SPS reception for TS APS/AAPT/SPS participants at TAMU

On October 17, 2014, from 5 to 8:00 pm the TAMU Chapter of the SPS hosted a reception and physics demonstrations for all participants attending the Texas Section of the APS/AAPT/SPS Meeting in College Station. The reception took place in the lobby of Mitchell Physics buildings at TAMU and in the outside area, during the time of registration for the conference. It was advertised by the APS office to all participants, so we had a heavy traffic: around 100 attendees. Approximately 30 undergraduate students – SPS members volunteered for the event, along with graduate students and physics faculty. Dr. Glenn Agnolet with a group of undergraduates showed low-temperature demonstrations and explained low-temperature physics. Dr. Alexey Belyanin showed infrared imaging with a high-end infrared camera and a number of other demos. Dr. Tatiana Erukhimova showed angular momentum demos. Students from Drs. Lyuksyutov and Naugle groups showed superconductivity experiments including a levitating train on a circular track built by undergraduate students. A large number of TAMU physics faculty including the department head Dr. George Welch showed up for the reception to interact with the participants and show them new physics buildings at TAMU: the 85-feet Foucault pendulum, Penrose tiling, scaled model and hologram of the Giant Magellan Telescope, rooftop garden etc. Overall, over 40 different demos were shown continuously throughout the evening. In addition, SPS students cooked burgers, sold t-shirts of their own design, mixed and mingled with the participants. The event was a lot of fun for all.