
THE COLLEGE OF

WOOSTER

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The Marsh White Award is a great honor for The College of Wooster chapter of SPS. We are very passionate and committed to our Outreach program, and being recognized for our work as well as being awarded money with which to bolster our program is wonderful. After carefully considering our options, we decided to purchase a Van de Graaff generator with several accessories to improve our electricity and magnetism demonstration.

Our fundamental philosophy for Outreach is that it is important to show grade school children that science is fun, exciting, and dynamic. If a child goes home and tells her parents how cool magnets, liquid nitrogen, or gyroscopes are, then we have done our job. With this in mind, our chapter agreed that the award money would best be spent on adding a component to our electricity and magnetism program that would add a larger “wow” factor. We have had great success with the program prior to this purchase; nonetheless, we believed that the addition of a Van de Graaff generator would make the program truly exceptional.

We purchased a 200,000-volt Van de Graaff generator from Edmund Scientifics that cost \$169.95. In addition, we purchased several accessories to better illustrate a few physics principles. We bought a clear plastic container of vermiculite (Volta's Hail Storm), a metallic spinning pinwheel, a flying metallic ball, a metallic ribbon (silver snake), electrostatic plume strips, and a replacement generator belt. The total price of these purchases including shipping

and handling is \$384.65. The Physics Department at the College of Wooster covered the difference between this price and the \$300.

We have not yet had an opportunity to use the Van de Graaff generator. Our first demonstration using the generator will be this fall. The Van de Graaff generator should add extra excitement that is essential to our demonstrations. I have studied physics for the past four years, and I still say “This is so awesome” to myself when I play with the generator. I have no doubt that elementary school children will have the same reaction.

We have attached a list of our 2006-2007 Outreach visits. We plan to continue at the same pace in the coming academic year.

In sincere appreciation,

Danny Tremblay, SPS President 2006-2007, The College of Wooster

Dr. John Lindner, SPS Advisor and Department Chair, The College of Wooster

Appendix I

2006-2007 Elementary School Visits The College of Wooster SPS Outreach

www.wooster.edu/physics/outreach

13 October 2006
St. Mary School 3rd grade
THEME: Force and Motion

27 October 2006
Wayne Elementary 4th grade
THEME: Air Pressure

3 November 2006
Parkview Elementary 3rd grade
THEME: Force and Motion

10 November 2006
Shreve Elementary 4th grade
THEME: Air Pressure

17 November 2006
Mt. Eaton Elementary 4th grade
THEME: Air Pressure

1 December 2006
Kean Elementary 3rd grade
THEME: Force and Motion

8 December 2006
Kean Elementary 3rd grade
THEME: Force and Motion

19 January 2007
Shreve Elementary 4th grade
THEME: Electricity and Magnetism

23 February
Cornerstone Elementary 5th grade
THEME: Electricity and Magnetism

2 March 2007
Cornerstone Elementary 5th grade
THEME: Electricity and Magnetism

9 March 2007
Lincoln Way Elementary 5th grade
THEME: Electricity and Magnetism

13 April 2007
Wayne Elementary 6th grade
THEME: Pressure and Air

20 April 2007
Shreve Elementary 4th grade
THEME: Force and Motion

27 April 2007
Melrose Elementary 3rd grade
THEME: Force and Motion