

Elizabeth Kelly
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Elizabeth Kelly
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Marsh White Award Report

The community outreach program which was started this semester was a very good experience. First of all, we are much more familiar with what is available at our college. After cataloging what everything was and what was needed to use the equipment, we started working with the demonstrations. By doing this, we could apply or refresh what had been learned in previous physics classes, including General Physics, Electricity and Magnetism, and Electronics.

In addition to what was already available, we were able, with the aid of the Marsh White Award, to add to our list of available demonstrations. We were able to purchase the following equipment: a power house kit demonstrating various forms of energy, a magnetism kit, and diffraction grating glasses. We have not yet had the opportunity to use most of these in our demonstrations; however, they will be very helpful tools as we continue our program into the future.

As mentioned before, the presentations we were able to give this semester did not allow us to utilize most of the new equipment. We first gave presentation that was open to the public, making some of our demonstrations available to others on and off campus. With the exception of components of the magnetism kit, the new equipment is mostly much more educationally based, making it difficult to use in a short public demonstration. Towards the end of the semester, we started presentations at area schools, receiving two invitations. The first of which we simply provided information on the topic of bridges, that one high school physics class was covering. We also went to a middle school and

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presented numerous activities. Since we had not had the equipment very long, we felt it would be more beneficial if we were more familiar with the equipment and use it in presentations next semester..

We believe our demonstrations are a very good thing. They encourage learning in everything you do, oftentimes taking everyday objects and just asking questions about them. Hearing people that are either your peers or not too much older than you, we believe, makes physics seem much more accessible. We think now that we have gone through a semester of seeing what we have and doing some initial demonstrations, that the years to come will make this positive program into an even better one.

Three programs, all presented by the authors:

Public demonstrations show: Attendance 60-70

High School class session on bridges: Attendance 7

Middle school class, general demonstrations: Attendance about 25.

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Liz Kelly and Brittany Cole at the end of the Spring public demonstration.