In the Beginning

There were frequent school visits to UNR campus

Demo Shows on campus

➢ For years K-12 students came to UNR on field trips through numerous outreach programs.
Dr. Bennum and Sandra-

Thank you for giving us a Physics show. We liked the plant in liquid nitrogen that shattered. We were electrified by the Van de Graaf Generator. We discovered that magnetized soda cans can be launched. Finally we looted Bill's bin for electronic parts.

Thank you,
The Hunter Lake Fourth Grades
Over time the numbers dwindled as budgetary constraints limited many schools, especially in “at risk” neighborhoods.
The donation of a retired, experimental electric shuttle started the “on the road” program.

A student “contest” developed the logo.
Science Fairs & and Science Days

- The early school visits were mostly science fair and science “days” at local schools.
- These shows were informal with the “audience in constant motion, all ages and chaotic with a mixture of “hands on” experiences and presentations.
PHYSICS ON THE ROAD
Workshop
February 2003

- Brought together physics faculty who were experienced in designing and providing year-round mobile physics displays and those who were interested in initiating similar outreach programs.

- The impetus for the workshop was the upcoming “World Year of Physics”, but the workshop had much broader impact for many of us who attended.

- Teachers from schools that had previously visited UNR and students who became teachers began to request classroom or multi-class demonstration shows.

- The word spread through the district and soon we had trouble meeting demand!
A Multi-class Show
Graduated to Middle School

The “old bus” had very limited range and speed and became unreliable.

The original donor, a department technician, found a newer model.
An outdoor science day with the new bus
The successful “World Year of Physics” grant allowed the purchase and development of new demos and also allowed us to “dress up” the new bus a bit!
Combining old and new we produced our new logo
Dear Drs. Bennum and Rodrigue,

Thank you so much for bringing the Magic Physics bus to Hunter Lake. The students had a wonderful time viewing physics firsthand.

Angelina, Classmate

November 13, 2007

Even “Tall Kids” LOVE hair raising experiences!
Teacher involvement REALLY improves the “show”
Sometimes the spaces are crowded
Pumping iron & making light
Mr Maestro- Drum roll please

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
RENO

David H. Bennum, Ph.D.

with the
Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award 2005

For his vision, dedication and leadership in university outreach.
This award is given in recognition of outstanding work in providing outreach that benefits the citizens of Nevada, and for providing opportunities for students and faculty to build a culture that encourages lifelong learning at the university and in the society as a whole.
Some new equipment can be used for UNR classes and outreach.

The other half of the program.
Two “pre-college” summer interns & a parent helping with “first light”

Teacher workshops form future networks
Sun Photometry (a “hot topic”) can be done by elementary school classes.
We have started “Stars on the Road” as an extension of our Road Projects
“Astronomy Night Out” at an elementary school
This is better than a gameboy

Or maybe not!
Some sites are better than others!!

Is this the wrong end to look through?