# Fitzsimmons elected NSSA Fellow

March 24, 2014

Michael Fitzsimmons of the Lujan Center (LANSCE-LC) is a 2014 Neutron Scattering Society of America (NSSA) Fellow. Through the NSSA Fellowship Program, the NSSA recognizes members who have made significant contributions to the neutron scattering community in North America through original research and publication, innovative contributions in the application of neutron scattering, contributions to the promotion or development of neutron scattering, or techniques service and participation in the activities of the NSSA or neutron community.

Achievements

The Society recognized Fitzsimmons “for many important contributions to the study of interfacial and thin-film magnetism using polarized neutron reflectometry.”

Fitzsimmons is the Asterix instrument scientist at the Lujan Neutron Scattering Center. In 2001 he garnered a Distinguished Performance Award for single-handedly designing and building Asterix, a polarized neutron reflectometer/diffractometer. The instrument incorporates novel neutron optical concepts to polarize a large, pulsed neutron beam, something the neutron-scattering community had considered difficult

to accomplish. Asterix supports studies of the magnetism of thin films and magnetic nanostructures and has produced interesting results related to the magnetic structure of new spintronics devices.

After receiving his doctorate in materials science and engineering from Cornell University, Fitzsimmons performed research in München, Germany as a Fulbright Jr. Research Fellow. He later joined Los Alamos as a Postdoctoral Fellow and became a staff member in 1993. In 2006, Fitzsimmons was named an American Physical Society Fellow for achievements using polarized neutron reflectometry. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Materials Research Society as Treasurer.

About the NSSA

Formed in 1992, the Neutron Scattering Society of America has more than 1,000 members from 26 countries. No more than one-half of one percent of members are honored as fellows annually through election by the Fellowship Committee.