Physics Gender Equity & Diversity Career Outreach Activities

The last two issues of Directions highlighted the Physics Department’s commitment to mentoring talented students from all gender, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. We have heard speakers representing Argonne National Laboratory, the American Physical Society’s Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, and our own chairperson, Dr. Richard Martin, emphasize the importance of improving the representation of underrepresented groups in physics career tracks at the undergraduate level. The Physics Department has also been committed to the ‘grow your own’ recruitment philosophy by supporting junior and senior high school career outreach activities such as ISU’s annual EYH Conferences and most recently Caterpillar’s Destination Technology.

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Through Math, Science, and Technology Conferences in March 2003 & 2004

Physics once again helped organize and participated in ISU’s annual Expanding Your Horizons Through Math, Science, and Technology Conference (EYH) for 2003 and 2004 under the coordination of Assistant to the Chair, Grace Foote Johns. Ms. Johns was honored for her 13 years of service to the EYH Conference Board at the 2004 EYH Conference. The Physics Department hosted these 2003 and 2004 EYH Conference workshops with the workshop leader presenters noted below:

Challenger Learning Center--Rebecca Wenning (physics teacher education major), Nitalka Kinal and Anne McDonald (biological sciences majors); all were officers of the Student Chapter of the National Science Teacher Association

Einstein’s Universe--Jennifer Heuer and Sarah Radovich (physics majors); and Thomas R. Willmitch (Planetarium Director) in 2003

Explorers of Mauna Kea--Jennifer Heuer (physics major); and Thomas R. Willmitch (Planetarium Director) in 2004

Inquiry in Physics--Valerie Hackstadt, Michelle Tantillo, Christina Knudson, and Gary Shepard (physics teacher education majors) in 2003; and Michelle Tantillo, Trina Karim, and Oluseyi Ogunlela (physics teacher education and engineering physics majors) in 2004; and Carl J. Wenning (Physics Teacher Education Coordinator)

Women in Science and Math HERstory Quiz Game--Grace Foote Johns (Assistant to the Chairperson); Rebecca Yapp, Sarah Radovich, and Kimberly McGill in 2003 and 2004; and Rebecca D. Yapp (physics and engineering physics majors), and Zoe Paukstys (physics teacher education major) in 2003

Our Ticket To China--Physics Research--Valerie Hackstadt and Zoe Paukstys (physics teacher education majors who participated in Dr. Shang-Fen Ren’s 2003 China Summer Research Project) in 2004

Destination Technology Career Workshops

This career day event was sponsored by Caterpillar, Incorporated and the Peoria Junior High Schools at Illinois Central College in Peoria on Saturday April 24, 2004. The purpose of this event was to provide career exploration opportunities to disadvantaged students.

The ISU Physics Department was one of the featured science department workshops that day. Assistant Professor Epaminondas Rosa, Jr. lead the ISU Physics presenter contingent which also included Instructor Raymond L. Zich and ISU engineering physics major Terrina L. Smith of Decatur, Illinois.

Dr. Rosa (far left) recapped his impressions from the day by stating that "Destination Technology was an enjoyable opportunity for me. It was very rewarding being part of an environment that gave to many kids the opportunity for hands-on experimentation of physical concepts and ideas. I believe that those kids had lots of fun, and so did I.”