



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

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Project Title	Building Bridges: Connecting Colorado Springs Students through SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma
Name of School	United States Air Force Academy
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	555
Total Amount Awarded	\$0
Project Leader	Lucy Zimmerman

### Summary of Award Activity

The US Air Force Academy held an induction ceremony on April 26, 2019. Nine students and seven faculty members were inducted, and this event also commemorated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USAFA Sigma Pi Sigma chapter. The ceremony was attended by numerous faculty members, students, Sigma Pi Sigma alumni, family and friends.

# Statement of Activity

## Overview of Award Activity

The 5<sup>th</sup> induction ceremony into Sigma Pi Sigma took place on April 26, 2019. Compared to 2018, when three students and two faculty were inducted, this year we added nine students and seven faculty to our chapter, bringing the total number of members to 85. Twelve current Sigma Pi Sigma members (two students and 10 faculty) were in attendance. Col Rex Kiziah, head of the USAFA Physics Department, provided the opening remarks and discussed the value and importance of being a member of Sigma Pi Sigma. The induction ceremony was performed by Dr. Alina Gearba-Sell, our chapter advisor, and C2C Lucy Zimmerman served as master of ceremonies. Dr. Gearba-Sell talked about the history of Sigma Pi Sigma, the upcoming Physics Congress and the Sigma Pi Sigma Centennial.

Our original proposal was two-fold. Since this was the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, we wanted to reconnect with alumni. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Scott Alsid (class of 2014) and Lt Cols (ret) Dan Polsgrove and Brian Smith (class of 2015) joined us for the event. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Alsid, the first Sigma Pi Sigma member of the USAFA chapter, graduated USAFA in 2015 having received both the Squier Award for outstanding performance in physics and the Mione Award for outstanding undergraduate research. He received an M.S. in physics from MIT and he is now deputy division chief at Kirtland AFB. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Alsid will be starting his Ph.D. at MIT in the fall of 2019 and promised to join us for PhysCon. Lt Col (ret) Polsgrove is volunteering at the recently reopened USAFA Planetarium performing shows followed by interactive activities for various school groups. Lt Col (ret) Smith currently works as a contractor for the Air Force. Four more alumni expressed their regrets for not being able to make it this year, but wanted to stay informed regarding future induction ceremonies.

We also wanted to build upon last year's induction ceremony when we hosted Dr. Willie Rockward, past Sigma Pi Sigma president, and seven faculty and students from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Colorado College to strengthen the collaboration between our chapters. However, this goal was not accomplished as they did not honor our invitation. We also hosted Dr. Brad Conrad, SPS National Director, on April 15, 2019 and we invited them to that event as well, but they declined. We hope to invite them to join us for a Planetarium show in the fall and share with them our plans for attending PhysCon.

## Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Met the Purpose of the Award

This event greatly aided in raising awareness about Sigma Pi Sigma at USAFA. By inducting many members of the junior and senior physics major class into Sigma Pi Sigma, future students in the physics major will also be encouraged to accept the invitation and join this prestigious honor society. The event also helped encourage greater awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma and the lifetime opportunities available to its members. Moreover, the presence of alumni added greater distinction to this year's induction ceremony and fostered stronger interactions between alumni and new Sigma Pi Sigma members. In the future, the USAFA Sigma Pi Sigma chapter plans to continue involving alumni in induction events. We also plan to continue reaching out to local schools such as the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Colorado College for activities that will increase the collaboration and growth of SPS/Sigma Pi Sigma in the Colorado Springs area.

## Key Metrics and Reflection

Who was the target audience of your project?	Students and faculty in the USAFA Physics Department and Sigma Pi Sigma alumni.
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).	9 students and 7 faculty members were inducted. 12 current Sigma Pi Sigma members (2 students and 10 faculty) attended, as well as 3 alumni (1 Air Force officer, 2 retired officers)
How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	15 students were in attendance, either current members, being inducted or supporting.
Was the amount of money you received from Sigma Pi Sigma sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked and how would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	N/A
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	We wil have an induction ceremony again next year. Our goal is to induct more members and collaborate with other chapters in Colorado Springs, while keeping in touch with alumni.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	This event brought new students and faculty into Sigma Pi Sigma and fostered interactions between current and new members.
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	It seems we need to get creative to involve other Colorado Springs SPS chapters. We hope a Planetarium show and/or a key-note speaker would help. We also hope to raise awareness of PhysCon and the upcoming Centennial.





(Left) C2C Kayla Brown receives her certificate.



(Right) C2C Gabrielle McClelland signs the Red Book.



(Left) C1C Marcus Brinker signs the Red Book.



(Right) C2C Michael Jacoby and his family;



Col (ret) Monte Anderson cuts the cake.

