I was in Cape Town from July 20, 2007 through August 4, 2007. My host was Dr. Delia Marshall from the Department of Physics at the University of the Western Cape. I accomplished the following during my visit.

I attended two classes of Dr. Marshall’s Physics Foundations course, one on projectile motion, the second on circular motion. The Foundations course is a remedial course for disadvantaged colored and black students, as part of an effort to prepare these students for college course work. During these two classes, I assisted Dr. Marshall in answering student questions. Given that there were 106 students in the class, lots of assistance was needed. After attending these two classes, I presented a lecture/demonstration class on special relativity, with plenty of student questions and student participation. I quickly realized that remedial education is a crucial issue in order for more blacks and coloreds to participate in the South African economy. And in the United States, we face a similar problem of trying to increasing black and Latino participation in a society that is ever more technologically driven. I suggested to Dr. Marshall that she and I consider a joint project on remedial teaching of physics students in both South Africa and the United States.

I also attended a physics lecture on simple harmonic motion for regular students. This lecture gave me a chance to compare the level of instruction to that here at UM-St. Louis. The levels were roughly comparable.

I also gave two colloquia to the Physics Department at the University of Western Cape, one on Bernoulli’s equation and the other on automobile technology. I gave a third colloquia on the Schon Affair at Stellenbosch University. All three colloquia were well received.

Finally, I spoke at length to Dr. Dirk Knoessen of the Physics Department at the University of Western Cape about his research work in solar cells, an area I am also interested in. I offered to do some characterization measurements on his samples. Hopefully, this can develop into successful collaborative research effort.