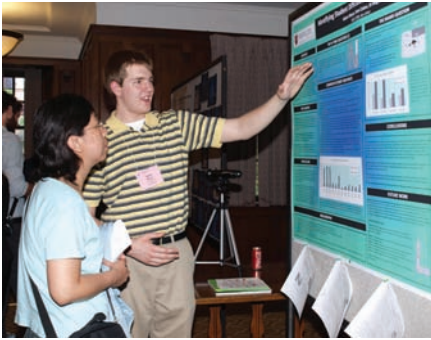


Photo by Warren Hein, AAPT



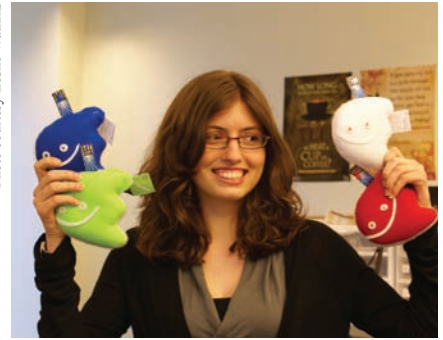
Adam Moyer, an SPS student from Grove City College, presents his poster during the student poster session of the **Summer Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)**. SPS sponsored a student poster session, a student oral session, and a student reception at the meeting.

Photo courtesy Josh Fuchs



This year's **International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS)** was held in Split, Croatia, August 10-18, 2009. Josh Fuchs (Rhodes College) joined fellow 2009 SPS Outstanding Student recipient Gabriel Caceres (Augustana College) as the US representatives to the ICPS. Read their exciting accounts of the experience, [www.spsnational.org/programs](http://www.spsnational.org/programs).

Photo courtesy Leslie Watkins



2009 SPS Summer Intern Leslie Watkins shows off special edition plush toy photons in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the laser. SPS is partnering with the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America, SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, and other organizations in **LaserFest** celebrations during 2010. In this spirit the SPS National Council chose *Exciting the Imagination* as the theme for SPS in 2010.

For more information on LaserFest and the special edition toys, visit [www.laserfest.org](http://www.laserfest.org).

Photo by John Lindner



"I want to be an astrophysicist!" exclaimed a seven-year old girl talking to a graduate-school-bound physics club member during the College of Wooster's first annual Community Science Day. Wooster, along with four other schools, received a **2009 Blake Lilly Prize**. These annual awards recognize SPS chapters who make a genuine effort to positively influence the attitudes of school children and the general public about physics. Learn more at [www.spsnational.org/programs/awards](http://www.spsnational.org/programs/awards).

Credit: NASA



On June 18, 2009 the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite took off for the moon board an Atlas V rocket. SPS/NASA 2009 **Summer Interns** Jose Castellano, Daniel McNeel, and Ian Dougherty

made the trip to Cape Canaveral to watch the launch. Read Daniel's story in the Fall 2009 issue of the SPS Observer, [www.spsobserver.org](http://www.spsobserver.org).

Photo courtesy Zhenyuan Zhao



From combating “pseudo-science” to controlling carbon emissions, recipients of the **2009 SPS/American Physical Society (APS) Student Fellowships in Physics and Society** are involved in some fascinating research aimed at impacting the larger society. The 2009 recipients are Kevin Thomas (left), U of Central FL, and Zhenyuan Zhao (right), U of Miami. Read their progress reports on the SPS website, [www.spsnational.org/programs/awards/2009/fellowship\\_recipients.htm](http://www.spsnational.org/programs/awards/2009/fellowship_recipients.htm).

Photo by Phillip Payette



In September the SPS National Council, composed of a student and a faculty representative from each of 18 geographic regions, gathered for a packed weekend in Washington, DC to plan for the 2009-2010 year. Outcomes include the **passing of a diversity statement** and deciding on a theme for the 2012 Sigma Pi Sigma Congress, *Connecting Worlds through Science and Service*.



**Stay up-to-date on SPS activities.** Become a fan of SPS on Facebook and follow SPS on twitter! Visit the SPS website and follow the links, [www.spsnational.org](http://www.spsnational.org).



**SPS activities** are supported in large part by donations to the Sigma Pi Sigma fund. If you would like to help support SPS awards, meetings, and other activities, please visit [www.sigmapisigma.org/donate](http://www.sigmapisigma.org/donate).

Photo by Phillip Payette



The Galileoscope, shown here with Scott Stacy, a 2009 SPS Intern, is a high-quality, low-cost telescope kit developed for the **International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA 2009)** by a team of leading astronomers, optical engineers, and science educators. No matter where you live, you can see the celestial wonders that Galileo Galilei first glimpsed 400 years ago through this telescope. In celebration of IYA 2009, SPS is offering all SPS chapters a free Galileoscope. Learn more about the Gaileoscope at [www.galileoscope.org](http://www.galileoscope.org).

Photo courtesy: Boston University SPS



Photo by Kendra Rand



## Zone Meetings

**Thirteen SPS zone meetings** took place in spring 2009. Some highlights include a great turnout at the Zone 1 (top) meeting at Boston University, a trip to Arecibo Observatory at the first Zone 6 (bottom) meeting ever held in Puerto Rico, and a physics demos at the Zone 13 (right) meeting at Tarleton State University. To read reports from recent zone meetings, visit [www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports](http://www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports).

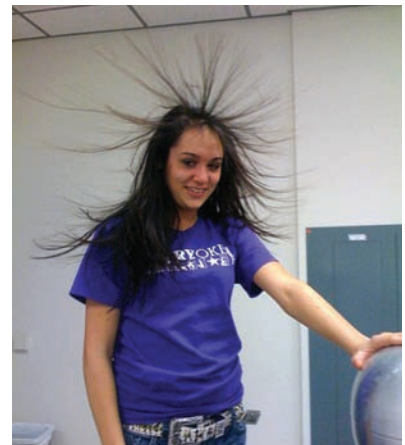


Photo courtesy: Tarleton State University SPS