

# SPS Chapter Report

## Theoretical Football

*Wins the Nanobowl People's Choice award!*



The College of Wooster's Society of physics students created a short video for the national Nanobowl Video Contest, in honor of the superbowl, sponsored by Physics Central. The video, entitled *Theoretical Football*, starred seven SPS members (and physics majors), and included two professors as coaches, as well as numerous extras

from the student body for crowd shots. The video is posted on [YouTube](#), and won the People's Choice award in the national contest, for which they won a nanoscale trophy. It was a lot of work, but everyone involved agreed that the nanotrophy was worth it!

### President's Note

Overall, 2007-2008 has been a fantastic year for SPS at Wooster. We filmed a video, took a trip to the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, continued to expand our fantastic outreach program to local elementary schools, hosted a summer research colloquium for the large number of us who did research last summer, all while continuing to be active on campus. Thanks so much to the department and students for making it all possible. To the new officers and returning members, I wish you well, and I hope for an even better year for Wooster SPS in 2008-2009.

*- John Gamble*

Two shots from *Theoretical Football*. Top, LR: John Gamble, Heather Moore, Alison Huff. Bottom, LR: Mark Zimmerman, Mark Weltons, Henry Timmers.



SCOT SPIRIT DAY

Near the beginning of each Wooster school year, various clubs and organizations have a recruiting day, where interested students gather to sign up. As always, the SPS had a strong presence. We had many physics demonstrations to show to passersby, including a bicycle wheel gyroscope with rotating chair and liquid nitrogen for shattering flowers and shrinking balloons. In the picture to the right, we scare some unsuspecting Math professors with a liquid nitrogen rocket made out of a film canister. We attracted a lot of new interest, and had a lot of fun doing it.



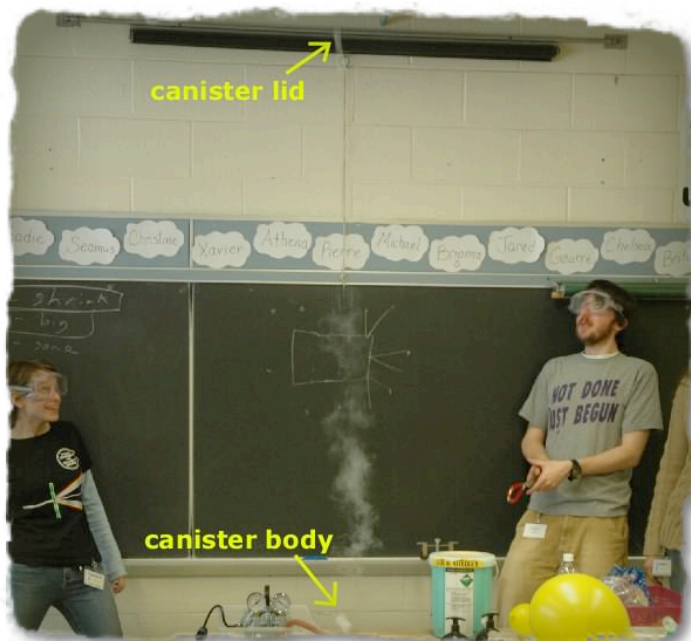
PHYSICS OUTREACH

Our outreach program to local elementary schools continued to build up steam this year, continuing on a great effort from 2006-2007. We payed fourteen visits to schools, up from twelve last year. We had an enthusiastic team of students who volunteered to give up their Friday afternoons to go get kids excited about science.

Besides increasing the total number of visits, we tried something else new this year. One week, we scheduled two demonstration sets simultaneously, and successfully sent two teams to different schools. We also were able to put the Marsh White award we won last year to good use. We purchased materials to

update our electricity and magnetism demonstration, which improved its impact substantially. We added a Van De Graaff generator, combined with various electric field visualization devices, which amazed some audiences.

