

State of the Society

September 2007

There are approximately 800 physics departments in the U.S.

There are 788 total SPS Chapters of which 746 are active.

New SPS Chapters: Universidad de las Americas - Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, 7/07
Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA - 5/07
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - 4/07
Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, KS - 2/07
Alma College, Alma, MI - 2/07

Reactivation: Mercer University, Macon, GA (in process)
Simpson College, Indianola, IN (in process)
Drury University, Springfield, MO - 5/07

New Chapters
Sigma Pi Sigma: Mary Baldwin College, Stanton, VA - 5/07
Drury University, Springfield, MO - 5/07
Union University, Jackson, TN - 5/07
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA - 4/07
Ramapo College of New Jersey - 10/06

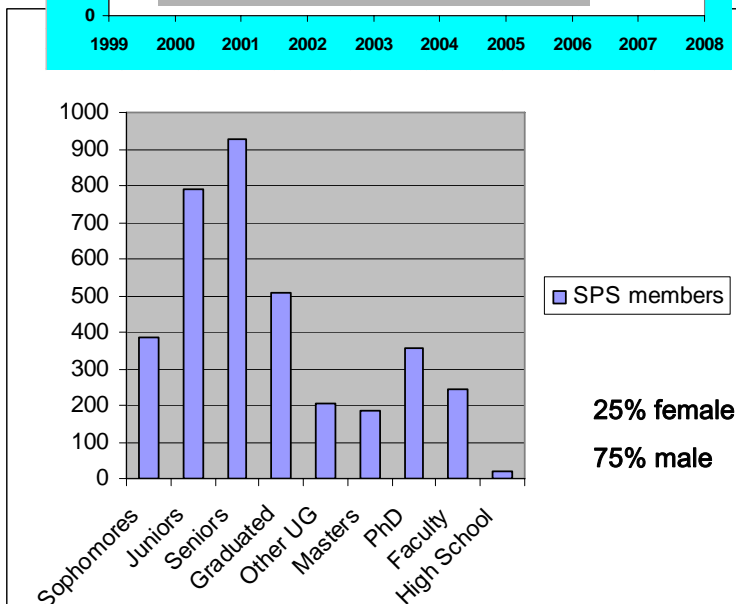
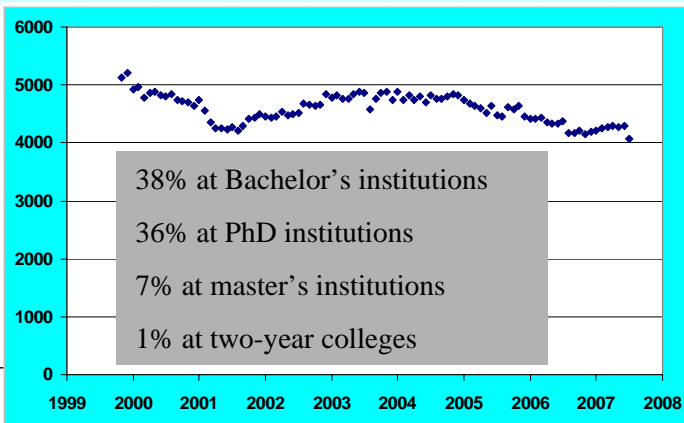
SPS has approximately 4,364 members.

Sigma Pi Sigma has 517 chapters. Sigma Pi Sigma has increased by 1,121. We expect to continue receiving new initiates from the Spring 2007 inductions thru December.

At present Sigma Pi Sigma donations total **\$78,000**.

SPS and ΣΠΣ: Linked, but distinct

SPS,
Society of Physics Students,
is the professional society
for physics students and their mentors

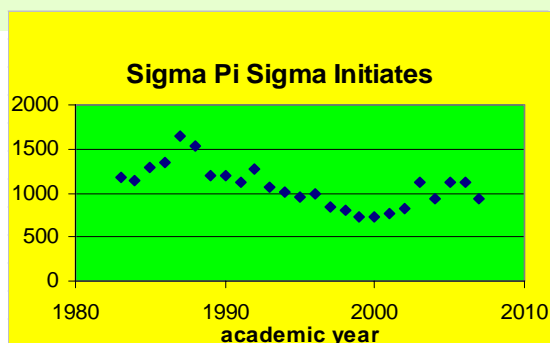


With over 4700 members in over 700 chapters on college campuses, SPS provides opportunities for physics students across the nation, including research awards, outreach programs, scholarships, and travel awards. The SPS website (at www.spsnational.org) provides information and applications for these opportunities, as well as other physics contacts, society news, hot science, physics career information, and the lighter side of physics. SPS membership is \$20 per year and undergraduate members receive Physics Today magazine as well as the opportunity to become part of one of 10 other physics professional societies through the joint membership program.

