**Thomas Edison NHP News Release**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Theresa Jung

Phone: 973 736-0550 x50

**W. BERNARD CARLSON PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING**

**on *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age***

WEST ORANGE, NJ - On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m, Thomas Edison National Historical Park welcomes University of Virginia professor W. Bernard Carlson for a presentation on Nikola Tesla. The program will be held at the Laboratory Complex at 211 Main Street. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made by calling 973-736-0550 ext.89. There is no fee for the program. The Friends of Thomas Edison NHP will provide light refreshments at a book-signing and reception following the presentation.

Nikola Tesla (1856 - 1943) was a brilliant, yet frustrated scientist who achieved meteoric fame during his lifetime and is responsible for countless inventions and technologies, yet died alone and in dire financial straits. Initially history was unkind to Tesla-the achievements of his contemporaries like Edison and Marconi took precedence-but in recent years, his enigmatic persona and his research have become important to a varied audience. In this deeply researched biography, using extensive excerpts from Tesla's letters to his friends, colleagues, and financial sponsors, reproductions of patent applications and drawings, and introspective remembrances from Tesla, historian W. Bernard Carlson presents the most nuanced picture yet of this one-of-a-kind scientist and showman.

Carlson's new biography arrives during the 70th anniversary year of Tesla's death and more than any other study captures all sides of Tesla's life-his dizzying rise and the subsequent tumble from the heights; the oddities that fashioned him into a peculiar figure of the age of invention; and the ins and outs of his finances, research, and frustrations.

W. Bernard Carlson is professor of science, technology, and society in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and professor of history at the University of Virginia. He has written extensively on major American inventors such as Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. His books include "Technology in World History" and "Innovation as a Social Process: Elihu Thomson and the Rise of General Electric, 1870 - 1900."

Thomas Edison National Historical Park is a National Park Service site dedicated to promoting an international understanding and appreciation of the life and extraordinary achievements of Thomas Alva Edison by preserving, protecting, and interpreting the Park's extensive historic artifact and archive collections at the Laboratory Complex and Glenmont, the Edison family estate. The Visitor Center is located at 211 Main Street in West Orange, New Jersey. For more information or directions call 973- 736-0550 extension 11or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis)

The Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park, is a not-for profit organization dedicated to supporting Thomas Edison NHP in the preservation, restoration and promotion of Thomas A. Edison's laboratory and home through advocacy, volunteer service and fundraising. The Friends also strive to foster an appreciation of Thomas A. Edison and his achievements by assisting in the planning of special events and providing programs that satisfy the needs and interests of its members and the local community.