



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	UCF Induction Ceremony
Name of School	University of Central Florida
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	505
Total Amount Requested	\$500

Abstract

The University of Central Florida Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$) induction has become an integral event of our community, bringing together the math and physics honor societies to listen to and meet a speaker on advanced Mathematical Physics, enjoy a meal together, and receive recognition for their achievements.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

The University of Central Florida (UCF) inducts a small group of physics students every year into the nationally recognized Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$) Physics honors society, a distinction that the undergraduates wear with pride. Every year, our chapter runs a joint induction ceremony with the Pi Mu Epsilon (PiME) Math honor society, allowing a unique opportunity for both societies to intermingle and connect. Besides the students being inducted, other SPS members and some physics faculty come to congratulate students on their induction. New this year, we will also be inviting $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ alumni to attend, fostering the Sigma Pi Sigma community by introducing new inductees to long-standing members. The attending group then hears from an invited guest speaker, an interdisciplinary researcher between mathematics and physics, who speaks about their journey through academia and their current research, which students are free to ask about. After the speaker, all attendees enjoy a provided dinner, followed by a textbook raffle to further promote the learning of math and physics.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

The Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony proposed meets many of the purposes of the chapter award. First, offering a provided meal, a book raffle, and the opportunity to hear from a famous speaker all encourage students to become inducted, so as to enjoy this opportunity. Having a well-known speaker also adds distinction to the induction ceremony, better communicating to students the honor and opportunity afforded by joining Sigma Pi Sigma. Additionally, inviting local Sigma Pi Sigma alumni to support newly inducted members will greatly assist in building our local Sigma Pi Sigma community, as this will encourage newly inducted students to get to know and stay in contact with alumni. Finally, the joint induction with the Pi Mu Epsilon Math honor society exposes members of the mathematics department to Sigma Pi Sigma, further increasing the society's distinction and perhaps even inspiring some of these students to seek induction in the future (as many mathematics students also study physics). In order to accomplish all of this, we will need the support of the Chapter Project Award to help give our speaker an honorarium and pay for the textbooks to be raffled.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

This section should detail the plan for carrying out the project, in bullet or paragraph form. Include, at minimum:

- Personnel - The planning of the event will be primarily supervised by our SPS chapter's President, with the assistance of the other members of the officer board. These students will coordinate with our SPS advisor to ensure progress is made in adequate time and all preparations are made.
- Marketing - The opportunity to be inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma will be expressed to SPS members at our regular weekly meetings several times, including a description of the induction ceremony to excite students to be inducted. Email communication and our website will also convey the information.

- Sigma Pi Sigma member participation - Every year, we typically induct around six new Sigma Pi Sigma members. Besides these students, we will also have local alumni in attendance, as well as students from the Pi Mu Epsilon honors society for inductees to meet and interact with.

Project Timeline

- Jan 3 Speaker and date for inductions is finalized. Venue is reserved.
- Jan 9 Students are informed that applications for induction into Sigma Pi Sigma are now open and are encouraged to join.
- Mar 1 Ensure all books are bought and ready for raffle.
- Mar 22 Ensure everything is ready (tablecloths, vases and flowers, check with speaker, etc.).
- Mar 23 Induction ceremony is held. Volunteers arrive early to help set-up and stay after to help clean up.

Project Evaluation Plan

Our Project Evaluation Plan will consist primarily of a simple attendance count of both inductees and other participants. However, due to the invitation of Sigma Pi Sigma alumni, we will also take specific note of what sort of interactions occur between alumni and inductees, and determine if they are sharing contact information or are particularly engaged in conversation. If such behavior is noticed, we shall record it in order to better evaluate the impact of alumni upon the newly inducted Sigma Pi Sigma members.

Budget Justification

The listed budget contains the primary expenses for the Sigma Pi Sigma inductions. Along with the funding provided by the Project Award, we will also use money accumulated through fundraisers to finish funding the ceremony. The Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award will allow us to cover the expenses of our speaker's honorarium, enabling us to have a truly inspirational and fascinating mathematical physicist speak at the ceremony. As one of the ceremony's primary draws, this speaker inspires Sigma Pi Sigma members to pursue exceptionalism in their future careers, as well as increase interest in the ceremony itself. Along with additional funding provided by the department, the project award will enable us to hold a truly exceptional induction, one that will help bring Sigma Pi Sigma members new and old together and motivate all members to continue pursuing excellence in academia and beyond.