

Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony

*St. Mary's University ΣΠΣ Chapter
San Antonio, Texas*

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Amount Requested: \$500

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ABSTRACT

In an effort to revive the St. Mary's University Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, we propose to host a $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ induction ceremony and dinner during the same weekend as a public physics outreach performance hosted by our SPS chapter. A distinguished local alumni will be invited to the dinner.

ACTIVITY & BUDGET

We are seeking to revive our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. We have not had an induction ceremony since the year our chapter was started (2004). The group of students that are currently involved in our Society of Physics Students chapter are by far some of the best and most active students our department has seen in years and deserve to be recognized. Recently, several of our current officers decided that they would like to organize and perform a 1-hour long public outreach show on the St. Mary's University campus using dramatic demonstrations. They are particularly excited about building a Tesla Coil and Faraday cage apparatus and enthusiastically wrote a grant proposal to the Marsh White Award program. While this is a major undertaking, they are all extremely talented, animated upper level physics majors. I am confident that they have the energy, skills, motivation and determination that it takes to make this event a great success.

Since the outreach performance will likely be on a Saturday afternoon, as a perfect follow up to that outreach event, we propose to shortly thereafter (either the night of the performance or the following day) have a Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony and dinner. It will be a St. Mary's Physics Weekend full of fun, learning and recognition of much hard work! We will invite several recent graduates of our department to the performance and dinner. Also, in an effort to establish a collaborative relationship with a local research center, Southwest Research Institute, we will also seek to recognize an alumnus, Dr. James Burch, who is now a senior physicist there. He and two of his colleagues will be invited to the performance and Sigma Pi Sigma induction dinner. We approximate that their will be 28 people in attendance at the dinner (5 faculty, 3 guests, 20 students and recent alumni). We will use the proceeds of this award to fund the dinner and induction ceremony. Both the outreach performance and the induction dinner will take place during the fall of 2008.

Finally, as another way to recognize our outstanding physics majors, we propose to buy a large Sigma Pi Sigma plaque that will be prominently displayed in the foyer of our science building. Names of outstanding senior Sigma Pi Sigma inductees will be engraved on the plaque and recognized as "Outstanding Physics Majors".

BUDGET

Item	Cost
Food for dinner (28 people, \$15 per person)	\$420
Invitations & Decorations	\$20
Plaque	\$60