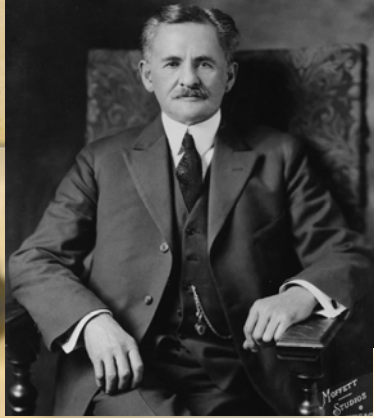
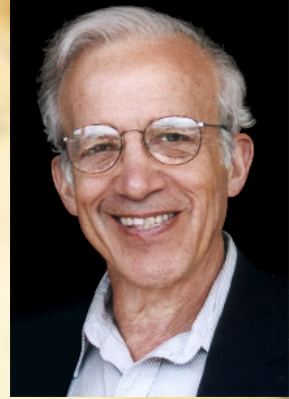


# CU PHYSICS DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM

Monday, November 23, 2009 4:10 PM 428 Pupin Hall

Daniel Kleppner, MIT



## THE FABULOUS LIFE OF ALBERT A. MICHELSON

Although A.A. Michelson is remembered primarily for the Michelson-Morley experiment, he himself regarded his attempt to observe the ether as a profound failure. Raised in a California mining camp, he was a prodigy in experimental physics. Self-educated in research, and working in the age of iron and steam, he founded the field of precision measurements by measuring the meter in terms of the wavelength of an atom, thus creating the first natural physical standard. Furthermore, Michelson invented Fourier transform spectroscopy, discovered the fine structure of hydrogen, provided the first experimental confirmation of Maxwell's kinetic theory, made the first measurement of the diameter of a star, and became the United States' first Nobel Laureate. In spite of these many successes, Michelson was never reconciled to his failure to find the effect of the ether.

Hosted by Boris Altshuler - Meet the Speaker at 1:30 PM in 705 Pupin Hall