ΣΠΣ,

Sigma Pi Sigma,

is the physics
honor society



Sigma Pi Sigma is the national physics honor society, with chapters in about 500 of the 700 SPS campuses. Members, usually upper level undergraduates but sometimes graduate students and faculty, are elected into Sigma Pi Sigma based on outstanding academic record. Membership is for life and members form the alumni of a professional physics education. *Radiations* magazine goes to most of the 35,000 members of Sigma Pi Sigma. Donors provide annual support for SPS programs, awards, and scholarships. Sigma Pi Sigma members support SPS programs, scholarships, and awards through donations made to the society and have a society Congress every four years; the most recent Sigma Pi Sigma Congress was held in Albuquerque and served as the kick-off event for the 2005 World Year of Physics celebration. Congress 2008 is scheduled for November 7-8, at FermiLab.

Programs and Highlights: 2006-07

SPS

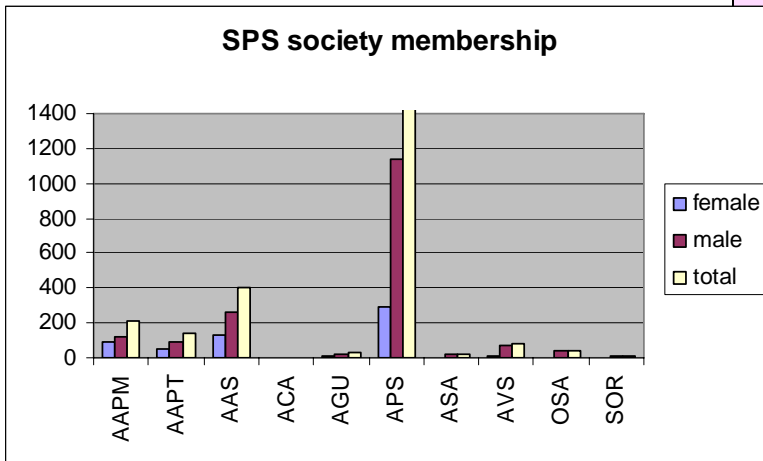
ΣΠΣ

- **Sixteen** SPS Zone meetings held in 2006-07, 10 partially funded by SPS, ~1000 undergraduates in physics
- **Earl Blodgett** re-elected to second term in May 2007
- Programs include:
 - Research awards to 5 chapters
 - Idaho State University---solar cells*
 - Univ. of Louisville---cosmic rays*
 - Univ. of S. Miss.---Rb Mag.-opt. trap*
 - Cent. Wash. Univ.---electronic chaos*
 - Indiana Univ.---table-top neutrons*
 - Outreach awards to 12 chapters
 - Drexel University, Coe College, Ohio University*
 - The College of Wooster, Angelo State University*
 - Cal. State Univ.-Chico, Texas State University*
 - South Dakota State Univ., Yeshiva University*
 - Georgian Court Univ., Colorado School of Mines*
 - Ohio Wesleyan University*
 - Travel awards to APS, AAPT meetings (>30)
 - Scholarships (23), top awards (\$3500) go to
 - Sarah Anderson, Bethel University*
 - Alison Earnhart, Juniata College*
 - Reporters Awards (~12, meetings of all 10 member societies reported from in 2006)
 - Internships (8 in 2007)
 - Jesus Cantu, New Mexico State University*
 - Ryan Field, North Carolina State University*
 - Justin Reeder, University of Wisconsin - Platteville*
 - Enrique Carrion, Georgia State University*
 - Krystyna Dillard-Crawford, Mesa State College*
 - Andrew Coughlin, Univ. of Ill. Urbana-Champaign*
 - Meagan Saldua, Angelo State University*
 - Andrea Roma, Green River Community College*
 - NEW Physics and Society Awards (2)
 - Lee Masse, University of Wisconsin-River Falls*
 - Eric Flumerfelt & Matthew Salvitti, Juniata College*
 - Outstanding chapters (~50), students:
 - Austin Thomas Basye, Abilene Christian Univ.*
 - Gregory Carson, Univ. of Southern Mississippi*
 - Yun Kyoung (Claire) Ryu, Ohio Wesleyan University*
- New website design in Fall 2006, about 5K unique visitors per month, as many as in 2005
- Partnerships with MentorNet, NASA-MUSPIN, APS Forum on Physics and Society, Tutor.com thriving
- ComPADRE student site, The Nucleus has > 1000 students registered and seeking summer research jobs and scholarships. Physics Haiku contest lures scores of entries
- Monthly emails drive traffic to websites; good email addresses steady at about 4000

