



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony and Banquet Dinner with Physics Alumni
Name of School	University of Maryland College Park
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	4155
Total Amount Requested	\$500

Abstract

We propose an induction ceremony featuring a dinner with alumni of the UMD Physics department. Before the dinner, we will interview alumni who come to the ceremony and create a video with their responses to our questions about their experiences as members of the Sigma Pi Sigma community.

Proposal Statement

The entire Proposal Statement should be no more than 2 pages, and organized as follows.

Overview of Proposed Project

During this year's Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony, we will invite UMD Sigma Pi Sigma alumni from around the country to come back to UMD and share their knowledge and advice with Sigma Pi Sigma inductees, members of the Society of Physics Students at UMD, and physics undergraduates in general during our induction ceremony. In order to give them a platform to reach a wider audience as well, we will also interview them about their experiences as physics graduates from the University of Maryland and as members of Sigma Pi Sigma. When inviting alumni to the ceremony, we will send them 3-4 short interview questions for them to answer. Once they arrive, we will interview them in person before the ceremony and record their answers on video. We will then create a video containing 2-3 answers from each alumni and post this video to our social media. By doing so, we will encourage undergraduate all physics majors who see the video, not only those at the University of Maryland, to join and be more active in the Sigma Pi Sigma community. The induction ceremony will consist of a banquet dinner for the physics undergraduates, alumni, and faculty.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

This project will raise awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma in the local community by allowing current physics majors to meet with alumni from Sigma Pi Sigma and learn from their experiences. These interactions will not only result in them learning how to navigate through career choices inside and outside academia from UMD alumni who have gone through the process, but will also allow them to understand the benefits of being part of the Sigma Pi Sigma community, which will encourage them to become members themselves. The video of the interviews that we carry out with physics alumni who are part of the Sigma Pi Sigma community will also allow us to showcase the way Sigma Pi Sigma touches the lives of physics graduates long after they have been inducted.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

The project will be planned by 3 members of the University of Maryland Society of Physics Students, and will be monitored through feedback by attendees after the induction ceremony. In order to market the project, we will make flyers advertising the event, send out email notifications requesting RSVPs to the event to the community of physics undergraduates, and make posts to our social media. We expect 15 current Sigma Pi Sigma and Society of Physics Students members and 10 new inductees to be present at the induction ceremony, along with at least 10 members of the undergraduate physics community to be present. 10 faculty members will be invited to the banquet dinner as well. Before the ceremony, emails will be sent out to UMD Physics alumni, and interview questions will be sent in advance to those who respond. When they arrive, we will interview them before the ceremony and record their responses on video. After the ceremony, we will compile their responses into one video.

Project Timeline

During February and March of 2018, we will send out emails to UMD Physics alumni, especially to those who are part of the Sigma Pi Sigma community, encouraging them to attend the induction ceremony. Emails will also be sent out to the undergraduate physics community and the Society of Physics Students at the University of Maryland during this time period to notify them of the induction ceremony and gather RSVPs. By the end of March, we will have finalized the list of alumni who will attend the event and will have sent them the interview questions. By mid-April, the details of the induction ceremony will be finalized. The ceremony will occur on May 1st, 2018.

Project Evaluation Plan

The main metric of success will be the feedback that we receive from the physics undergraduates who attend the ceremony, in terms of whether they follow up on the resources that we give them relating to SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma, and eventually become a part of the local Sigma Pi Sigma community. Their verbal feedback and results of a survey sent out after the ceremony will give us a preliminary measure of how well they responded to the exposure they had to Sigma Pi Sigma alumni at the induction ceremony. Another measure of how impactful our video interviews were will be the number of views that our video receives after being distributed through our social media platforms.

Budget Justification

Because we expect a large number of students, alumni, and faculty to be attending the ceremony, we are requesting \$500 to cover the majority of the costs associated with the food provided at the banquet dinner.