Physics STAIRSTEP organized a short visit at West Brook HS in Mr. Lyle Goines’ physics classroom at the end of the last period science class. There were 23 high school students in the class and their instructor. The students all received a package containing information about Lamar, about the College of Arts & Sciences, detailed information about the five STAIRSTEP programs, and a pen with the STAIRSTEP logo. We went at West Brook with five STAIRSTEP students, but Jessica Plaia, Keeley Townley-Smith, and Aaron Weatherford could not enter in the high-school because of some new rules enforced by the school. Only Sara-jeanne Vogler and Bryan Neal were let to enter the building along with their mentor, Cristian Bahrim.

The session started with an overview of the STAIRSTEP program and the five disciplines given by our mentor, Cristian Bahrim. He also gave examples of job opportunities and benefits of having a Bachelor's degree in Physics, Computer Science and Earth Space Sciences.

I presented my research on spectroscopy, with applications in astronomy. I emphasized the importance of this type of research and my positive experience in going to a conference in Austin, this past January, and about the undergraduate research award received from Sigma Pi Sigma just a couple of weeks ago.

Bryan Neal spoke regarding the phenomenon of electron diffraction and the analogy with the diffraction of light phenomenon. He gave a demonstration of the difference between light and electron diffraction using a magnet. Several of the HS students seemed in awe by individual demonstrations of light and electron diffraction.

At the end of the session, Mr. Goines extended STAIRSTEP an invitation to participate in their career day later this month. The event was successful and appreciated by the audience and the presenters.

Sara-jeanne Vogler (event coordinator)