- Over 1400 induction kits sent out for new inductees in spring 2007, slightly more than previous two years
- **Ann Viano** of Rhodes College completes first year as Sigma Pi Sigma President
- NEW Sigma Pi Sigma Project Awards (initiated by Development Committee) established and 4 awarded for events in 2007
- Sigma Pi Sigma emails go to over 11,000 members
- Website hits continue to rise, now about 1K unique visitors per month, matching numbers from 2004 Congress and 2005 WYP
- Sigma Pi Sigma events at member society meetings (APS and AVS) bring new enthusiasm
- Radiations features Intelligent Design issues with much positive feedback. Spring issue on weapons in space just went out to ~20,000.
- ΣΠΣ giving in 2006 for SPS programs over \$100K, a record.
- Planning for 2008 Congress at FermiLab slowed by scheduling problem, but moving forward.

SPS and the member societies

➤ 2400 SPS undergrads in member society joint membership program



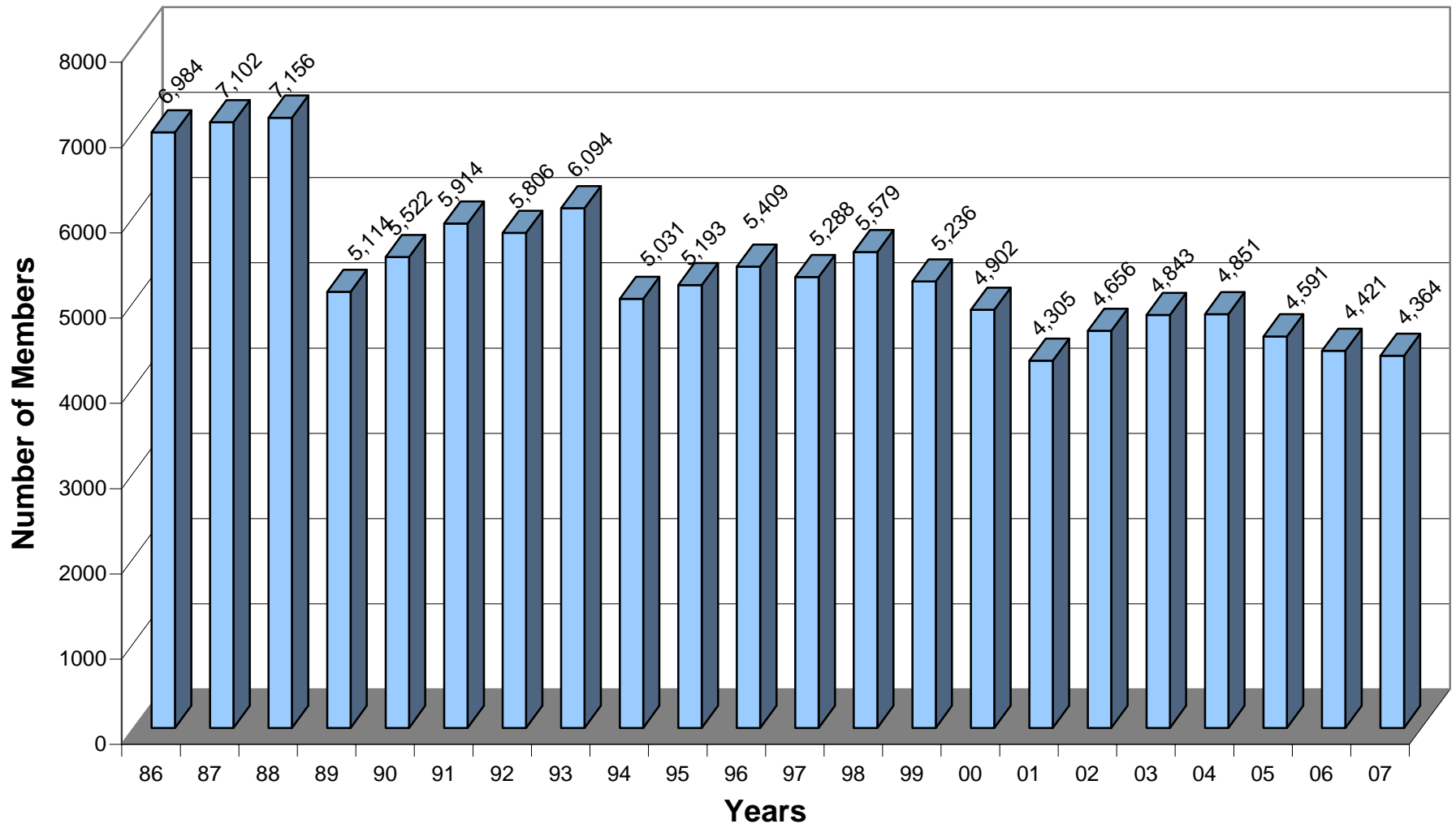
Some Connections

- SPS sessions at AAPT, AAS, APS, dozens of students supported with travel stipends, dozens more present
- Sigma Pi Sigma events at AVS and APS
- Reporters at all 10 members society meetings in 2006
- AAS/AAPT poster sessions/reception with guest astronomers big success with hundreds of participants
- SPS contributes to NSF ComPADRE digital library project with AAPT, APS, AAS
- AAPM, AAPT programs and events promoted on SPS website and in emails
- Interns at AAPT and APS
- Zone meetings with AAPT/ APS regional groups in TX, SESAPS, 4-Corners, NC
- Physics Day and Teacher's Day collaboration with AAPT and APS

