

Marsh White Report – Hartnell College 2012

For the Marsh White award, the Hartnell College physics club proposed an expansion of our annual Physics Olympics. We wanted to invite other clubs to conduct a second event, which would be centered around college students versus the usual event which is predominantly attended by local high school students.

We had major difficulties recruiting other clubs to attend. Despite repeated attempts to contact other local chapters, we had little success.

On the bright side, we were able to get a cohort of Hartnell alums from UC Santa Cruz to attend :

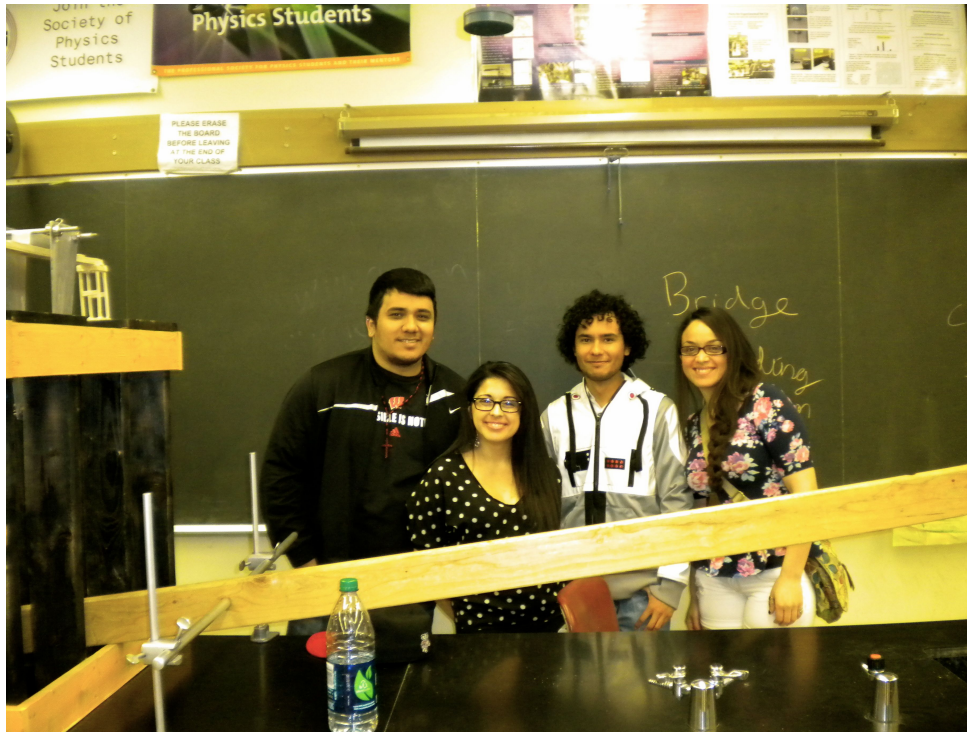


Figure 1: Juan Ledesma, Joanna Flores, Jose Lopez, and Soledad Zamora ready to watch the bridge competition.

In addition we added a robotics piece to the physics olympics which attracted several new high schools to the olympics. The students programmed Boe-Bots to compete in a two-stage line following competition.



Figure 2: Two high school students from Soledad high school make some final tweaks to their Boebots before the line following competition.

The physics show at lunchtime was tremendously successful again this year. The ice cream social is quickly becoming a popular annual tradition. After the ice cream was handed out, the demo show began. We included the harmonic pendulum, nitrogen cannon, and the bed of nails demo.



Figure 3: Hartnell students Roxanna Ramos and Toni Jimenez handout ice cream to eager students waiting for the start of the physics show at noon.



Figure 4: At the noontime demo show, co-advisor to the physics club, Tito Polo (far right) assists the physics club officers in preparing the nitrogen cannon.



Figure 5: Leo Osornio, physics club president, works with a local high school student holding a water balloon with tongs to demonstrate just how cold liquid nitrogen really is.

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The budget of \$300 covered several important elements of the physics olympics. We spent \$100 on the ice cream social. Another \$100 went to a pizza lunch. We spent the remainder on supplies for the nitrogen cannon including nitrogen, dry ice, and plastic balls.

This year the club did not exactly complete its mission with the Marsh White award. We really wanted use the olympics to bond with other SPS chapters. We did succeed in extending the activities of the Olympics, such as the robotics events, and even got some current students of UC Santa Cruz to attend. As per our goals from last year, and our continuing mandate, we preserved old traditions while implementing and propagating new ones. With any luck the olympics will still be going strong for another 30 years!