

Society of Physics Students
Blake Lilly Prize Committee
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740

Summary of the University of Central Florida's Outreach Program

The Society of Physics Students at the University of Central Florida has been involved in many activities to fulfill our mission statement: the purpose of this Chapter is the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of the science of physics and serious encouragement of student interest in physics throughout the academic and local communities. Many different groups of students within SPS have been involved, namely the tutors, Reel Physics outreach team, and the volunteers for all the campus activities.

The tutoring effort, lead by Sergio Tafur, has evolved into a new program of its own, now with a room for physics tutors in the Engineering building. See picture a. A brief overview of the past year follows: In the spring of 2005, 601 students tutored (SPS volunteers: Sergio Tafur and Yogesh Sharma); summer 2005, 256 students were tutored and has marked a tremendous increase from the summer of 2004 semester according to the Asst. Director of SARC (Student Academic Resource Center.) Tutors involved from SPS: Sergio Tafur. In fall 2005, SPS tutored a total of 784 students and helped increase SARC's numbers by 45% from the previous Fall 2004 semester according to the Asst. Director of SARC. SPS tutors included: Ben Corbin, Anthony O'Dell, Rob Grisetti, and Sergio Tafur. In total, 1,641 students have been tutored at SARC's facilities. This spring the numbers are not in yet, but we have members Ben Corbin and Pontus Ahlqvist participating through out the week at the new room with Amir Tal, John Turpish, John Fraine, Horatio Carias, Yogesh Sharma, Rich Jerousek, and Sergio Tafur available to tutor by appointment.

The outreach program, funded by a Marsh White award, continues this year by having gone to three middle school classes to date, see attached picture c. Several other meetings are scheduled through April and May at both Jackson Heights and Lawton Chiles Middle Schools. The teachers were delighted to have us come and wish to work more closely to continue. The program has expanded by contacting the GK-12 program that goes to all levels of education in Orange County. Work is currently in progress to enable the GK-12 participants to use already created presentations of physics topics and to develop more presentations based on films. In this manner, even more students will be reached in the local area.

On the University of Central Florida campus, SPS has been involved in numerous activities. On September 14th, at the Learning Fair, volunteers Erin Riley, Jarrad Pond, Sergio Tafur taught students how to add vectors and gave demonstrations on the conservation of momentum, the radiometer, and electromagnetic induction. At the club showcase in September and on January 19th, volunteers Yogesh Sharma, Jonathan Fraine, Sergio Tafur, Erin Riley, and Jarrad Pond helped publicize SPS while giving demonstrations on angular momentum conservation and electromagnetic induction. SPS painted a bookstore window in November promoting the Year of Physics. Members

involved included Yogesh Sharma, Jonathan Arnold, Don Green, Yoh Yamamoto, Jarrad Pond, and Erin Riley as the work stretched in shifts from 8am to 5pm. Many compliments were given from the bookstore personnel regarding the work. A non-member also volunteered. At Late Knights (a Freshmen fun activity night from 9pm to 1am on January 20th-21st, SPS members Jarrad Pond, Sergio Tafur, Erin Riley, John Fraine, Yogesh Sharma, Bonnie Berry, Kevin Thomas attended a table on January 20th and showcased demonstrations to attract new members. Many students were enthralled with the demonstrations – enough that the UCF newspaper took pictures. At the Spring Majors Fair (March 2nd) SPS member Erin Riley talked with many prospective students about the advantages of being a physics major – two of which said that they were planning on changing and three others who are now considering a minor.

In September, SPS ventured outside to the Ropes course with the American Chemical Society, which resulted in much closer relations between the two organizations. Long term plans include a campus-wide Science Night showcasing the two organizations for next year. Members involved included: Jared Pond, Kevin Thomas, Ben Corben, Sergio Tafur, Bonnie Berry, Yogesh Sharma, Jonathan Fraine, Kim Stiles, Katie (non member), Katherine, Jonathan Arnold, and Erin Riley. Every other Friday in the Fall was movie night where SPS showed scientific documentaries and popular movies including *What the Bleep Do We Know?*, *From Trinity and Beyond*, an A&E documentary on Archimedes, *The Elegant Universe* (NOVA), and on February 3 and 17 the first two episodes of *Cosmos* (Carl Sagan miniseries.) Up to 15 students have attended at a given time, with many non-physics majors attending from outside advertisement or from members' invitations. On March 3rd, SPS held its first liquid nitrogen ice cream social, picture attached b, which attracted ~30 physics and engineering majors. Students had fun freezing rubber bands, leaves, and super cooling metal. As a huge success, this event will be held again.

Document prepared by: Erin Riley



Date: 4/15/06





Office of the Vice President

October 3, 2005

Sergio Tafur
University of Central Florida
Student Academic Resource Center
Phillips Hall, Room 115
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Sergio,

“Going above and beyond expectations” is how University of Central Florida students describe Student Academic Resource Center tutors. Friendly, able to demonstrate a variety of learning strategies, well-informed, courteous, knowledgeable, organized and professional are just some of the traits of this outstanding group of UCF student leaders.

As we celebrate the “National Tutoring Week,” we commend you for your outstanding performance. We wish to convey our deepest thanks and gratitude for your commitment, dedication, and service. You make a difference in assisting students in their pursuit of higher education and progression towards graduation.

The Student Academic Resource Center was established to serve the needs of UCF students through the delivery of academic support services. We are pleased that you are a member of our team, making a tremendous impact on the lives of UCF students. Rest assured, your contributions of time, talents, knowledge, and ability to deliver quality services do not go unnoticed.

On behalf of Student Development and Enrollment Services and the Student Success Center, we extend our appreciation and sincere thanks for a job well done.

Best wishes to you for a very successful fall semester!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Maribeth Ehasz'.

Maribeth Ehasz, Ph.D.
Vice President
Student Development and Enrollment Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'DeLaine Priest'.

DeLaine Priest, M.A.
Assistant Vice President
Student Success Services



Student Academic Resource Center
"Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence"

To: Society of Physics Students
From: Jennifer Wright, Assistant Director
Date: Friday, January 27, 2006
Re: Volunteer Tutoring Program in Collaboration with SARC

In collaboration with the Society of Physics Students and the Physics tutors of the Student Academic Resource Center, a total of 784 (duplicated headcount) students have been served this fall 2005 semester in PHY 2048, PHY 2049, PHY 2053, and PHY 2054. This is a tremendous increase as compared to the fall 2004 semester (45%).

These numbers could not have been achieved without the assistance of the 4 volunteer tutors from the Society of Physics Students Ben Corbin, Anthony O'Dell, Rob Gresetti and under the leadership of Sergio Tafur. When Sergio first approached me about this collaboration, I have to admit I was hesitant at first. The Society of Physics Students has once again committed themselves to SARC and to assisting UCF students. I have been very impressed with the consistency of the volunteer tutors fulfilling their obligations and their integration as part of the SARC tutorial staff.

Sergio has been an outstanding leader in this capacity. He has always provided me with up-to-date information and has contributed some ideas of his own on how we can strength the partnership throughout the semester. I hope such a productive relationship will continue in the semesters to come. I would like to thank the Society of Physics Students, the volunteer tutors, and especially Sergio for their outstanding contributions to SARC and to UCF students. You should be very proud of your accomplishments this semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jennifer Wright'.

Jennifer Wright
Assistant Director

Student Academic Resource Center