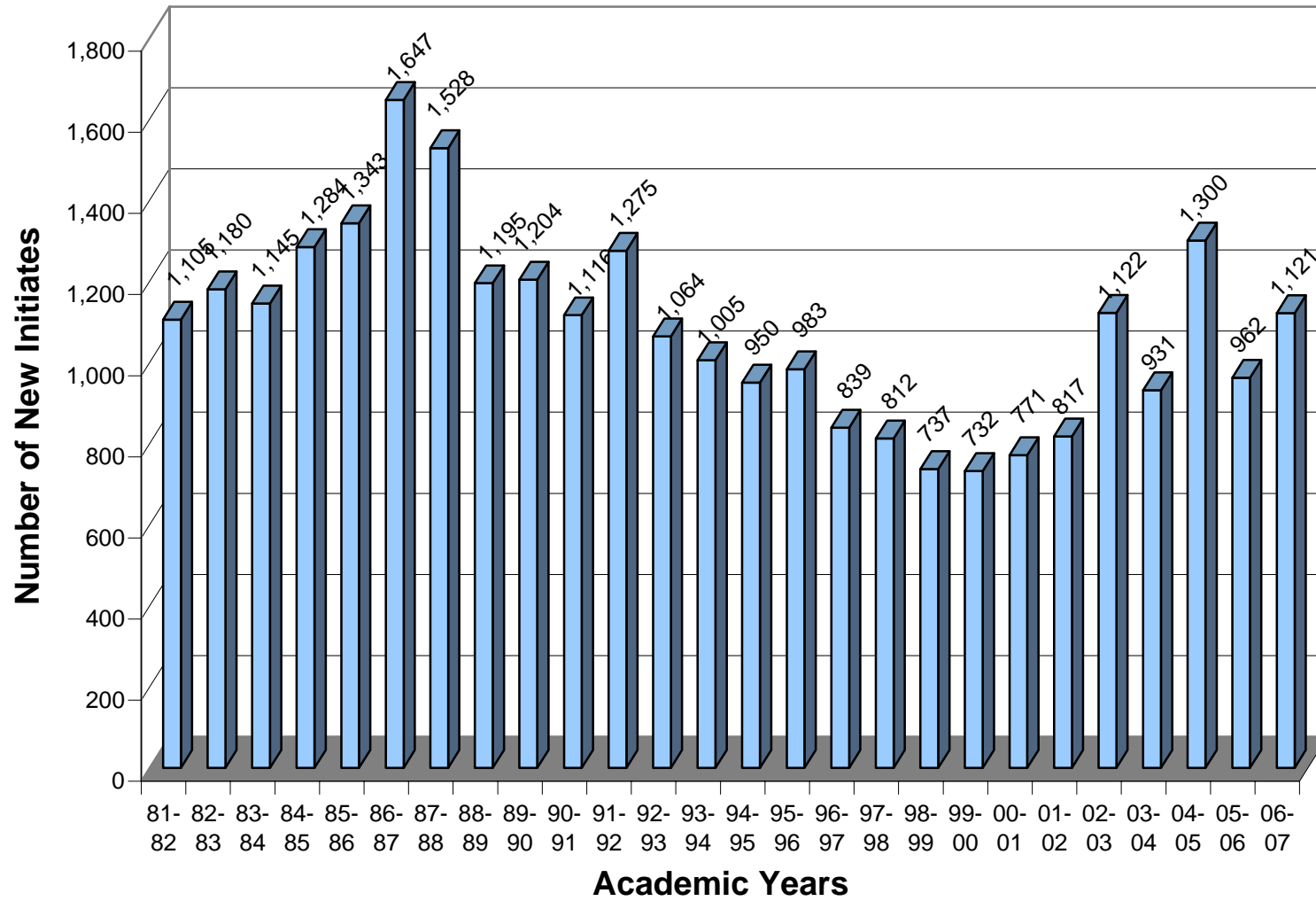
OTHER SOCIETY RELATIONS

- Reporters at NSBP/NSHP
- Satellite conference with Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), group attends NCUR

SPS MembershipTotals



Sigma Pi Sigma Initiates Report



DESCRIPTION OF SPS AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND THEIR FUNDING

The SPS sponsors several grants, scholarships, and awards for individuals and chapters. These awards include the following:

- ❖ The **Outstanding SPS Chapter Advisor Award**: Given annually to a chapter advisor who has been nominated by chapter student members. The award is a grant of \$5,000 to be divided three ways: 60% to the Chapter Advisor, 20% to the Chapter, and the remaining 20% to the department. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **SPS Leadership Scholarship**: Awarded annually to undergraduate students applying in at least their junior year of study (in the amounts of one \$5,000 scholarship, and a number of \$2,000 scholarships). The award is based on academic performance and leadership in the SPS chapter and zone. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **Herbert Levy Scholarship**: Based on scholarship, SPS participation, and financial need, to one student, in the amount of \$2,000. Open to any SPS member in any year of undergraduate study. *Established in memory of the late Dr. Herbert Levy, by Margaret Sussman Levy.*
- ❖ The **Future Teacher Scholarship**: Based on scholarship, SPS participation, and career objective to become a teacher; to one student, in the amount of \$2,000. Open to any SPS member in any year of undergraduate study. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **Peggy Dixon Two-Year College Scholarship**: Based on scholarship, SPS participation, and attendance at a two-year college; to one student, in the amount of \$2,000. Open to any SPS member at a two-year college. *Established in memory of the late Dr. Peggy Dixon.*
- ❖ **Student Fellowships in Physics and Society**: The American Physical Society (APS) Forum on Physics and Society (FPS), in partnership with SPS and the APS Forum on Graduate Student Affairs, sponsors the Student Fellowships in Physics and Society. The Fellowships are open to undergraduate or graduate students in physics who will be awarded up to \$4,000 each to support a project that applies physics to a societal issue. *Funded by the APS Forum on Physics and Society.*
