

Nobel Laureate Speaker Series

How We Measure Up: The Revolutionary Changes to the Way Science Measures Almost Everything

Monday, November 6, from 3-4 pm



Traditional, ancient units for measurement were based on the human body. For example, the foot was the English unit of length. But the development of commerce and technology demanded more precise units. The French Revolution ushered in the Metric System, based on physical artifacts—a platinum cylinder as the standard kilogram and a platinum rod as the standard meter. In the last few years the modern metric system has seen the greatest revolution since the French Revolution. Today all of our units are based on the unchanging nature of the laws of physics. Dr. Phillips will recount the history of measurement units from ancient to modern times and how the international scientific community became free of artifacts.

Dr. William D. Phillips

Nobel Prize in Physics 1997

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Globe Hall, High Technology and Science Center
20200 Observation Drive, Germantown MD 20876

This presentation is intended for a general audience.

Light reception following the presentation.

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