

International Conference for Physics Students
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August 2007 has been one of the most exciting and memorial months of my life. The International Conference for Physics Students (ICPS), held in London with full sponsorship from the Society of Physics Students allowed me to meet other physics students from all over the world, over 20 countries, across 5 continents. It was wonderful to realize that we as physics students share so much in common, regardless of our background and our culture. The common tie that we shared through physics was deeper than I had ever imagined.

When I first heard the news that I had been selected to present at an international meeting, I couldn't believe it. I was going to represent the United States and SPS, which was a huge responsibility. It was perhaps, more responsibility than I actually could handle. It was nerve racking, but more than anything, it was exciting that I could go to London for free and tell everyone how fantastic my research was.

When I finally arrived at the Heathrow airport after much anticipation, I was so thrilled to be in Europe that I could not stop smiling. It was as though I was in a gravity free world – nothing could pull me down from the cloud I was walking on. Red double-decker buses and Underground signs everywhere were welcoming me. It was just as I had imagined- except for the weather. Yes, it was much colder than I had thought, but, even the chilly weather could not dampen my excitement.

The conference was very well organized. The ICPS organizing committee had been working hard to meet the needs of all the attending students and held great parties to entertain us. Of all the events, the National party was one of the most memorable. Students from different countries brought their national food and shared with other students, advertising and educating their culture at the same time. I got to try at least 20 different cheeses that night. I must say, Norwegian caramelized cheese was something I will never forget; it was amazing. I made so many new friends that night, it was incredible. I have friends all over the world who study physics, and as all physics students do, we discussed how tough physics can be and complained all night. Sharing our common experiences, we however, found common ground and could really understand each others.

Beside great parties, I was also able to attend many great talks presented by fellow students. Many of the speakers were professional, with great research and deep understanding of their material. Students from the states did an unbelievable job. They were flawless, clear and to the point in communicating their ideas to the audience. It was remarkable to realize that we can communicate our physics research regardless of one's ability to speak English. There were times we struggled to understand each other over language barriers, but we managed through lengthy conversations and discussions.

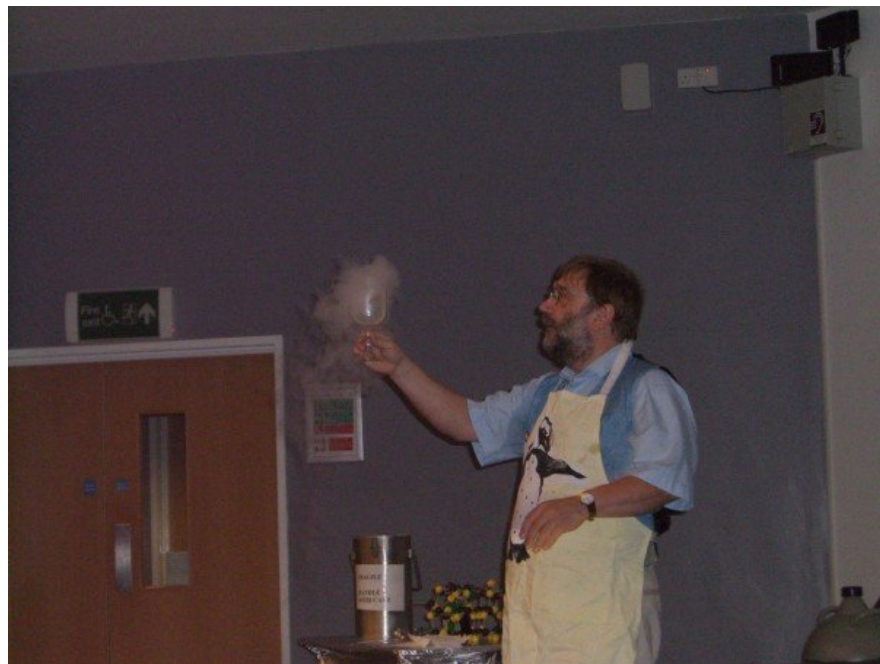
My presentation went as smoothly as I had hoped. I had discussed my research one on one with my friends from Poland, Holland, Ireland and Norway and was able to figure out what parts of my presentation were not clear. I made changes to make my presentation more lucid and I think it went better than what I had prepared. Getting feedback from students with different background in physics, it really challenged the

ways I thought of my research. People were bouncing around ideas I had never thought of, which really made me take a critical look at my research. I think I learned more giving the presentation than just analyzing data in the laboratory.

Beside the great sightseeing (as we all know, London has some wonderful tsights) and the scientific excursion, I was able to attend numerous great guest lectures by Sir Arnold Wolfendale, Dr. Joanne Cole, Professor Richard Jones, and Professor Andrew Fisher. The week was definitely packed with adventure, excitement as well as brilliant and intelligent young scholars. It was a week of wonder and I definitely enjoyed every moment I spend as a member of ICPS 2007. It definitely topped the list of best weeks in my life.



At the 22nd ICPS National Party held in UCL, London from 10th to 16th of August, 2007 where some members of the conference performed.



Guest Speaker Professor Peter Barham – The physics of Ice Cream. He made ice cream for all of us at the lecture.



At Hyde Park – Students talking and mingling. It was quality time for students to get to know each other.



At the custom party- students from Sheffield.