

## 2007 SPS Zone 8 Conference Report

During the final days of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS) conference, the Fisk University and Vanderbilt University chapters of SPS joint hosted the 2007 Zone 8 meeting. It was held at the Scarritt-Bennett center in Nashville, TN with an banquet at Fisk the night of November 9<sup>th</sup> and activities at both Scarritt-Bennett and Vanderbilt on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 30 college and high school students and faculty members originating from across the southeast region attended the Zone meeting, which we considered to be a great turnout.

The afternoon of November 9<sup>th</sup>, attendees were given the opportunity to tour the facilities of the physics department at Fisk. Several graduate students from Fisk volunteered their time to conduct tours around the campus and ensure that visitors made it around the campus safely. That night, the SESAPS conference concluded their three-day conference with a closing banquet, which included a wonderful performance by the internationally renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers and the presentation of the Francis G. Slack, the George B. Pegram, and the Jesse W. Beams Research Awards. Students were invited to attend and dine at the closing ceremony of the SESAPS meeting.

The morning of November 10<sup>th</sup>, the SPS Zone 8 meeting officially commenced at the Scarritt-Bennett center with on-site registration and morning refreshments. William Barlow, President of the SPS chapter at Vanderbilt, welcomed the attendees and MCed the oral presentation sessions for the conference. We formatted the morning portion of the meeting to encompass two 75-minute oral sessions consisting of four presenters each with a 45-minute break/poster session. Between the two oral sessions, Kendra Rand, program coordinator for SPS National, addressed the attendees with opportunities students can take advantage of with SPS. She also offered an explanation to the mysteries of the diffraction glasses provided by the National Office. Concluding the morning sessions of the Zone meeting, Papa John's catered our luncheon of pizza, breadsticks and soft drinks for the SPS attendees.

The afternoon portion took us from Scarritt-Bennett to Vanderbilt's campus for an in-depth tour of the Free Electron Laser (FEL) laboratories and the groundbreaking research being conducted in particle and medical physics. Following the FEL tour, visiting students gave a report on the status of their chapter and their activities over the past year. During this time, the Marsh White Award were given to Apurva Oza for the best poster presentation and to Thiago Olson and Kevin Emmett for the two best oral presentations. The host chapters then concluded the Zone meeting with closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending.



The Fisk SPS Chapter at the SESAPS Closing Banquet at Fisk University



SESAPS Closing Banquet at Fisk



The World Famous Fisk Jubilee Singers Perform at the SESAPS Banquet



SPS Zone Meeting Registration at Scarritt Bennet



Will Barlow (Vanderbilt) and Desmond Campbell (Fisk), SPS Presidents Joint Hosting



The Fisk SPS Chapter Working the Registration Table



Poster Presentation Session at the Zone Meeting



A Brief Break In-between Oral Presentation Sessions



SPS Members Rocking the Official SPS Diffraction Shades



Kendra Rand, SPS Program Coordinator, Graces the Zone Meeting With Her Presence



Papa John's Pizza, the Official Food of the Student



SPS Members Enjoying Themselves After Lunch



Creativity At Its Best With the SPS Balloons