

# Visiting SMU

Weekly Report 1/15/18 to 1/21/18

This week was truly spectacular for one amazing reason: I had my first mentor visit. When I had originally joined ISM, I thought that the program was structured more around the idea of projects, like the Original Work and Final Product, and I believed that the mentorship component was a guide in jungle of knowledge. This fact was quite appealing to me as I have a creator mindset, which basically means that I like taking various objects and messing around with them to create something spectacular, hence the projects.

However, this past week changed that. Prior to going on the visit, I was jumbled with various emotions such as nervousness, anxiety, stress, but most of all, excitement, and I am very glad that I got an enormous exposure with that latter on this visit. The experience was amazing, from learning about college life and the various buildings across SMU's beautiful campus to even teaching a few physics students about kinematics, which I am kind of proud of.

I believe that my favorite time came when my mentor and I entered the dark matter lab. The entire atmosphere of the lab seemed so intellectual and full of the teachings of the men who shaped our understanding of the very universe. Not only that, that location was also where both my mentor and I geeked out about my final product, discussing all of the modules I can include and the capabilities of my project.

I learned a great deal that day, which reminded me a lot of my quote for this program. Despite many hardships I faced this year in the program, I endured through them, and now, I have the opportunity to see physics unfolded before my very eyes.