- ❖ The **Sigma Pi Sigma Undergraduate Research Award**: Awarded to chapters for physics research projects. (\$2,000 maximum, awarded to several chapters annually.) *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **SPS Outstanding Student Award for Undergraduate Research (formerly the International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS) Award)**: Given to two or more SPS members annually, pays their expenses to attend and present a paper at the annual International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS). The ICPS is usually held in Europe. The recipients are also invited to give a presentation at the SPS research session of the Association of American Physics Teachers' Winter Meeting. In addition, they will also receive a \$500 honorarium for themselves and a \$500 honorarium for their SPS chapter. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ **SPS Summer Internships**: Five to eight, 9-week internships are awarded. Students are placed in various organizations, all within the Washington, DC, area. Positions are either research-, outreach-, or policy-based. Support includes a \$3,700 stipend, paid housing, and travel to Washington, DC. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **Marsh W. White Award**: Awarded to chapters for physics outreach to grades K-12 and the general public. (\$300.00 maximum, awarded to several chapters annually.) *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **Blake Lilly Award**: Given to two or more chapters and/or individuals for feedback from physics outreach programs, is open to all SPS members and chapters, for which the three-volume set *The Feynman Lectures on Physics* and an SPS plaque are given. *Established by the parents of the late Blake Lilly, and given in his memory.*
- ❖ The **SPS Travel Award**: A limited number of grants, up to \$200 each, will be offered to help fund an SPS members' travel to a national meeting of an AIP Member Society holding an "SPS Session" co-organized by SPS and the Member Society. Examples of qualifying events include the recent SPS sessions at the January and August national meetings of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ The **SPS Reporter Award**: In conjunction with the **SPS Travel Award**, the recipients of this award will be asked to write a summary of the meeting they attend. This summary will be published in SPS publications and on the SPS web site. Only a limited number of grants, on the order of \$200 each, will be offered. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*
- ❖ **Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Awards**: Funding for chapter inductions and events that raise awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma, build community among alumni and new members, add greater distinction to induction ceremonies and chapter events, and/or increase the induction of new members. *Funded by the Sigma Pi Sigma Trust Fund.*