In addition to Marsh White Award, we secured enough money from Wooster to start an entire new demo set next year. Our fourth demo, optics and waves, will compliment current programs of mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and air pressure, giving teachers more options when scheduling an out-





ANNUAL LUCE HALL DINNER

Every year, our SPS hosts a dinner in the formal lounge of Luce Hall, a dormitory on campus. We advertise this event heavily at Scot Spirit Day, so we usually get a great turnout. This year was no exception, and we attracted around thirty people, including a host of new faces.



We had a great time eating pizza and socializing. Then, we introduced the officers and talked about what SPS was and what we do. After that, we discussed our plans for the upcoming year. We finished up with liquid nitrogen ice cream, which was unbelievably smooth, as always.



TRIP TO CLEVELAND

Every year, we try to take at least one group trip. This time, we went to the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland. The science center hosts several floors of hands-on exhibits, and was a great experience for everyone.

We were able to take thirteen SPS members, with funding from Wooster. After the science center, we visited Tower City Center, a major shopping center in Cleveland. We all ate dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe at Tower City before returning to campus.

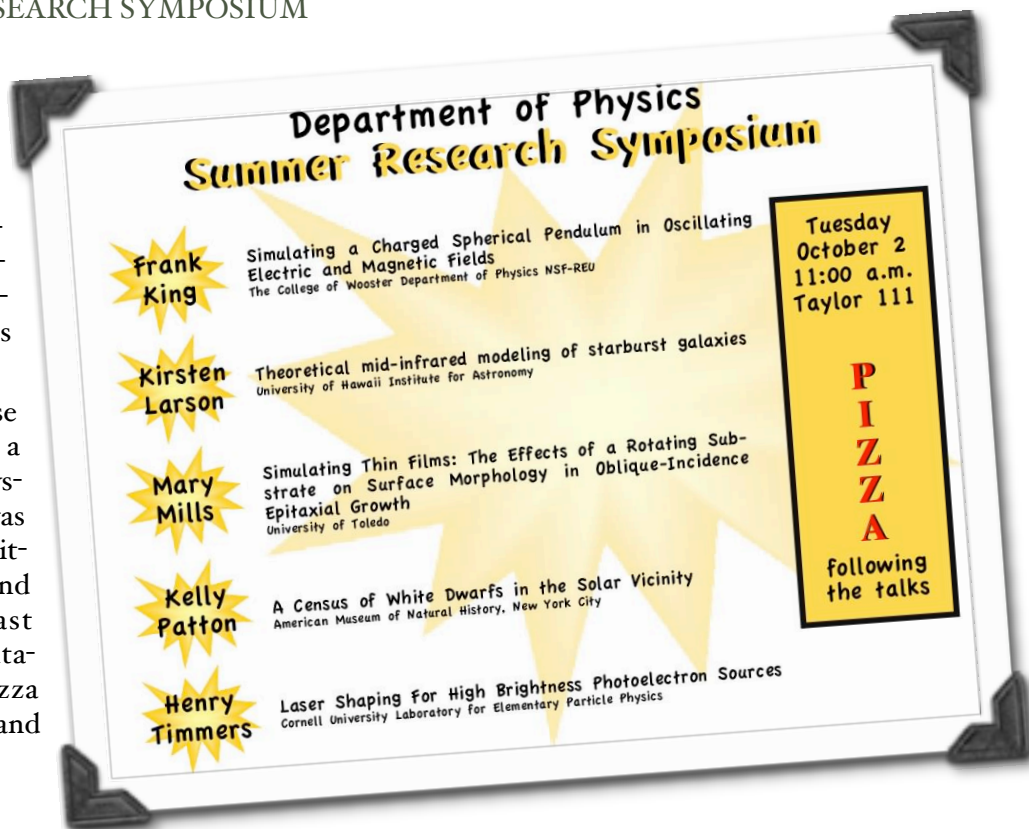
We pause for a snapshot at Tower City. LRBT: Heather Moore, Mike Winters, Mark Wellons, Evan Heidtman, Robby Daniels, John Lindner, Kirsten Larson, Frank King, Kelly Patton, Mary Mills, Henry Timmers, Bridget Kraynik



## STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

For the past few years, more and more Physics majors from Wooster have spent their summers doing research. This year, the SPS presented the second annual summer research symposium, featuring five majors giving presentations about their research.

