

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAR12 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**SPS Fabric of the Cosmos Cafe**<sup>1</sup> ANISH CHAKRABARTI, Drury University — Hosted by Brian Greene and based on his best-selling book of the same title, *The Fabric of the Cosmos* is a new four- part NOVA series that explores the deepest mysteries of space and time. The program was kicked-off by 30 “Cosmic Cafes” being held around the country funded by an NSF grant which allows SPS-NOVA to fund SPS chapters for these events. During the summer I assisted in planning this kick-off, reviewing and suggesting revisions of resources related to the NOVA series to make them relevant to an SPS audience. I also got to organize and moderate the first “Cosmic Cafe.” The Cosmic cafe that I organized was discussion based, with our speaker Dr. James Gates starting with a short talk and then opening the floor up for questions. By organizing a “Cosmic cafe,” I got real hand experience about the challenges an SPS chapter would face while organizing a cafe themselves. Based on my experience I shall also discuss the effectiveness of the first ever themed science cafe blitz. A science café is an informal discussion with an expert in a very casual location, usually a restaurant, coffee shop, or a bar. A science cafe is mostly discussion based, but has a lot of freedom for the format. A “Cosmic” cafe is a science cafe which is based around the topics discussed in the documentary “The Fabric of the Cosmos.”

<sup>1</sup>Society of Physics Students

Anish Chakrabarti  
Drury University

Date submitted: 10 Nov 2011

Electronic form version 1.4