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) derives most of its support from the American Institute of Physics (AIP). SPS dues are also an important contributor. These regular, budgeted sources of revenue make possible the SPS publications and programs that are available to SPS members.

The Awards and Scholarship programs of SPS are made possible, in part, through the generous contributions of Sigma Pi Sigma members and friends. Scholarships and Awards are supported by income derived from designated funds that have been provided as gifts. In this way, the physics alumni, and especially the Sigma Pi Sigma members, contribute to the generations of students who follow them.

CALENDAR OF SPS PROGRAM DEADLINES

(Note: Deadlines fall on the 1st or the 15th of the month.)

NOVEMBER 2007

- November 15 Marsh W. White Award proposals must be postmarked.
- November 15 Sigma Pi Sigma Undergraduate Research Award proposals must be postmarked.
- November 15 Student Fellowships in Physics and Society applications must be postmarked.
- November 15 Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award proposals must be postmarked.

DECEMBER 2007

- December 15 Call for nominations for National and Zone SPS offices.
- December 15 Final report due from 2006-07 Sigma Pi Sigma Undergraduate Research Award winners.

FEBRUARY 2008

- February 1 Applications and all supporting materials for SPS summer internships due.
- February 15 Applications and all supporting materials for all SPS scholarships must be postmarked.
- February 15 Nominations for National and Zone SPS offices must be postmarked.

MARCH 2008

- March 15 SPS Outstanding Student (formerly International Conference of Physics Students) travel award application must be postmarked.

APRIL 2008

- April 15 Letters of nomination for Outstanding SPS Chapter Advisor must be postmarked.
- April 15 Entries for the Blake Lilly Prize must be postmarked.

MAY 2008

- May 1 Chapter ballots for National and Zone SPS offices must be postmarked.

JUNE 2008

- June 15 Chapter Annual Reports and chapter list information must be postmarked to be considered for an Outstanding Chapter Award.
- June 15 Final report due from 2007-08 Marsh White Award winners.
- June 15 Interim report due from 2007-08 Sigma Pi Sigma Undergraduate Research Award winners.

AWARDS STATISTICS

Scholarships

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	33	42	44	36	36	38
Awarded	19	24	21	29	22	23

ICPS

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	14	9	4	9	11	8
Awarded	2	2	2	3	3	3

Marsh White Award

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	21	15	17	18	20	15
Awarded	8	10	12	12	11	12

Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	6	7	10	7	10	15
Awarded	1	1	1	1	1	1

Undergraduate Research Award

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	11	12	12	9	11	11
Awarded	5	8	6	5	6	5

Blake Lilly

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Awarded	4	4	4	8	7	5

Internships

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Applied	25	28	26	31	29	29
Awarded	5	7	8	6	11	8

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Award

	<u>2007</u>					
Applied	4					
Awarded	4					

Student Fellowship Award

	<u>2007</u>					
Applied	4					
Awarded	2					

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

SPS Research Presentation at AAPT (Winter)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (Joint w/ AAS)
Presented	24	23	10	22	50+
Awarded	12	14	7	11	13
Reporter		Rollins College	New Mexico	U. of Alaska, Fairbanks	U. of Wisconsin, River Falls
Reception		Yes	Yes	~75	~200

SPS Research Presentation at AAPT (Summer)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Presented	9	9	10	16	9
Awarded	9	9	8	12	6
Reporters			Weber State Univ.	None	Green River Comm.
Reception			~30	~50	~50

SPS Research Presentation at APS (March)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Presented	20	17	26	27	16
Awarded	14	11	10	21	13
Reporters		Wellesley College	CSU Sacramento	none (Gary)	ERAU (AZ)
Reception				~50	

SPS Research Presentation at APS (April)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Presented	11	13	14	8	28
Awarded	9	8	2	4	5
Reporters		Met St Coll of Denver	U. of Central FL	Radford Univ.	Florida State U.