The topics were diverse and interesting, and drew a good-sized crowd from physics and related fields. It was great to learn about the exciting science our friends and classmates were doing last summer. After the presentations, we sponsored a pizza lunch for the presenters and audience.



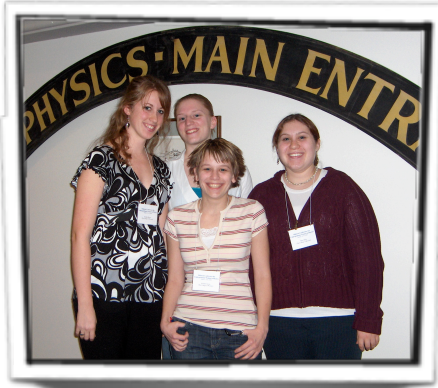
## TAYLOR BOWL XXI

The Physics department of Wooster, occupying the bottom two floors of Taylor Hall, have long held a healthy rivalry with the Math and Computer Science department, which occupies the second and third floors. Every year, both departments gather in the basement of the student union building for the event to decide once and for all which department is superior: a bowling competition.

Named Taylor Bowl, the nineteen-year-old contest took place yet again this year. Unfortunately for SPS, Math/CS was victorious with an average score of 113.2 against Physics' of 107.3. Better luck next year; don't give up SPS!

Wooster SPS at Taylor Bowl. LRBT: John Lindner, John Gamble, Mateo Chinchilla, Mark Zimmerman, Averell Gatton, Mark Wellons, Martha Roseberry, Robby Daniels, Heather Moore, Mary Mills, Kelly Patton, Joe Thomas, Alison Huff, Mike Winters, Frank King, Kirsten Larson, Henry Timmers





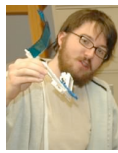
WOMEN IN PHYSICS CONFERENCE

Four of our members: Heather Moore, Kelly Patton, Kirsten Larson, and Mary Mills, attended the first Midwest Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics. The event was hosted by the University of Michigan, and was designed to encourage women to apply to graduate school.

The conference, which was held concurrently with similar conferences at Yale and USC, gave undergraduate women an increased awareness of current research in Physics, greater familiarity with graduate school, and useful resources for success in graduate school. It also let them network with other women in Physics, and introduced them to women who had succeeded in Physics.

2007-2008 Officers

JOHN GAMBLE



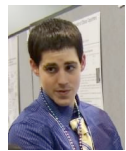
President. John is a member of the class of 2008. He was a Physics and Math double major, and will attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison next year to start graduate school in Physics.

KELLY PATTON



Vice President. Kelly is a member of the class of 2008. She was a Physics major, and will attend North Carolina State University next year to start graduate school in Physics.

HENRY TIMMERS



Treasurer. Henry is a member of the class of 2009, and will be a senior Physics major at Wooster next year.

KIRSTEN LARSON



Secretary. Kirsten is a member of the class of 2008. She was a Physics major, and will be attend the University of Hawaii next year to start graduate school in Astronomy.

JOHN LINDNER



Advisor. Dr. Lindner is the Moore professor of Astronomy and chair of the Physics department at Wooster. He came to Wooster in 1988.

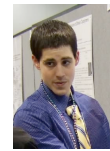
2008-2009 Officers

HEATHER MOORE



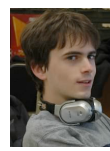
President. Heather is a member of the class of 2010, and will be a junior Physics major at wooster next year.

HENRY TIMMERS



Vice President. Henry is a member of the class of 2009, and will be a senior Physics major at Wooster next year.

FRANK KING



Treasurer. Frank is a member of the class of 2009, and will be a senior Physics and Math double major at Wooster next year.

MARY MILLS



Secretary. Mary is a member of the class of 2009, and will be a senior Physics major at Wooster next year.

JOHN LINDNER



Advisor. Dr. Lindner is the Moore professor of Astronomy and chair of the Physics department at Wooster. He came to Wooster in 1988.