

my favourite being the glass of water trick – except that Clare used a metre-long tube! Seeing several litres of water apparently held in place by a cardboard beer mat raised another ‘wow!’ from the audience, enhanced by seeing all that water cascade into a bucket as the beer mat was removed.

Wowing the audience

The penultimate demonstrator was Ken Zetie and he had a really simple idea, which again raised a ‘wow!’ from the audience. He used a piece of drainpipe on an overhead projector to demonstrate

circular motion. Ken also had a very nifty demo of P and S waves that was taken back to another school and developed further within days of the lecture.

Unfortunately the finale contained very little to see – but David Smith still managed to make jaws drop. There wasn’t really a wow factor here; it was more utter amazement. If you haven’t tried Paul Gluck’s Singing Rod demonstration then see *Phys. Educ.* **40** (5) 417–8. David Smith has obviously practised this demonstration until he has it down to a fine art. To be sitting in a large lecture hall

packed full of people looking at a 2 m aluminium rod, which appears to be doing nothing but is filling the entire space with a high-pitched ringing sound, was a fantastic experience – you really have to hear it to believe it.

For me this was a tremendously enjoyable experience. Usually I’m taking part, but being able to sit back and enjoy the demonstrations made this one of the highlights of my year. If you’re at the 2007 ASE conference make sure you don’t miss us.

Gary Williams

SCIENCE ON STAGE

Greek scientists serve up a treat



Science on Stage provides the perfect platform for science teachers to exchange methods and ideas.

The Science on Stage programme offers European science teachers the chance to exchange successful and innovative teaching methods and materials. The goal is to strengthen the awareness and interest of young people in science and technology by increasing the attractiveness of science lessons through the promotion of exciting ideas. Competitions, workshops and events, organized by national steering committees, have already

and will continue to take place in 29 participating European countries throughout 2005, 2006 and 2007. These activities will raise awareness of best practices in science teaching and identify exceptional teaching projects and outstanding educators.

Science on Stage is organized by the seven intergovernmental European research organizations in the EIROForum partnership: CERN, EFDA, EMBL, ESA, ESO,

ESRF and ILL. It is an integral part of the NUCLEUS programme for science education, sponsored by the European Commission. Science on Stage is also supported by the European Physical Society and the European Association for Astronomy Education.

The main Greek event of the Science on Stage programme was an exhibition and a contest about laboratory constructions and educational materials. Called Science

for Humanity, the contest was open to teams of students and teachers from Greek high schools. In the initial phase of the contest, the steering committee selected 70 projects for the main event, which took place in the premises of the National Research Foundation of Athens on 30 September and 1 October 2005.

During the two-day event, all the selected projects were shown to students, teachers and the general public. The event was widely publicized, and 2000 people attended. In addition, several public lectures were given, culminating with the presentation 'Science education initiatives of EMBL and EIROForum' given by Alexandra Manaia, science education officer of ELLS/EMBL, an official representative of EIROForum. The main event was organized by the Laboratory Centre of Physical Sciences of Aigaleo and the Greek



'The art of making wine' was a hit at Science on Stage in Greece.

National Steering Committee.

'The art of making wine' was a highly successful all-day event organized and hosted by the Laboratory Center of Physical Sciences of Aigaleo and held on 10 October. The 800 participants, including 600 students, prepared must by pressing grapes, produced tsipouro by distillation and enjoyed hand-made traditional sweets made of must. Talks were also

given about the history of wine-making and the science behind it. In addition, 30 students wrote and performed a play and read out poems about wine.

Eugenia Tsitopoulou-Christodoulides head of the Laboratory Center of Physical Sciences of Aigaleo, Athens, and coordinator of the Greek National Steering Committee

MEETING

Astronomy event will discuss education

This year's National Astronomy Meeting (NAM2006) will be held at the University of Leicester. Again there will be a session on astronomy and space in the classroom.

Following a review of space and astronomy education and outreach in the UK by Prof. Martin Barstow, and developments with Internet-based access to telescopes via the National Schools' Observatory and the Faulkes Telescope Project, the UK is extremely well placed in this field. More than 20 school-teachers attended last year's meeting in Birmingham, witnessing a variety of presentations that culminated with *Physics Education*

editor Gary Williams standing on a desk swinging a basket of (false) eggs at a terrified assistant!

Attendance at the education session of NAM2006 is open to teachers and school students at no cost, and will be held on Friday 7 April from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The session will be followed by a buffet lunch sponsored by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council and the Faulkes Telescope Project. There will be free resources for educators and demonstrations of the Faulkes Telescope North in Maui and of educational software (including the new Starry Night Education

package and the National Schools' Observatory software).

The astronomy education and outreach session is being organized by Dr Paul Roche of Cardiff University – contact Paul on paul.roche@astro.cf.ac.uk for further information. There will be display space available for posters, and plenty of opportunities to meet fellow educators and astronomers from around the UK.

For further information on the NAM 2006 meeting, visit the website at www.nam2006.le.ac.uk/index.shtml.

Paul Roche