So much happened in the physics department this year that we decided to tell the story with pictures. Thanks to Shawn Ballard and Ashley Stewart for putting this edition of the paper together. Everyone should be in awe of Shawn's mad powerpoint skills, mastered during her successful honors thesis defense.
This year’s Haunted Lab was a huge success. Children came to the spooky Physics building for fun physics demos and as much nitrogen ice cream as they could eat. Also, no fall semester would be complete without shooting coke all over the place to see just how volatile Mentos really are.

Top: Loads of diet coke and Mentos to fizz-explode; Haunted Lab 2007; Dr. Stewart puts the Mentos to work
Bottom: Tons of people at Haunted Lab; Rachel Lee, puppy and goddess of liquid nitrogen ice cream; pouring out the leftover liquid nitrogen
For Spring Break this year, Chris and Misti decided to get hitched. Their wedding had everything a physics wedding needs: liquid nitrogen ice cream at the reception, frozen and shattered beautiful bouquets, and Dr. Stewart dancing to Sir Mix a Lot’s “Baby Got Back”. Pictured clockwise from top left: wedding cake; Josiah Walton, Shawn Ballard, and Elaine Christman; Jesse Haney and Ashley Stewart- the next to get hitched if you believe what they say about catching bouquets; Chris and Misti’s first dance as a married couple; Chris and Misti’s next dance as a married couple with Jesse and Ashley; Elaine Christman, Josiah Walton, and Dr. Stewart.
This year’s guest lecturers were all superb. They covered a wide range of topics including how the universe is going to end, how to be the best physicist you can be until it does, a bunch of cool stuff about rainbows, and much much more!

Leftmost - Lawrence M. Krauss, Middle top - Dr. Robert Greenler, middle bottom - Dr. Robert H. Austin, rightmost - Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle
In addition to all the speakers and banquet events, the Physics department welcomed a new machine into its bosom for the Centennial. The device uses simple machines to make tons of noise from its home in the entry foyer. So far no one has gotten tired of pushing the button.

Top: Even babies love the new machine. This one couldn’t stop cooing about how awesome it is. Bottom left: The machine provides fun for all ages! Bottom right: While physics students may love the machine, they are always up for some food.
This year’s April meeting of the American Physical Society happened in thrilling St. Louis. Dr. Stewart, Jennifer Campbell, and Shawn Ballard presented posters at the meeting. SPS members came to hear talks about physics and see the sights. Overall the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all; one student even went so far as to describe the meeting as “Really nifty!” and give a thumbs up.

Top left - St. Louis Arch; Top right - Shawn’s poster; Bottom left - Dr. Stewart’s poster; Bottom right - APS People: Matt McKnight, Matt Naglak, Shawn Ballard, Josiah Walton, Rachel Lee, Belinda Hindley, Dr. John Stewart, Nathan Willems, A.J. Salois
Clockwise from top left: Rachel Lee, Nathan Willems, Shawn Ballard, AJ Salois, and Belinda Hindley at the St. Louis Arch Museum Store; Matt Naglak, Rachel Lee, Nathan Willems, et. al. walking to the Arch from the conference hotel; Jennifer Campbell, Nathan Willems, AJ Salois, Matt McKnight, Josiah Walton, Matt Naglak, and Rachel Lee in the super swanky conference hotel; Matt McKnight, Josiah Walton, and Matt Naglak fly by night beneath the Arch.
Proof that hard work pays off. Congratulations to Elaine Christman, Ashley Stewart, Josiah Walton, Matt Naglak, and Christine Nicholson for their achievements and recognition by the Honors College. Pictured: Dr. Julia Kennefick, Dr. Lin Oliver, Elaine Christman, Ashley Stewart, Josiah Walton, Dr. Gay Stewart, and Christine Nicholson.
No matter how nicely she asks you, no matter how sweet she looks, don’t fall into the trap. Kat Stewart has mad basketball skills and can leave even the most experienced physicists defeated and sobbing. Clockwise from top left: Jesse Haney, Kyle Haney, Shawn Ballard, Josiah Walton and William Lewis; general deliciousness and milling about; extreme physics basketball!
There’s something about physicists that makes them like to blow things up. At this year’s picnic, we destroyed two large trash cans with liquid nitrogen bombs (which subsequently killed the grass around the area of detonation), froze and demolished countless heads of lettuce, and tried our very best to make a microwave explode. A new microwave has been donated for next year. Please bring items other than light bulbs, grapes, compact discs, and eggs to help us ruin our gift in the most exciting way possible.

Clockwise from top left: Frozen delights; busted trashcan; dead grass (proof that aliens exist?); Matt McKnight and Dr. Stewart smashing a head of lettuce baseball style.
Worth every bit of nitrogen.
Graduation, the moment we’ve all been waiting for. Clockwise from top left: Honors graduation preparation ceremony; Dr. Oliver, Elaine Christman, Dr. Gross, and Jared Ostmeyer; the main event!!!; and Dr. Gay Stewart and Belinda Hindley, overjoyed that all those years of hard work finally paid off. Congratulations graduates.
Pictured: 50 E+M students at the beginning of Spring 2008. This was the largest advanced undergraduate physics class in U of A history. Unfortunately, Adam cut his hair a few weeks into the class.