

## Zone 6 Meeting Report

Our Zone meeting was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we had a check-in reception followed by a local Sigma Pi Sigma Induction. Before the induction started we were fortunate enough to meet some of the students from Morehouse College in Georgia, (pic 1). These students seemed motivated and active in SPS in this zone. Dr. White suggested that they hold the zone meeting next year. As reception entertainment, a UA professor, Dr. Chet Alexander did some physics/sculpture demonstrations. He showed us a Mobius strip that he had made in a wood carving class as well as a musical box that plays the Alabama fight song, (pic 2). Then he showed us a project in the works for his current art class. The goal was to make a three dimensional, moving picture. Dr. Alexander shines a laser through a fan onto a screen, vibrating it with some speakers. The fan gives the dancing light its third dimension, (pics 3 and 4). Dr. White led the Sigma Pi Sigma induction. Dr. Sanders from University of South Alabama wanted to be sure to see the induction ceremony, so we were glad he made it in time! Four UA students were inducted in our first ceremony in many years: Patric Delay (pic 5), Robert Hamner (pic 6), Christy Hyde (pic 7) and Eric Watkins (pic 8).

Saturday morning, we had registration from 8 to 9 am and the rest of the USA students and professors registered along with students from the University of Birmingham, Auburn University and University of Alabama students. Unfortunately, the professors from Clark Atlanta University and Dillard University did not make it due to bad weather conditions that weekend. From 9 until 11 am, several UA students gave oral presentations. The speakers were: Enrique Gomez, UA astronomy graduate student; Jennifer Phillips, UA undergraduate in medical and biological engineering; Becky Grouchy, UA astronomy graduate student; Michael Wofsey, UA physics graduate student. After the talks, UA's chairman, Dr. Stan Jones gave a recruitment talk and a tour of the Physics Department's facilities.

After lunch UA's SPS vice-president, Bradley Hyde, gave a talk on 'SPS Outreach in 2005'. Afterwards we had a productive hour discussion on ways to improve both SPS chapters and the Zone as a whole. Dr. White spoke briefly about the Nucleus website and AZC Christy Hyde made several charges to the chapters. These charges were given to the AZCs at the national meeting in Albuquerque, NM in October, 2004. The first charge was for each chapter to adopt a local public place and advertise The World Year of Physics by hanging posters about public lectures and events. The second was to adopt a two year college or high school to help get more chapters started and to encourage high school students towards physics.

There was a poster session held after the outreach discussion. Several UA graduate and undergraduate students gave excellent posters. The \$100 first prize went to Branyon May, the \$50 second prize went to Sergiy Vasylyev and the \$25 third prize went to Eric Watkins, all three students from UA. The poster session was followed by another oral presentation by Julian Threatt from Morehouse College on.

The meeting was jointly hosted by the Physics Department and UA's research facility, the MINT Center. The MINT Center Director, Dr. Bill Butler, gave a presentation on the research performed at the center as well as a guided tour of the facilities. Our banquet dinner was very well attended with 42 professors and students in all. The poster awards were announced and the UA SPS chapter's advisor, Dr. Ion Stancu gave a fascinating lecture on his neutrino research, (pics 9-11). After the banquet we held an interactive public lecture on Einstein in 2005; The World Year of Physics given by Dr. White. There were about 50 people in attendance. Dr. White played fun games with interesting physics trivia aimed at career education, (pics 12-14). Unfortunately, it was a cloudy night, but we still were able to take the students up to the roof and show off our new telescope, even if they couldn't view any celestial objects. Over all it was an enjoyable and productive meeting for all!