

"Wine and Coca Cola: Building a Great Venture on the Ashes of a Failure" Philip Wyatt SLC Wed 5.30-6.30 Oct 8th

Phil describes his 10-year attempt to create the first company to incorporate a laser into a variety of scientific instruments, only to see it fail despite some remarkable achievements and lots of financial help. With no job, and little prospect of one, he and friends toasted the dead company with a shared bottle of wine, but paused to study how it scattered laser light compared to other wines. After experiments with colas and other drinks a new company was launched. The remarkable growth of this 33-year company and the role played by physics is chronicled.





"C Buckminsterfullerene: The Celestial Sphere that fell to Earth
Harry Kroto

SLC Wed 5.30-6.30 Oct 15th

The cage molecule with the same pattern as a modern soccer ball, is described. Diamond and graphite, the two other forms of carbon, have been known for millennia and yet this third molecular form was only discovered near the end of the 20th Century.