

Physics of the Atomic Nuclei (PAN)  
Program @ MSU 2008



The 15th annual PAN outreach program at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) welcomed seven high school science teachers and one graduate student during the full two weeks for instructors, along with 24 high school students - 16 young men and 8 young women - representing five different states. The PAN experience provides participants with opportunities to learn about research in one of the top rare-isotope laboratories in the world, gain introduction to the fascination of astrophysics, cosmology, and nuclear science, and perform their own nuclear physics experiments.

In addition to faculty lectures on basic nuclear science, as well as current research projects such as LHC, MoNA collaboration, and Type Ia Supernovae, PAN teams used the Modular Neutron Array (MoNA) to detect neutrons from a radioactive source and then cosmic rays. The experiments they conducted much more closely matched actual research underway at NSCL, and marked a departure from previous PAN activities that revolved around constructing cosmic ray detectors. Students were also involved in a poster session to end the week.



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