



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

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| Project Title                 | Saint Joseph's University Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ) induction |
| Name of School                | Saint Joseph's University                                |
| Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number | 85   |
| Total Amount Awarded          | \$500  |
| Project Leader                | Nathaniel O / Julia Oseka                                |

### Summary of Award Activity

On May 3rd, 2023, five physics majors were inducted into the Saint Joseph's University Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter. It was the first joined induction ceremony after the merger of the University of the Sciences into Saint Joseph's University, and thus, the merger of both ΣΠΣ chapters. The event was attended by the Department's Chair, Physics faculty, fellow students, the inductees, an honorable speaker with his escort, and a distinguished speaker, who joined us via Zoom.

# Statement of Activity

## Overview of Award Activity

The Induction ceremony took place on the evening of May 3, 2023, in a banquet hall on the Hawk Hill Campus of Saint Joseph's University. All Physics students, faculty, and staff were invited to attend, and the SPS advisor Roberto Ramos sent out invitations to the alumni of the  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  chapters of Saint Joseph's University and the University of the Sciences, which officially merged with SJU this past summer. The majority of the funding for the project was used to cater the event and decorate the room (also done through the catering company). The program started with welcome remarks delivered by the Project Coordinator - Julia Oseka '25. The remarks were followed by a message from the chair of the Physics department - Dr. Elia Eschenazi, a History of Sigma Pi Sigma delivered by SPS/ $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  Advisor - Dr. Roberto Ramos, and a presentation on SJU Physics accomplishments in the year 2022-2023 - done by Shayna Sit. Following the introductory speeches, our distinguished guest and speaker for the program - Dr. Kenneth Young '72 - a long-time benefactor and friend of the SJU Physics Department shared his story and wisdom with the induction attendees. The main speech was followed by a Q&A session with Prof. Young, which proved to be the highlight of the night for many students. Afterward, our second special guest - Dr. James McGroddy - an alumn of the Saint Joseph's University, shared his remarks with the attendees via Zoom. At this point of celebration, Dr. Ramos announced that both of our special alumni guests have been awarded an SPS Outstanding Service Award, which was handed (and shown via Zoom) to both recipients. Later, the special departmental and SPS awards were presented to the Physics students and, finally, the induction ceremony of the new  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  members took place. The  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  Advisor - Dr. Ramos read the charge to the inductees, and each of the members signed the Saint Joseph's University  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  chapter book. This year's  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  inductees of the Saint Joseph's University chapter included: Joseph Popp '24, Jessie Jin '25, Shayna Sit '25, Nathaniel O '25, and Julia Oseka '25. The response from the inductees was then delivered by Nathaniel O '25, after which Dr. Ramos officially closed the Induction Ceremony celebration.

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

The award granted to conduct this project allowed for an experience of building a stronger community among the physics students and with the faculty of the SJU Physics department, as well as, learning from experienced and highly successful SJU alumni: Dr. James McGroddy and Dr. Kenneth Young. Since the organization of the ceremony involved students from both campuses and the invited guest speakers also represented the alumni active on both merged universities, the event also proved to be a strong symbol of the new union between two learning communities coexisting together for the first time. The venue for the event, and the catering, made the celebration of a truly high stance - all participants: students, faculty staff, and alumni had a chance to experience this moment of grand distinction and appreciate the privilege of being able to be a part of such successful, academically- and socially-oriented, striving, and united community of Physicists.

When the participating students were asked to describe their favorite part of the event, one student said:

*"I really enjoyed listening to the alumni speakers and hearing about both the history of the department and their work after, alumni"*

This further shows the importance of inviting alumni to events such as this one, as they prove to be a source of great inspiration to the attending students.

Another student recalled that:

*"I enjoyed the presentation on the activities of the department and seeing how our students were involved both academically and outreach."*

This statement truly sums up the spirit of our department and the great focus we all have on not only succeeding academically, but also always pursuing social justice, and attending to the needs of our local community, which experiences a dramatic crisis in physics education, especially on Middle and High School levels.

### Key Metrics and Reflection

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| <p>Who was the target audience of your project?</p>  | <p>The target audience included the students, faculty and staff of the Physics Department of Saint Joseph University, as well as, the alumni of Saint Joseph University and the University of the Sciences, distinguished guest speakers.</p>  |
| <p>How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project?<br/>Please describe them (for example "3 alumni" or "10 physics majors").</p>   | <p>5 inductees, 5 professors, 2 speakers/guests (1 in person and 1 online), and 4 fellow Physics majors who were not getting inducted at this year's ceremony.</p>   |
| <p>How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?</p>   | <p>Julia Oseka prepared the Proposal Statement and oversaw the organization of the event, she delivered the opening and closing remarks and was the person of contact with the special guest speaker. Nathaniel O'SPS officer submitted the Proposal and was responsible for the promotion of the event. She delivered remarks of gratitude as a representative of the inductees. Syna SitSPS officer helped reserve the space for the induction and delivered a presentation on the activities of SPS, Nell Grabowski was the photographer for the event, Joseph F. introduced one of the speakers for the event.</p> |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>The money received from Sigma Pi Sigma was extremely helpful to carry out the induction activities. The grant covered the majority of the expenses, the rest being covered by the department. The funding was sufficient for the event.</p>   |

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| Do you anticipate repeating this project/ activity/ event in the future, or having a follow-up project/ activity/ event? If yes, please describe. | Yes, we anticipate repeating this event in the following years with an addition of a senior showcase and perhaps recognizing Physics students who excel in the field but are not majors in the department.  |
| What new relationships did you build through this project?  | The project allowed the participants to meet two alumni of the Physics department who specialize in two very different fields, with great personal success. Furthermore, the collaboration between students and faculty on that event yielded deepened relationships within and between those two groups. |
| If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?  | The event could have been advertised to a larger group of people, including parents and friends of the inductees. The cohort of inductees could also include majors from nearby institutions which do not have a ΣΠΣ chapter.   |

## Expenditures

### Expenditure Table

| Item  | Please explain how each expense relates to your project as outlined in your proposal.   | Cost            |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Catering warm and cold finger food, desserts, fruit, beverages, water | Catering the event made it possible to carry out the induction during the evening time, without compromising dinner, and added to the celebratory of the event. | \$548.12        |
| <b>Total of Expenses</b>  |   | <b>\$548.12</b> |

The extra expenditures (\$48.12) were covered by the Department of Physics at Saint Joseph University.

## Activity Photos



Image 1: Students, faculty, and guests enjoy dinner while listening to the special Q&A with Dr. Roberto Ramos, Young '72. (photo credit: Dr. Roberto Ramos)



Image 2: Dr. Kenneth Young receives the SPS Outstanding Service Award from SPS Advisor - Dr. Roberto Ramos.  
(photo credit: Dr. Roberto Ramos)



Image 3: Physics Senior - Dan Fauni '23 receives the Physics Department Service Award from the hands of the Department Chair - Dr. Elia Eschenazi. (photo credit: Dr. Roberto Ramos)



Image 4: Five  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  inductees (left to right): Shayna Sit, Joseph Popp, Julia Oseka, Jessie Jin, and Nathaniel O, pose for a picture before signing the  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  member book. (photo credit: Dr. Roberto Ramos)





Image 5: Physics Students pose for a photo with SJU Physics alumn, and a distinguished guest speaker - Dr. Kenneth Young. (photo credit: Dr. Roberto Ramos)

