SPS Zone 6 Meeting Report

On the weekend of April 12th-13th, the Society of Physics Students, University of Central Florida chapter held the annual SPS Zone 6 meeting. Students from many chapters, including students from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico came to attend this event. It was a two-day event, starting Friday night and continuing through Saturday. There were talks from Jim Gates of the University of Maryland, Tristan Hubsch from Howard University, and the Advisor of the UCF chapter of the Society of Physics Students, Costas Efthimiou.

Jim Gates, Jr. is a well-known physicist, and professor at Howard University. He has been featured on four PBS television programs; he is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, and the National Society of Black Physicists. Jim Gates started off the event on Friday with a talk called “How a Physicist in Plato’s Cave Can See Our Cosmos.” This was an enjoyable high-level talk on Supersymmetric Holography, where he described why supersymmetric quantum mechanics must contain a sufficiency of information to describe aspects of four-dimensional supersymmetrical field theories. Dr. Gates followed up on Saturday with a talk titled “SUSY & The Lord Of The Rings” where he discussed the inner workings of the LHC in the CERN laboratory in Switzerland.

After Dr. Gates talk on Saturday came a talk by Tristan Hubsch. Dr. Hubsch earned his PhD in Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1987 and has been worked at Howard University since 1992,
teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. Over the years he has lead workshops, given lectures across the globe, and has been supported by The US Department of Energy (MSEIP) since 1996 in improving education in physics. His talk, titled “The Real Worlds-Wide-Web,” gave students a look into Super String Theory, a theory attempting to combine General Relativity and Quantum Mechanics into a single unified theory that would explain the build blocks of our universe.

Costas Efthimiou gave the closing talks on Friday and Saturday. Dr. Efthimiou is a mathematical physicist and physics professor at the University of Central Florida. He is the creator of the Physics in Films project, which promotes science literacy and quantitative fluency by the use of Hollywood movies. On Friday, Dr. Efthimiou gave a talk on “Physics in Hollywood Films.” In this talk he presented scenes from selected movies, and discussed using introductory physics why said scenes were inconsistent with known physical laws. Dr. Efthimiou’s talk on Saturday, titled “Paradoxes in Special Relativity” taught students many of the paradoxes in Special relativity, ranging from superluminal velocities to the twin paradox, and the resolutions to these paradoxes.

In between Dr. Hubsch and Dr. Efthimiou’s talks, the students were treated to lunch and the poster and art session began. This lasted two hours, and over twenty students participated. This was a great opportunity for students to present their research in a light atmosphere, and give other students the chance to expand their knowledge on a broad range of topics. Awards were given out to the top three students who presented posters: 1st: Patrick Donnan from Auburn University; 2nd: Lorena Magana Zertuche
from Georgia Institute of Technology; and 3rd: Marylyn Creen from Alabama A&M University, and for the art competition: 1st: Lindsey Desrosiers from University of Central Florida.

We closed off the Zone 6 Meeting with a fun game of “Who Wants To Be A Physicist” where students were randomly chosen to come up to the podium and compete in a physics game show. We had only planned for four students to come up and play, with hopes that at least one student would finish the game show all the way through and win the prize money. But unfortunately the questions seemed too difficult and no one made it through the final question. We attempted to mix the questions around and keep trying but to no avail. We then decided to shift the prize money from the game show over to the poster and art contest.

EXPENSES:
Postcards: $200
Tristan Hubsch Honorarium: $1,000
Jim Gates Honorarium: $1,000
Awards: $500
Food for participants: $1,500
Dinners for visitors: $400
Poster Boards: $150
Miscellaneous: $300
Abstract

Introduction

Experimental Setup

Results and Analysis

Conclusion

References
Lunch
Jim Gates Talk
Tristan Hubsch and Costas Efthimiou
Art Contest Winners
Which physicist was ignored by the Nobel committee quite unfairly and did not receive a Nobel prize for his work?

A. Schrödinger
B. 
C. 
D. 
E. Sommerfeld
Who Wants To Be A Physicist
University of Central Florida SPS Officers