

## Zone 5 SPS Meeting

The 15th Annual Fall Meeting of the North Carolina Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers was held jointly with the Zone 5 SPS Meeting October 22-23 at Davidson College. The Web page for the meeting can be found at:

[http://www.phy.davidson.edu/ncsaapt\\_10/welcome.html](http://www.phy.davidson.edu/ncsaapt_10/welcome.html)

We had over 70 participants: high school, two-year college, four-year college, and university faculty and over 18 undergraduate students. To help defray costs and increase participation, student registrations and lunches were subsidized by the National SPS with poster presenters completely subsidized and students in attendance partially subsidized.

### General Meeting Highlight

#### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Patricia Heller** of the University of Minnesota, **Roger Hunter** Mission Director, KEPLER Program, NASA, **Dr. Edward Prather** the University of Arizona, and **Dr. David Saltzberg** of UCLA (Science Advisor to "The Big Bang Theory").

#### SPS EVENTS

Schedule available SPS Zone page: <http://www.compadre.org/student/chapters/Zone.cfm?ID=757>

#### **Star Wars Uncut**

On Friday evening, the Davidson Chapter of SPS hosted a screening of the movie "Star Wars Uncut" for students arriving early to the meeting.

#### **POSTER SESSION**

In conjunction with the NCS-AAPT meeting, an SPS student research poster session was held Saturday morning October 23. During this hour-long poster session there was no other sessions (there was a simultaneous session on robotics for high school and middle school teachers) and refreshments were served. A total of 9 undergraduate and high school students presented a poster. Students participating in the poster session were eligible for the Best Undergraduate Paper Award, given jointly with SPS and NCS-AAPT. The winner was Melissa Guzman (Davidson) with Austin Griffin and Stuart Hammer (UNC Pembroke) coming in second, and Mark Crowley (Davidson) and David Blake (UNC Pembroke) tied for third.

#### **INVITED TALKS**

Both Saturday talks were of interest and were attended by SPS students. The first talk was by At lunch, students were able to speak privately with the speakers. Roger Hunter, NASA Project Manager, KEPLER Mission, spoke about NASA's first extra-solar planet (exoplanet) mission to search for earth-sized planets in stars' habitable zones. Edward Prather talked about his research in Astronomy Education.

#### **VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH DR. SATZBERG**

Saturday Afternoon consisted of a brief Zone Business Meeting led by Davidson Chapter President Ryan Crum and Assistant Director of SPS Dr. Thomas Olsen. This was followed by a lively video conference with Dr. David Saltzberg, of UCLA, and Science Advisor to the TV show, "The Big Bang Theory."



