

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Sigma Pi Sigma Honor Society to Convene for 2004 Quadrennial Congress**

College Park, MD, July 15, 2004 – Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society, invites all members to convene for the 2004 Quadrennial Congress, October 15-16, 2004, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. Espousing the theme “Heritage and Promise,” the congress will be a working conference during which voting delegates from chapters nationwide discuss and make recommendations on issues such as ethics in physics and other topics related to the society. It will also be a celebration bringing members together to hear distinguished speakers, bestow society awards and induct honorary members.

This year’s Sigma Pi Sigma Congress is unique in two ways. First, it will serve as a kick-off event for the 2005 World Year of Physics, celebrating the centennial of Albert Einstein’s seminal work. Congress speakers, panel members and attendees will explore how Einstein’s 1905 contributions to physics still impact science today. Second, society membership encompasses a wide range of “hidden physicists,” physics-trained individuals who have followed a variety of career paths outside traditional physics, and are therefore not part of the mainstream physics community. The Congress will include a special poster session for society members to share experiences and insights related to their diverse career paths, and will provide a forum for their feedback and recommendations to the physics community.

A slate of distinguished speakers has been assembled for the 2004 Congress, including Jocelyn Bell Burnell, co-discoverer of pulsars; Carl Wieman, Nobel Laureate; John Rigden, author; and John Marburger, Science Advisor to the President of the United States. In addition, prominent physicists within the ranks of Sigma Pi Sigma will address attendees on historical topics such as the Manhattan Project and will lead panel discussions on ethics in physics. Sigma Pi Sigma members will also present poster sessions on physics research, career paths, and plans for celebrating the 2005 World Year of Physics.

Before the congress convenes Sigma Pi Sigma members are invited to participate in a private day trip to the Trinity Site, where the first atomic bomb was detonated in August 1945. The Trinity Site is normally open to the public only two days a year, but through a special agreement with the White Sands Missile Range, the site will be open exclusively for congress participants who arrive a day early to tour, Thursday, October 14, 2004.

The 2004 Congress will be held in conjunction with the American Physical Society (APS) Four-Corners Section Meeting, and regional groups of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). For additional information or to register for the meeting, visit the Sigma Pi Sigma website at [www.SigmaPiSigma.org](http://www.SigmaPiSigma.org), or contact Liz Caron at 301-209-3034 or by e-mail at [Lcaron@aip.org](mailto:Lcaron@aip.org).

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### About Sigma Pi Sigma

Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society, was chartered in 1921 at Davidson College, NC. The society exists to honor scholarship, encourage interest in physics, promote service, and provide fellowship. Sigma Pi Sigma has 447 active chapters nationwide, with more than 80,000 historical members. Members serve the physics community in many ways, such as supporting local and national scholarships, grants, and research awards; representing physics to the public; providing alumni networks; offering science outreach opportunities; and working for sound national science policies. Sigma Pi Sigma is an organization of the American Institute of Physics (AIP), and is headquartered in College Park, MD.

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