Week lecture

A Tasmanian recognised as one of the world's pre-eminent scientists has returned to the state to give a public lecture and be a guest speaker at this Saturday's University of Tasmania graduation ceremony in Hobart.

Professor Allan Clark is director of the Department of Nuclear and Particle Physics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, where he leads a team of 65 scientists at CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

Prof. Clark, who grew up in Launceston and in 1968 graduated in Science with honours from the University of Tasmania, will speak about particle physics in a public lecture at the University's Centenary Lecture Theatre on Friday at 7pm.

He will also address a graduation ceremony at the University Centre on Saturday at 2pm.

Prof. Clark's team is involved in the international ATLAS experiment, the most important aim of which is to investigate a missing piece of the Standard Model of particle physics, the Higgs boson. The experiment is critical to human understanding of the structure of matter and the beginning of the universe.

While Prof. Clark lives in Geneva and travels regularly to Chicago's Fermilab particle physics laboratory, he also returns to Australia and Tasmania often.

"I love Australia and I haven't forgotten my roots, that's for sure," he said.

"My parents were teachers so my brothers and I lived all over the state, but we lived mainly in Launceston and I went to Launceston High School.

"I don't find it so surprising that my life has gone this way. Many choices in one's career follow from the previous choices: I wanted to study physics and I did. Then it was the done thing to do post-graduate study overseas so I went to Oxford. And as a student I was fortunate to have excellent mentors."

[Prof. Clark is available for interview through the UTAS Media Office.]

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