SPS Research Presentation at AGU (December)

	2004	2005	2006	
Presented	16	2	1	
Awarded	1	2	1	
Reporters		U. of British Columbia	UNC -Wilmington.	

SPS Reporters at Other Meetings

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Reporters	U. CO, CO Spring at AAS, Denver	Hampton U. at NCPBS in Argonne; - Grand Valley State at ASA	- AAS (Jan), Univ of Rochester - NCPBS (Feb), Hampton Univ - ACA (June), Univ of Hawaii(1) - ASA (June), Rollins College - AAPM (July), ERAU - OSA (Oct.), Univ of Rochester -SoR (Oct) Bowdoin College - Rube Goldberg, Univ of Toledo -AVS (Nov) Wittenburg Univ.	-NSBP (Feb.), Lincoln Univ. - NCUR (April), Juniata College

SPS National & Regional Meeting Synopsis, 2006-2007

Sixteen SPS **zone meetings** took place during the 2006-2007 academic year. SPS continues to support those zone meetings which submit reports to SPS National with \$500 each, to encourage participation and offset expenses. Nine of the 16 zone meetings in 2006-2007 received funding. Three SPS staff members participated in the Zone 17 meeting, and Gary White, Director of SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma, participated in an additional three meetings.

SPS had a presence at four **AIP member society regional meetings** during the 2006-2007 academic year: the Southeast Section of the American Physical Society (APS), the APS Four Corners Section, the Joint Fall Meeting of the Texas Sections of the APS and American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), and the North Carolina Section of AAPT. SPS is interested in expanding its presence at regional meetings. *If you would like more information about possible joint meetings, please contact Gary White, gwhite@aip.org.*

Annual Meeting of the Optical Society of America

October 6-8, 2006. Rochester, NY

Kristin Beck from the University of Rochester served as SPS reporter.

Annual Meeting of the Society of Rheology

October 8-12, 2006. Portland, ME

Rebecca Perry of Bowdoin College served as SPS reporter.

American Geophysical Union 2006 Conference

December 11-15, 2006. San Francisco CA

William Zinicola from the University of North Carolina – Wilmington served as SPS reporter.

AVS International Symposium

November 6-10, 2006. San Francisco, CA

About 10 students presented their results during an SPS poster session. Sigma Pi Sigma alumni convened for an informal gathering, and to attend the public session where Journalist Paul Roberts presented on the *End of Oil: Dependence, Depletion, and Denial*. Alex John Brown from Wittenberg University served as SPS reporter.

Joint American Astronomical Society (AAS) / AAPT Meeting

January 5-10, 2007. Seattle, WA

Over 50 SPS members presented research posters and another 15 gave oral presentations. Thirteen of these students were awarded travel stipends. AAS and SPS sponsored an “Evening with Scientists” that included talks by two notable astronomers and an undergraduate poster session, and attracted over 200 attendees. Ann Deml and Matthew Blodgett from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Kasandra Jorgensen from the University of Colorado, Boulder served as SPS reporters. Staff members Lydia Quijada and Sacha Purnell exhibited the SPS booth.

Association of College Honor Societies Meeting

February 15-18, 2007. Tampa, FL

SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma Director, Gary White; past Sigma Pi Sigma President, Tom Olsen of Lewis & Clark College; and Sigma Pi Sigma President, Ann Viano of Rhodes College attended the meeting. Tom Olson presented a poster.

Joint National Society of Black Physicists & National Society of Hispanic Physicists Meeting

February 21-23, 2007. Boston, MA

Kudzanayi Munetsi-Mugomba and Martin Arienmughare from Lincoln University served as SPS reporters.

APS March Meeting

March 5-9, 2007. Denver, CO

Sixteen students present their research in two SPS-sponsored sessions, 13 of whom received travel stipends. In addition, SPS and AIP hosted an industrial / academic mixer, *Preparing the Next Generation Workforce in High Technology*. Both SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma members were in attendance at the mixer and several SPS members presented posters. Steven Zech and Paul Cummings from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University served as the SPS reporters for the meeting.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

April 12-14, 2007. San Rafael, CA

Three representatives from SPS attended this meeting. This is the first time SPS has been represented at the meeting. An agreement to publish NCUR papers in the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Physics was an exciting outcome of the experience. Katherine Zaunbrecher served as SPS reporter for the meeting.

