



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Future Faces of Physics Award Report

Project Proposal Title	Advocating for Traditionally Underrepresented Groups in Physics
Name of School	University of Central Florida
SPS Chapter Number	SPS 1076
Project Lead (name and email address)	Madisyn Brooks
Total Amount Received from SPS	\$500
Total Amount Expended from SPS	\$500

Summary of Award Activity

The Society of Physics Students hosted a guest speaker, Dr. Simone Hyater-Adams. Dr. Hyater-Adams is a physicist, artist, educator, and researcher, who finds motivation in creating more opportunities for black STEM students. The talk by Dr. Hyater-Adams focused on her journey through academia and STEM, non-profit work she's currently undertaking, and methods to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

Dr. Hyater-Adams joined our SPS chapter via zoom. The meeting was held in our physics conference room, and 25-30 guests attended. We also allowed guests to join via zoom. Our attendance included undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty in the physics department. This meeting also included pizza and refreshments.

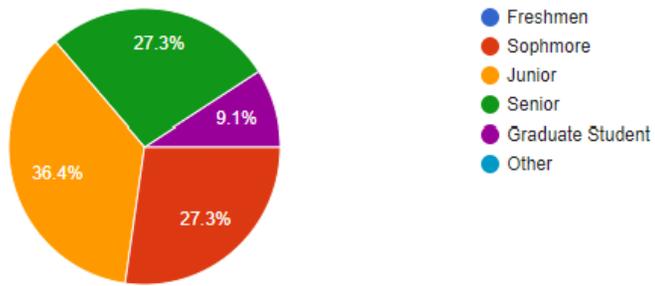
Dr. Hyater-Adams talked to our chapter for 45 minutes, with interactive components from the audience. The talk began by completing a simple poem where students finished the lines of “I am...”, “I will...”, “I want...”. Dr. Hyater-Adams then took us through her journey of undergraduate and graduate school and the trials and adversity she faced as a black woman in STEM. We then worked on extending the “I am...” poems as a group and shared them with each other. This helped create a sense of community within our SPS members by connecting with our fellow classmates by sharing our current struggles and worries. Dr. Hyater-Adams then opened the floor for questions for about 10 minutes.

This project fits perfectly into the goals of SPS@UCF. Prior to this event, our chapter hosted two other Future Faces of Physics events. Our chapter wants to create a tradition of hosting FFOP events at UCF and consistently working on improving the diversity and inclusion efforts in our department. To put on this event, we worked jointly with the Women in Physics Society and connected with other registered student organizations at our university. This past January, UCF Physics, the Women in Physics Society, and the Planetary Sciences group at UCF worked together to host the southeastern regional Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP). Many of our SPS members volunteered on the local organizing committee, and contributed to the effort to make an inclusive and welcoming space for our visiting guests. FFOP falls perfectly inline with the diversity and inclusion goals that UCF Physics undertakes.

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Promoted Physics across Cultures

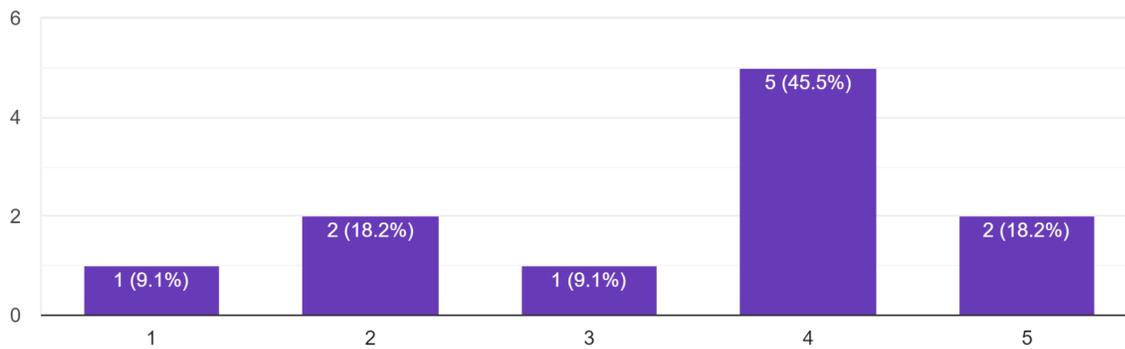
The main goal of this project, following the outline of the Future Faces of Physics Award, is to amplify diverse perspectives in physics. This goal was easily met by our speaker Dr. Simone Hyater-Adams, who shared her experience as a black physicist, and how her race and identity affected her journey through academia. Dr. Hyater-Adams stressed the importance of forming a positive mentor-mentee relationship, which is something that is constantly emphasized in our SPS chapter. The other goal of this project was to create a conversation in our department about the marginalization of historically underrepresented groups. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty all participated in this event, and the discussion formed from Dr. Hyater-Adams was carried on through conversation after. An after event survey was distributed to the SPS attendees and the results are as follows:

Attendee poll: **not every attendee completed the survey



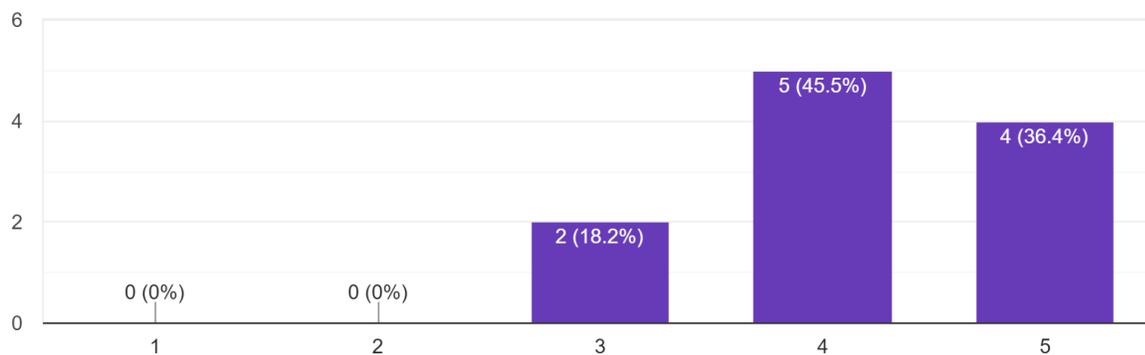
How would you rate your knowledge of diversity issues in physics and STEM before the FFOP event?

11 responses



How would you rate your knowledge of diversity issues in physics and STEM after the FFOP event?

11 responses



Other feedback on event:

“This talk was absolutely amazing and informing.”

“Love Simone! Please tell her she’s awesome (even though I’m sure she’s used to hearing it). As a white woman, it really opened my eyes wider to issues my friends may be dealing with and maybe how I can help support them.”

“She was a very entertaining speaker!”

“It was inspiring to hear about Dr. Hyater-Adams’ trajectory through both the physics landscape and life itself. She has clearly made a huge difference in her community and I hope to similarly empower our next generation of scientists, especially those who are underrepresented in physics at this time.”

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Influenced your Chapter

This event, like our past Future Faces of Physics Event, had an overwhelmingly positive impact on our SPS chapter and our physics department. We received positive feedback from the Women in Physics Society, and from graduate students in attendance. Our goal as a chapter is to make this an annual or biannual event, where we host a speaker whose perspective is not represented in our department. Through the discussion session hosted after the main talk, it was evident that Dr. Hyater-Adams resonated with our members. It is important to magnify perspectives and voices that are normally buried in STEM; many of our members expressed that they learned about the marginality of voices through this event.

As a tradition, we ask our FFOP speakers to recommend a book to our chapter. Dr. Hyater-Adams recommends “Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good” by Adrienne Maree Brown. This recommendation draws on the idea of amplifying marginalized voices as it talks about the politics of activism from the perspective of a black feminist. Dr. Hyater-Adams expanded on the educational aspect of this book, and how it challenges your typical actions and thoughts.

Key Metrics and Reflection

<p>The Future Faces of Physics Award is designed to promote projects that cross cultures. What cultures did your project attempt to bring together? (Please be as specific as possible.)</p>	<p>This event was intended to promote the perspective of a black, women-identifying physicist and to promote underrepresented minority groups in physics.</p>
<p>How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “50 third grade students” or “10 high school volunteers”).</p>	<p>25 undergraduate students, 5 graduate students, and 2 faculty of the UCF physics department.</p>
<p>How many students from your SPS chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?</p>	<p>5 members of our SPS chapter were involved in the planning and execution of this event.</p>
<p>Was the amount of money you received from SPS sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked? How would the additional funding have augmented your activity?</p>	<p>The amount of money we received from SPS was sufficient to carry out the proposed activities. We had no need for any additional funding for this project.</p>
<p>Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, we hope to hold an annual lecture series that focuses on representing diverse and marginalized voices in STEM.</p>
<p>What new relationships did you build through this project?</p>	<p>We were able to build relationships between the undergraduate and graduate students within the department.</p>
<p>If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?</p>	<p>If we were to do the project again, we would try to communicate better with a broader audience on campus, outside of the UCF physics department.</p>

Activity Photos



Future Faces of Physics at UCF SPS
Photo Credits: Rajib Chowdhury

Dr. Simone Hyater-Adams



PSB 160/161, 6 PM, 3/29

FFOP Social Media Advertisement
Photo Credits: Madisyn Brooks



If you have any questions, please contact the SPS National Office Staff
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