

Physics Outreach

On February 19, 2019 the Department of Physics at Sam Houston State University hosted around 60 Houston-area physics students from Stephen F. Austin Senior High School and Spring Woods High School. The students were able to experience Sam Houston's student life by participating in various activities such as a full campus tour led by the SAMbassadors, a trip through the Raven Village and Piney Woods Residence Halls, and an admissions overview facilitated by Visitor Services. To top it off, the students were able to sit in on multiple courses with Professors Barry Friedman, James Dent, William Shepherd, and Physics Chair Joel Walker. They were also able to experience a physics lab, under the supervision of graduating senior, Clayton Ellinwood. The students were able to experience the University not only visually and physically through hands-on activities such as labs and lectures, but were also able to get a taste of Sam Houston, by eating lunch at General's Market. The students were accompanied by their instructors Timothy Johnson, Wilbert Banks, and Deborah Wilkes. The students and teachers were gifted an SHSU bag with important campus and enrollment information, as well as a souvenir slide rule from the Physics Department. Several students mentioned that they were considering enrolling at Sam Houston in hopes of obtaining a physics degree, starting Fall 2019 and 2020. Timothy Johnson, from Stephen F. Austin Senior High School, provided positive feedback, saying "It was a great day for our students, college counselors, and myself. The lab time and boot camp class was great for my AP Physics students and they had a real feel for what it is like to be a student in science/physics." Dr. Joel Walker, the Chair of Physics, wanted to give a special thanks to Dr. John Wilson, who planned and coordinated all of the department's arrangements, as well as to Sarah Browning and Courtney Chastine with Visitor Services, who sponsored this event as part of the campus Exploring College Education and Life (Excel) program. Instructors interested in a tour for their classes, and/or interested students, are invited to contact Dr. John Wilson at jfw008@SHSU.EDU.

Photo: Sarah Browning



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