

Going far and Beyond

2007 NSBP & NSHP ANNUAL REPORT

If trials are anything to go by, and tribulation is just another entity of life's struggles surely Lincoln University's Physics Chapter would not be left cold and dry. Our tribulations are merely incomparable to the success stories and networking opportunities the city of Boston created. Optimism filled the air; enthusiasm created the ambiance and the Boston Sheraton Hotel jointly connected to the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center where to be the beginning of dreams, and aspirations. Physics became much broader, and our small college located in a very conservative small Amish County seemed much grander, undoubtedly we have now taken it upon ourselves to lead our lives under the code of our alma mater; **'excellence'**.

The joint meeting between the NSBP&NSHP began in earnest on the 21st of February. As is the case from the past years, student, faculty, speaker and exhibitor registrations topped the agenda on the menu. A total of 400+ students graced the Boston Sheraton for this year's joint Physics conference. The small reception in the early part of the evening was a grand time for old friends to recapture past and present successes, in accordance to celebrating the dawn of yet another Annual conference. The jointly connected exhibition and reception hall was filled with laughter and physics postulations. The night seemed shorter, and everyone convened to bed early, undoubtedly an atmosphere of expectation and the glamour of sleeping in a 5 star hotel caught on to the multitude of students.



Dr. Q. Williams & Martin Arienmughare

The 22nd began with the president of the NSBP, Dr. Quinton Williams giving his opening remarks and hinting upon what we were to expect in the upcoming days. Following the opening remarks was the uniquely planned Physics Sub-Field Tutorials. The tutorials were aimed towards enlightening any individual(s) without an in-depth knowledge about specific Physics and Physics subfields that were to be discussed during the conference. Immediately following the Tutorial sessions, the Plenary and Parallel Sessions and the recruiters

Exhibitors' booths took over the spotlight in capturing the general multitude's attention.



Dr. Sekazi Mtingwa

The next major highlight of the day was the dinner. A 30-year retrospect of the NSBP was the main course of the meal with Dr. Sekazi Mtingwa a professor from MIT and a past president of the NSBP solely guiding us through the formation and current state of NSBP. Through his narration, one can only conclude that tribulations and perseverance ultimately shape people's lives. Thus NSBP's future looks brighter, as it endeavors to become internationally recognized.

Though comparing and categorizing exhibitors' tables is gravely unfair and unjust, we ventured into judging people's personalities and their abilities to attract students to their

booths. It's funny how the coin suddenly changes when one is seated on the other side when a student becomes the master, and the master the student.



The Harvard booth

On Friday, the 23rd of February, our first pit stop was at the Harvard University table. Conversing with Ms. Ferguson and Dr. K. Hollar in regards to their graduate programs in Physics, Engineering and Applied Sciences, they generally echoed one consensus. Most of the students in attendance at the conference lacked an in-depth knowledge, and a desire to talk and/pester the different recruiters and Graduate school programs in attendance. Shyness and a lack of plan in attacking specific issues seemed to constantly daunt students' pursuit in attaining their desired networking goals.

Brookhaven National Laboratory representative, Dr. Scarlett upon being interviewed emphasized and propagated the idea of 'networking'. She advised students to be serious in programming languages, with a special emphasis on C, C++, and object oriented languages. The diversity and modernity of Physics implores the current generation of uprising Physicists to be multi-talented. In conclusion Dr. Scarlett offered us three postulates to attain one's desired goals; networking with professionals and other student's in one's field or a related field, learning programming languages, and to be conversant with Differential Equations.



Dr. Scarlett

The poster sessions dominated the course of Saturday's proceedings, undergraduate and graduate students who undertook and or are undertaking physics research presented their posters. The flare and in-depth analysis of poster presentees undoubtedly guarantees the future of Physics.

The next major highlight was a lunch forum on Women in Physics and Science. The forum raised interesting questions, though maintaining a captivating aura. After the short forum, many of the men I talked to seemed to respect women Physicists much more.



Lunch before the Women in Physics forum

After lunch, the day seemed to drag on, until dinnertime. The usual procession of new NSBP and NSHP fellow nominees and scholarship awards took place. Dr Quinton Williams gave his closing remarks, and the new president elect gave his opening remarks. The guest speaker, a Harvard University professor, placed the icing on the cake when she presented speech in analogous to 3 of the 4 laws of thermodynamics. Her struggle to attaining PhD seemed to capture the essence of African-American and minority struggles in achieving attaining success. The wisdom and the charisma in her speech engulfed the ballroom, and everyone seemed to just nod their heads in agreement. Immediately following the dinner was the Student's Social Event.



Who ever said Physicists are “geeks” who spend most of their time in the lab and writing up theories and complex equations was surely not at this social event.



Sadly, the Student’s social was the last scheduled event of the conference; the social concluded a very well planned and academic enriching conference. Also on the social side, earlier on during the conference were optional activities. Students had the option to tour Harvard University’s DEAS (Division Engineering and Applied Sciences) building and the Physics building. On Friday evening a couple conference attendees made their way to Boston University and MIT. We now eagerly anticipate the 2008 Annual conference.

REFLECTIONS



“I am who I am, I am a Physicist”
Unknown

“I had a great time, as with every year”
Grad Student



“I never knew Physics was this broad and diverse; I am in the right major”
Junior

“Receiving the Bouchet award was a great honor, as was being acknowledged at this conference by my peers”
Dr. G. Gumbs (2007 Bouchet winner)



“Physics is awesome”
Senior