SSS Achievements
July 1, 2010 through August 15, 2011

I. Nine SSS Members were involved in the Youth Benefit Elementary School’s inaugural STEM Night. Two SSS members provided demonstrations and others served as guides for students. This will become a growing activity at HCPS (Harford County Public Schools) in the coming year.

II. Annually SSS Members help orchestrate and guide students for the HCPS TNT (Technology Needs Teens) day sponsored by SAIC and HCC. Students are guided to demonstrations in an experience that encourages them to consider a STEM career. Physics and Robotics demonstrations were provided by two SSS members this year.

III. An SSS member provided one of the first NMTC (Northeast Maryland Tech Council) Science Café presentations; it was on robotics. Another member serves on the planning committee for the coming year’s presentations for this popular event.

IV. The SSS provided a mentor for Science and Math Academy students in their senior year, and guided a student through his 2011 senior research project that is presented at the end of the school year at a major public formal review.

V. SSS members engaged incoming HCC students to help guide their initial foray into science by participating in the HCC Step-Up Program. Some members presented demonstrations to help stimulate interest in the physical sciences, while several others gave career talks.

VI. The first-ever HCC-HCPS teacher (K–12) training in Engineering, Earth/Environmental Science, and Biology/Chemistry took place with significant help from the SSS. The engineering curriculum was devised and mostly staffed by a SSS member, with SSS volunteers successfully teaching 70% of the week-long engineering short course. Another member arranged and taught a significant portion of the Earth/Environmental track.

VII. The SSS Scholarship program is an important part of the SSS promotion of STEM in Harford County. Two $2,500 transfer scholarships were awarded to help two highly-qualified HCC graduates continue their education to attain Bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering and applied mathematics.

VIII. A member represented the SSS on the HCPS STEM Advisory Committee during the past year. SSS input and advice helped guide HCPS decisions regarding STEM education, and the interaction will continue in the future.

IX. Presentations to the students of Harford County through other programs are becoming popular. Our members will be appearing and presenting activities to “ignite the spark of science” within the community.