

The Central Florida Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony

University of Central Florida
Sigma Pi Sigma chapter #505
Amount Requested: \$500

Date: November 15, 2018

Abstract

We, the University of Central Florida's Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, wish to expand the efforts started last year when our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter became active again, by holding a large induction ceremony for new and old Sigma Pi Sigma members. We wish to broaden the scope of our previous inductions, by inviting another local chapter, Rollins College, as well as our own physics and math departments. In addition we plan on starting an award for alumni, a mentor program, as well as honoring a physicist. We want this ceremony to be an opportunity for our local chapter's physics and mathematics departments to celebrate and reward hard working students and physicists.

Proposal Statement

Overview

In an effort to continue the success of our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter we are requesting \$500 to maximize the size and impact of our planned Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony. Last year was the first time in several years we were able to induct new students; due to the inactivity of the associated SPS chapter, we had to revive the Sigma Pi Sigma chapter. Given the situation, we had great success bringing in 41 people from diverse areas on campus interested in physics, composed mostly of faculty and students from the Physics and Mathematics departments celebrating the induction of new members. We are planning for the ceremony we hold this year to be on a much larger scale. We plan to invite a sister school, Rollins College, to come and induct new Sigma Pi Sigma inductees, and honor a speaker. Last year, we were lucky enough that Dr. James Gates, the current Vice President of the APS, happened to be in the area and agreed to come. He gave an incredible talk about his life (he is also an Orlando native), so this year we wish to have funding to formally invite and honor a local, or hidden, physicist.

At the induction ceremony we would like to have a book giveaway, which would consist of our Physics Department Chair Dr. Eduardo Mucciolo randomly selecting students to be awarded a free book. This type of giveaway has been done in the past and a lot of students really enjoyed it, so we would like to do it again. In addition we would like to extend the local SPS chapter's peer mentoring program to include Sigma Pi Sigma members and alumni, to increase continuity. Going beyond engaging alumni, we wish to acknowledge and reward their hard work by implementing a new award which will be named the "Sigma Pi Sigma Alum of the Year". This award will be directed by the officer board of the SPS chapter and overseen by the Sigma Pi Sigma advisor. Alumni will apply and be selected based on their contributions to Sigma Pi Sigma, physics, and local community, as well as achievements in their career.

By inviting the other local chapter, the mathematics department (and their Pi Mu Epsilon inductees), the local University of Central Florida's chapter, and members of the Physics department, we plan to reach a diverse audience of local faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students, whom can together celebrate the Sigma Pi Sigma mission and support new inductees. Our goal with this entire project is to promote the Sigma Pi Sigma mission, reward alumni for their excellence and hard work, support current undergraduates seeking to further their scholastic careers, integrate local SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma chapters to further inter-chapter communication, and to honor our local physicists.

Purpose of Award

We believe our project merits support due to its scope within the local physics community. Inviting a local university chapter as well as our own physics and math departments raises sufficient awareness for the Sigma Pi Sigma mission by increasing interest in physics. Additionally, the mentor program would give an extra medium for fellowship, and promote service to others by giving a means by which more experienced students and alums can

give back to their local physics community. Planning to give an award for alumni of the year also honors outstanding scholarship and support of the Sigma Pi Sigma mission.

We believe holding the event with a good speaker and venue, giving awards for excellence, introducing a mentoring program, and giving away free books we will increase interest in Sigma Pi Sigma membership. Inviting the physics and mathematics departments as well as the Rollins College chapter with a open and welcoming environment will increase inter-chapter and interdisciplinary communication. Additionally we will have a donation box for the Sigma Pi Sigma and SPS chapters to help fund their activities and events as well as raise awareness for them.

Project Plan

Officers of the SPS chapter and the Sigma Pi Sigma advisor will form a committee to discuss and direct the implementation of this project. This progress will be monitored by holding monthly meetings with the advisor and weekly meetings with the officers only. As the deadline approaches we will increase the frequency of meetings with the faculty advisor. This committee's progress will be monitored by crosschecking with the Project Timeline. This team will be ideal for managing this project as we have experience holding large SPS events. As an example, we ran a Raspberry Jam, which had over 100 RSVP'd attendees. Of course no project can be successful without strong advertising.

The team will advertise the event on the local SPS chapter's website, we will send out emails to the chapters' constituency and the local physics and math department's faculty members. In the past, we were able to get the chairs of both departments as well as several other administrative faculty members, we believe we can bring even more this year. In addition we will advertise this event at our weekly SPS and the local Collegiate Mathematical Society meetings to encourage our, 54 SPS and their 30 CMS members to attend the event. This certainly will amplify the exposure to physics within the undergraduate mathematics population and will encourage fellowship.

Project Timeline

April 15th - Induction ceremony
April 14th - Purchase necessary decorative items
April 5th - Confirm venue, speaker, and all other invitees
April 5th - Choose and confirm alumni of the year
March 15th - Open applications for alumni of the year
March 15th - Issue invitations to UCF Alumni
March 1st - Confirm invited speaker
Feb 5th - Confirm venue
Feb - Search for invited speaker
Feb - Invite Rollins College chapter
December 5th - Schedule venue and props necessary for ceremony

Project Evaluation Plan

At the event we will have a Google sign-in sheet, where we can take attendance and ask several questions about the event. This on-line sign-in sheet will include a survey style questionnaire which will include questions about how they enjoyed the event, if they thought the event encouraged them to increase communication with fellow academics, what their major(s) is, and comments they have about the event itself.

After the event is over we will follow up with all leaders involved (chapter advisors, presidents, and other officers) as well as the speakers of the event to ask them for feedback on the event. We will prompt the speakers to fill out a survey which will ask the speakers to rate the event in terms of organization, effectiveness, how their stay was, and how accommodated they felt by our planning team. In addition, the survey will include a section where they can leave comments, and it will ask them how they would improve the event.

Budget Justification

All expenses listed in the budget are strictly to increase the impact of the event. This impact can only occur if people attend, we plan on encouraging this by offering food, and exciting speaker, and a free book giveaway. Furthermore, impact is maximized when the venue is tidy, organized, and looks presentable, this is why we are including vases, table cloths, and flowers in our budget, to give the ceremony the proper atmosphere. Lastly, we are including the price of induction for each member because it will not only encourage attendance but also it will encourage students to want to be a part of our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter.

We do not plan on funding this solely through the SPS project award. **The funding necessary to hold the event past \$500 has been secured with the Physics and Mathematics departments already** . When it comes to reducing costs we will obtain general items for the venue from our university. These are items such as projectors, microphones, tables, chairs, a screen, and the room itself.