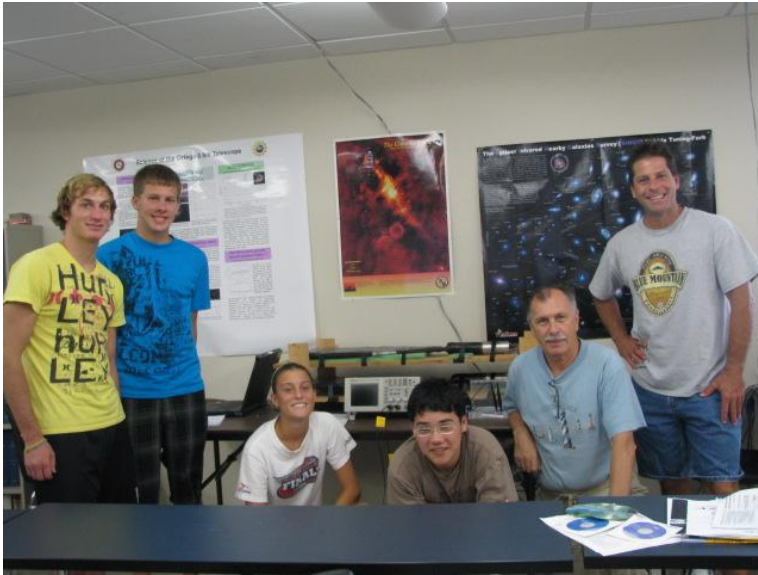


July 21, 2009

Florida Institute of Technology sponsored its annual Quarknet workshop in the Physics and Space Sciences building from June 15 until July 21st. This was the sixth year for the event. There were four teachers from local high schools all of which have previously attended Quarknet workshops. Mr. Joe Estevez teaches Physics and Science Research at Melbourne high school, Mr. Henry Helwig teaches Honors Physics at Cocoa Beach high school, Mr. Mike O'Donnell teaches Science Research and Biology at Palm Bay high school and Mr. Joseph Laub teaches Biology and Integrated Science III at Melbourne high. The teachers enjoyed presentations from FIT's faculty. Topics ranged from "high energy particles" to "Space Weather" to philosophy of education in different countries. Speakers included Dr. Terry Oswalt, Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi, Dr. Eric Perlman, Dr. Niescja Turner, Dr. Sam Durrance, Dr. Ming Zhang and Dr. Hamid Rassoul. Between presentations teachers worked with the cosmic ray detectors and local high school students.





In addition to the teachers, four students from local high schools spent six weeks learning how the detectors work. The students designed experiments, collected data and created posters on the Quarknet sight. Students included Carlee Jones a junior from Melbourne high, Andrew Smith a freshman from Melbourne high, Robert Lenoci a junior from Palm Bay high and Zach Snyder also a junior from Palm Bay high. Studies included; Rain influence on flux, performance studies older PMT's vs. new, Day vs. Night flux study, tutorial on problems solved building a new detector, four paddle orientation study, and a study using water as variable to effect coincidence. Students were very excited to work with the detectors at a research facility and hope to participate in 2010. Two of the students will use the detectors as part of their science research project in the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Thank you for providing us with this unique, enjoyable experience.

Mentor/Lead Teacher: Laszlo Baksay, Joseph B. Laub