



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

Project Title	2019 Sigma Pi Sigma Induction and Dinner
Name of School	Lamar University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	643
Total Amount Awarded	\$500
Project Leader	Alek Hutson

Summary of Award Activity

On February 28, 2019 Lamar University held an induction ceremony including a special dinner to honor the new inductees. The chapter partnered with the university's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences who provided traditional Caribbean cuisine and catering for the event. Five new members were inducted into the society which significantly improved the membership in our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter. Before this event we had only one member (Alek Hutson). In addition, the Director of the Society of Physics Students, Dr. Brad Conrad, kindly offered as an invited speaker, Dr. Rebecca Forest, from the University of Houston. She provided a very nice presentation about the impact of the Sigma Pi Sigma organization at her university. Dr. Cristian Bahrim, our SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma advisor, presented a slide show about the upcoming PhysCon event (received from Dr. Brad Conrad), and offered a historic review of the Sigma Pi Sigma organization in the United States. We had over 100 participants, including parents, a large number of students and faculty, the Associate Dean of College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Boone, and the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Das.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

The induction ceremony was held in the main lecture hall of the Archer Physics building at Lamar University. Our guest speaker was Dr. Rebecca Forest, from the University of Houston (please the flyer of her talk at the end of this report). She provided an excellent talk on the impact of the Sigma Pi Sigma organization at her university. Next, the induction ceremony itself was held and directed by the chapter's faculty advisor Dr. Cristian Bahrim. There were five inductees selected for the Sigma Pi Sigma organization: Levi Snowden, Luis Romero, Steven Williford, Bonnie Ruten, and Justin Kirk. The only absent was Justin Kirk because of medical reasons. The criteria of selection were based on the standard national criteria, and a GPA greater than 3.30 for students of our College of Arts & Sciences.

After the induction, the new members and their family and friends were directed to a room on the second floor where a special dinner was served. The dinner consisted of traditional Caribbean cuisine catered by students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Overall the project was a huge success. More than 100 students, faculty, parents and relatives have participated to the induction ceremony and about 40 people participated to the Caribbean dinner. The dinner provided has added sense of honor to the ceremony, while also establishing a symbiotic connection outside of the Department of Physics.

Impact Assesment: How the Project/Activity/Event Met the Purpose of the Award

An induction ceremony was held primarily to bring new members into our Lamar University’s Sigma Pi Sigma chapter. This goal was met with the induction of five new members into the chapter. In addition, a connection to our university was made with the inclusion of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences who provided an excellent dinner. Attention was brought to the chapter through an announcement in the Lamar News about the event (<https://www.lamar.edu/events/2019/02/sigma-pi-sigma-induction-ceremony.html>).

Impact

Key Metrics and Reflection

Who was the target audience of your project?	Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).	Inductees: 5 Attendees: approx. 100 to the induction ceremony and 40 to the special dinner.
How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	1 active member and 5 inductees
Was the amount of money you received from Sigma Pi Sigma sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked and how would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	The funding was sufficient to carry out the induction ceremony and dinner.
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	In the future, we hope to have induction ceremonies at least every other year.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	Our chapter partnered with Lamar’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences who provided the dinner.
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	I would require that inductees commit to joining the chapter earlier, in fall for an induction carry on in spring. In the end we were in a rush to fill out all the necessary paperwork for new members.

Expenditures

A total of \$400 was paid to department of Family and Consumer Sciences who provided the food, table clothes, and catering for the dinner. Another \$100 was paid to our guest speaker, Dr. Rebecca Forrest for her travel expenditures. The money came from the 2019 Sigma Pi Sigma award.

Expenditure Table

Item	Please explain how each expense relates to your project as outlined in your proposal.	Cost
Food including catering	The dinner provided incentive for people to attend the ceremony while also facilitating a connection with organizations outside of the chapter	\$400
Expenditures for guest speaker	Improved the ceremony	\$100
	Total of Expenses	\$500

Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony

Department of Physics

Special Guest

Dr. Rebecca Forest



Department of Physics, University of Houston

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 5:00-6:00pm – Location: Archer 108

Dr. Rebecca Forrest is an Instructional Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Houston (UH). Her research includes Physics Education Research on effective teaching methods, such as inquiry-based teaching, as well as X-ray Diffraction analysis of epitaxial opto-electronic materials. She teaches introductory and advanced undergraduate physics courses, and has been awarded several UH teaching awards. Dr. Forrest will discuss the UH chapters of the Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma. The UH chapters and the national organization emphasize opportunities for undergraduate physics majors to participate in research and out-reach activities, and job opportunities for those with a degree in physics.

All students and faculty/staff are cordially invited.

Activity Photos



Dr. Rebecca Forrest speaks to students during the induction ceremony in the physics honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma on, Feb. 28, in Archer Physics Building. UP photo by Noah Dawlearn



Dr. Cristian Bahrim reads the oath to the inductees.



Inductee is Mr. Levi Snowden, with Alek Hutson, the Sigma Pi Sigma President and the advisor Dr. C. Bahrim.



Inductee is Ms. Bonnie Ruten, with Alek Hutson, the Sigma Pi Sigma President and the advisor Dr. C. Bahrim.



Inductee is Mr. Luis Romero, with Alek Hutson, the Sigma Pi Sigma President and the advisor Dr. C. Bahrim.



Inductee is Mr. Steven Williford, with Alek Hutson, the Sigma Pi Sigma President and the advisor Dr. C. Bahrim.

