

Abstract Submitted
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Rutherford's Nuclear World FIDELE BINGWA, Hendrix College and SPS — The goals of the Center for History of Physics at the American Institute of Physics (AIP) are to preserve and make known the historical record of modern physics and allied science. 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the atomic Nucleus by Lord Rutherford which is why Center for History of Physics decided to create the “Rutherford's Nuclear World” web exhibit. Lord Rutherford was a great scientist and he is considered the father of Nuclear Physics. My research for the web exhibit focused on Lord Rutherford's early life and his time as director of the Cavendish Laboratory. For most scientific breakthroughs, only the scientists' names and the time of the breakthroughs seem to matter. The goal of my research was to put stories behind Rutherford's scientific discoveries, to know what was the atmosphere in his lab, what was going on in his personal life before and after the discovery, and also to understand the man he was by looking back at his early life, and the journey that made him one of the elites. All the information found during the research came from the resources of the Niels Bohr Library which include microfilms of Lord Rutherford's correspondence, oral history interviews of his closest collaborators, books written by his students and biographers, and pictures from the visual archives. The exhibit will highlight the importance of education in Rutherford's upbringing, his passion and enthusiasm for research, his scientific insight, his warm personality that made him a great educator, friend, and mentor. In addition, the exhibit, through Rutherford's interactions with fellow scientists, offers a unique perspective of the early 20th century scientific community.

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