



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	Rhodes College Service Award and Induction Banquet
Name of School	Rhodes College
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	138
Total Amount Requested	\$600

### Abstract

The Rhodes College Chapter Sigma Pi Sigma will host a banquet to recognize students and faculty within the physics department at Rhodes College, induct eligible students into Sigma Pi Sigma and present the Outstanding Service Award to a medical physicist from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## **Proposal Statement**

### **Overview of Proposed Project**

The end of year banquet provides an opportunity for current students, faculty, and Sigma Pi Sigma alumni to connect within the physics department. Memphis, Tennessee is a medical hub in the United States, with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as the number one pediatric cancer hospital in the world, and the only proton treatment facility for pediatric cancer patients. Outside of clinical care, Memphis hosts several of the country's largest orthopedic device companies. Rhodes physics and Sigma Pi Sigma alumni, along with other hidden physicists working at these institutions and companies will be invited to the banquet to showcase the many ways physics can be used in the medical field. We are eager to recognize Dr. Suzanne Gronemeyer, an MRI physicist from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, for all she has done for Rhodes Students over her many decades as a physicist and director of St. Jude's Pediatric Oncology Education Program.

Our hope is that by gathering the physics department together we can strengthen the sense of community between students and faculty and introduce newly declared physics majors and minors to SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma. We will also connect with our Memphis community from those attendees who are directly involved. We will begin with the induction of qualifying students into the Rhodes College chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, led by our chapter advisor Dr. Ann Viano. We will then present the Outstanding Service Award. This will be followed by a lecture from a guest speaker yet to be determined, but someone who can speak to the applications of physics in medicine (the director of St. Jude's proton facility or the director of research at Smith & Nephew are possibilities- both places have Rhodes physics alumni ties). To end, we will recognize students and faculty within the physics department at Rhodes College to thank them for their commitment to the department and the discipline of physics. The banquet will include current physics majors and minors, department faculty, Sigma Pi Sigma alumni and other scientists from our community.

### **How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award**

The banquet gives the Rhodes College chapter of SPS a platform to share information about SPS National and Sigma Pi Sigma with current students, faculty, and staff in the department as well as in the community. Before inducting eligible students, our zone's Associate Zone Counselor, Lauren Boughter, will share brief words about SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma to inform students of the benefits of being a part of the AIP member organizations. We hope this will inspire current majors and minors who are not a part of our chapter of SPS to join. By bringing in guests from the local scientific community, we hope to showcase the many avenues' students can follow by studying physics. We also

intend to express our appreciation for all the work that these talented scientists do for our community and thank our faculty and students for their dedication to the field.

### Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

- Personnel – The event will be planned by the banquet planning committee, led by the chapter’s vice president, Lauren Boughter, and supervised by Dr. Brent Hoffmeister, our faculty advisor. We will monitor the planning progress at our weekly SPS executive committee meetings to ensure that the banquet planning committee is on schedule.
- Marketing – Invitations to community members will be mailed to those selected by SPS members from a list of local Sigma Pi Sigma members and other sources. The banquet will be announced during all physics related clubs (SPS, AEC, Astronomy Club) up until the event. The event will also be posted on the current events board at the entrance to the physics building. SPS will also email students and faculty to formally invite them to the event.
- Sigma Pi Sigma member participation – We anticipate 45 total guests at the banquet; current students and faculty members (13 current student Sigma Pi Sigma members, 4 faculty Sigma Pi Sigma members, and 13 other physics students, some of who will be inducted), roughly 15 Rhodes College Sigma Pi Sigma alumni and community members.

### Project Timeline

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Banquet will be held.

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – All supplies/food will be ordered (+5 weeks in advance of banquet).

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January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024- Invitations sent to local community invitees.

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January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – First general SPS meeting of the spring semester – Establish banquet planning committee volunteers and create a bi-weekly meeting schedule. Choose community invitees. This allows for 5 banquet committee meetings before March 26<sup>th</sup> when the event will be finalized, and the food and supplies will be ordered.

## Project Evaluation Plan

In order to evaluate the success of our events, we will track the attendance at the banquet. We will have current students check in through Rhodes College's club event monitoring app. The goal of the event is to honor and recognize the various ways physics impacts our world, from scientists in the medical field to current students and faculty learning and teaching in the field. By gauging attendance, we can check that those being recognized are adequately honored.

## Budget Justification

The primary expense of the budget is a formal dinner for those in attendance. Ensuring that everyone who attends has an appropriate meal is necessary to ensure that the event runs smoothly, and a free meal is a great way to bring attention to the event. Additionally, providing a meal to attendees will create a more casual environment for students and alumni to interact with one another. Because of the estimated cost of food, the physics department has agreed to cover the costs that the project award does not cover. The event will be held in a reservable campus space and catered for by the college's food service provider.