



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	Saint Joseph's University Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ) induction ceremony.
Name of School	Saint Joseph's University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	[6186]
Total Amount Requested	\$600.00

Abstract

Saint Joseph's University Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ) induction is of the highest honors our physics majors can receive and is treated as such. A dinner will be hosted for all inductees and attendees. A guest speaker will give a presentation and alumni will be invited to speak. An overview of the physics department's activities for the academic year will also be presented.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

A dinner will be hosted in April, for which all SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma members as well as alumni will be invited to attend. To accommodate those who cannot attend, we plan to stream the event over Zoom so all who want to attend will have the opportunity to do so. The dinner will present the opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the professors as well as other SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma members. Along with the alumni, we plan to welcome a guest speaker from the physics and astronomy community to be in attendance to address the inductees and to speak on how physics has impacted them.

The major goal of this event is to provide a unique experience and reward those inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma honors society. The idea of having a prominent physicist guest speaker has been used in the past by our chapter and was viewed as a very fruitful and inspirational experience. This provides not just the inductees but all SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma members the opportunity to experience and enjoy this unique annual celebration. Beyond just the guest speaker, having the alumni come back to see the inducted students further builds on this experience. Additionally, having a presentation of the activities of the department for the past academic year highlights the involvement of inductees and current members, recognizing their efforts. By structuring the event in this manner, we aim to help promote the chapter to those just joining the university as it exemplifies that the department's graduates, current students, professors, and staff are continuously considered an integral part of the chapter and is demonstrative of the power of a strong network of physicists.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

The purpose of this award is to build awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma in both our local community and throughout the physics community. This event will accomplish this purpose by bringing together physicists from all different areas of the community, at various stages of their career. Firstly, by inviting alumni to return to see the induction and reconnect with the professors and other students, the event will reinforce the lasting influence of the SJU Sigma Pi Sigma chapter in the local Physics community and beyond. The alumni of our combined SJU and University of the Sciences chapter have moved throughout the local and greater physics community, and by reinforcing the importance of the Sigma Pi Sigma chapter to them, they will continue to raise awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma among their peers. Secondly, by having a guest speaker who is a part of the physics community the event will directly raise awareness of the importance of Sigma Pi Sigma not only to the students, but to the Philadelphia Physics community as a whole. This can be achieved by a coverage of the induction ceremony by The Hawk – our university's weekly newspaper.

By having both the guest speaker and alumni return for the induction ceremony, the meeting will emphasize the honor and the distinction of the induction of new members. By hearing about the journeys and success of the alumni and the guest speaker, students will start to understand the benefits of involvement in Sigma Pi Sigma, and the prestige of its members. Furthermore, by hearing about the activities of the department over the past academic year, students can learn about ways they can get involved with Sigma Pi Sigma and SPS and how their peers have earned this recognition. Through this very rewarding and unique experience more students will want to be accepted into Sigma Pi Sigma as they will now be aware of how rewarding and prestigious it is to be inducted. This event will also create a greater sense of pride within the chapter and through that, will encourage

the members to run more inter-chapter activities and a desire to run fundraisers to keep the chapter running with great effectiveness and student engagement.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

The personnel involved in managing this event and monitoring its progress will be the SPS elective board members alongside the SPS advisor. The elective board members and SPS advisor will oversee planning out logistics for the dinner, reaching out to the local alumni, and inviting a guest speaker to attend the event.

To ensure there is satisfactory attendance at the event, the SPS executive board will market the event to all SPS members multiple times throughout the semester. An emphasis will be placed on the unique opportunity to hear from a guest speaker and to meet notable alumni to induce excitement for the event. The communication to the members will take place in the form of emails, group messages, our weekly department newsletter, and our major meetings.

Each year, on average, two to six new members are inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, and last year saw five new students inducted. This year we hope to see a similar number of inducted students and expect to see this average continue to grow alongside our Physics department. Beyond the current members and those to be inducted this year, the attendance is expected to consist of faculty, staff, current students from the Physics department, and alumni.

Project Timeline

To give ample time for preparation, the guest speaker will be contacted and booked in the month of January. The venue and catering will be decided upon at the end of February. After finalizing the venue, invitations will be distributed among the department and alumni network. Reminders will be sent out at the end of March, and once more a week before the event, which will contain information on how to access the event online for those who cannot attend in person.

Project Evaluation Plan

Our success will be evaluated based on several key metrics including: the number of attendees compared to previous years, a short survey by those in attendance of how the event went, and the feedback provided by the guest speaker. The number of attendees indicates the success of our advertisements for the event and if we were able to encourage attendance. We will particularly be interested in our ability to engage the most recent additions to our physics student cohort. The short survey provides insight into how the event was perceived by attendees and gives them the opportunity to tell us what we can do better in future events for the members of our SPS chapter. Similarly, the feedback from the guest speaker on how the event was perceived from their perspective will indicate what changes may be needed in future events to better accommodate the speakers. Overall, these components will allow us to determine if the event was a success and accomplished its purpose.

Budget Justification

The listed budget contains the main expenses for the Sigma Pi Sigma induction. Most of the project award will be used for the venue and catering. Considering our goal to invite a high-quality speaker, we will need to ensure that the event is on par with high standards and is reflective of the prestige and professionalism of Sigma Pi

Sigma. We also hope that by investing in the venue and catering, we will create an enjoyable environment that encourages attendance by current students, alumni, and faculty alike. In recognition of our speakers, we also plan on providing plaques of appreciation to express our gratitude for their service and attendance. These plaques also develop the professionalism of the event. Further fundraising through SPS will be conducted to cover any additional other costs.