

2012 Hall of Fame Honoree



Dr. Brian L. DeMarco Class of 1992

An award-winning research physicist, Dr. Brian DeMarco knew from his start at the Nuclear Structure Laboratory at SUNY

Geneseo calibrating neutron detectors that he wanted to concentrate in the field of experimental physics. He went on to earn his PhD in physics from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he succeeded in cooling a fermionic gas of atoms to ultra-cold temperatures, which opened up a field of study heralded by “Science” magazine as one of the top ten scientific discoveries of 1999. It also earned him the first Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA) Scientific Achievement Award. For two years, he was a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder working on quantum computing experiments with trapped atomic ions.

Dr. DeMarco is currently an associate professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois. His other awards include the American Physical Society’s Division of Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics Thesis Award (2002), Office of Naval Research Outstanding Young Investigator Award (2004), National Science Foundation’s CAREER Award (2004), and a Sloan Research Fellowship (2006). Dr. DeMarco has over 35 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has given more than 60 invited talks at conferences and seminars around the world. He currently serves on the National Research Council Board on Physics and Astronomy’s Committee on Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics.

Dr. DeMarco lives in Urbana, Illinois, with his wife and son. He enjoys spending time with his family, gardening and working with his scientific research team.