

We had one Saturday physics event during the fall of 2016. On October 29, Prof. Amin (Rice U.) gave a lecture on cosmology titled "'Seeing" the Invisible: Dark Matter and Dark Energy in our Cosmos'. It was very well received by an attendance of more than 70 students and teachers from the greater Houston Area.

Unfortunately, at the start of the spring semester, our local Quarknet program suffered a tremendous loss with Marj Corcoran's untimely and tragic death. Frank Geurts expressed a strong interest in the continuation of the Quarknet program at Rice. Thanks to the excellent support from the Quarknet leadership at Notre Dame and Fermilab, he has since assumed the role of PI for the local program. Special acknowledgements go out to Mitchell Wayne (ND), Shane Wood (ND), Anne Zakas (ND), Marge Bardeen (FNAL), and Robert Baker (FNAL) for their support and helpful suggestions.

The Houston Area teachers have been informed of Frank's intent to continue the program. At the same time, he has also reached out to his physics faculty colleagues at Univ. of Houston to develop plans in the upcoming Fall that will continue the collaboration on this important outreach program.

A one-week workshop was held on the Rice campus from June 26-30, 2016. We had 12 teachers in attendance each day. In the first half of the workshop, Quarknet fellow Nate Unterman organized a 3-day cosmic workshop. Especially teachers that have a Quarknet-supplied Cosmic Ray Detector (CRD) were invited to bring it to the campus. The teachers made use of the new physics undergraduate lab to test and calibrate those detectors and at the same time build fixtures that allow for the detectors to participate in the Cosmic Ray Eclipse Project.

The 2nd half of the teacher workshop was organized by Quarknet fellow Shane Wood and involved two days of the LIGO e-lab. Throughout the workshop three lectures by Rice faculty were given. Dr. Sazykin talked about his work on space weather, prof. Padley on discussed the Higgs boson, and prof. Toffoletto talk about the physics of music.

Part of our efforts towards the workshop involved a re-inventory of existing CRD units in the Houston Area. We are happy to report that all nine units are accounted for of which five were brought to this year's workshop.