APS April Meeting

April 14-17, 2007. Jacksonville, FL

Twenty-eight students presented their research at this meeting during four sessions. Five students received travel support. About half of the students gave oral presentations and the others presented posters, some of which were featured during the opening reception of the meeting. Keenan Pepper from Florida State University served as the SPS photographer for the meeting.

AAPT Summer Meeting

July 28 - August 1, 2007. Greensboro, NC

Nine SPS members presented their research at this meeting, six of whom were awarded travel stipends. An SPS undergraduate reception took place with over 50 attendees. SPS participated in a new session for students on enhancing presentation skills. In addition, SPS hosted a focus poster session on Learning Assistants programs that included invited speakers from across the country. Andrea Roma from Green River Community College and Justin Reeder from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville served as SPS reporters.

Read the student reports from these meetings, <http://www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports>

Joint AAPT/AAS Winter Meeting in Seattle, WA

By Ann Deml & Matthew Blodgett, SPS Reporters, University of Wisconsin-River Falls



Blodgett (left) with AAS President, Dr. Craig Wheeler and Deml.

We arrived in Seattle on Saturday evening after spending the entire day traveling. As expected, it was raining a little, but the remainder of the week was relatively dry. Matt attended the Undergraduate Welcome Reception that night, and due to some confusion over the starting time, there was nothing but a little exotic cheese and a cracker remaining when he arrived. Ann, on the other hand, was able to reunite with three of her fellow interns from the 2006 SPS Summer Internship program and walked through part of the city, stopping to have dinner at a Thai restaurant near Pike's Place, the public market.

On Sunday morning, we partook in the Multicultural Luncheon. There, Ann was able to meet with one of the advisors she had worked with during her internship with the American Physical Society (APS). After finishing our repasts, we listened to Ben Franklin speak of his life and of the advantages of being a minority that can provide a perspective the majority does not have.



SPS President & UW-RF SPS Advisor Earl Blodgett with Matthew Blodgett.

In the afternoon, Matt presented his talk, "Crafting a Gauss Gun Demonstration," to a very full room of listeners. Although the SPS oral presentations were originally scheduled for this same session, he found himself in a session focused on teaching methods and interactive labs, a surprisingly appropriate category as well. The talk was a success, with the audience asking many questions, and several teachers were persuaded to build their own gauss guns in the future.

The evening concluded with the SPS Poster Session, complete with more food. Nearly fifty posters were displayed by primarily undergraduate astronomy students. Attendance was also very high at this event, and three guest speakers regaled the audience with anecdotes of their transitions into astronomy careers. Dr. Gary White, the Director of SPS, also shared his advice for those considering graduate school: visit the school; talk to its graduate students and not just the professors; and ask for a summer job at the institution.

On Monday, the SPS Oral Session included presentations by 2006 interns, Katherine Zaubracher and Kristen Greenholt. Afterwards, Ann attended the ComPADRE session to become updated on the status of the digital library collections which she worked with during the internship. It was especially nice to reconnect with these people, going out to lunch together and letting them know what she has been doing this semester. In the afternoon, we were able to watch the SPS President, Dr. Earl Blodgett, who is also our UW-RF Chapter Advisor, present the award for the SPS Advisor of the Year.



L to R: 2006 SPS Interns Erin McCamish, Kristen Greenholt, Katherine Zaubracher and Ann Deml reunite at the meeting.

Continued at http://www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports/2007/aapt_aas_joint.htm

2007 APS March Meeting in Denver, CO: A Student's Perspective

By Steven Zech and Paul Cummings, SPS Reporters, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



1987 APS March Meeting: Front row, left to right: Michael Schluter, Malcolm Beasley (Stanford), unidentified, Morrel Cohen (Chicago). Third row center Philip Anderson (Princeton); far right (silver hair), Paul Grant (IBM).

Twenty years ago, at the 1987 APS March Meeting in New York City, 1,800 people gathered in a room meant for 1,100, with 2,000 more watching outside on television monitors, to discuss the developments of high-temperature superconductivity. This single marathon session, nicknamed the "Woodstock of Physics," began around 6:00 pm and ended just after 3:00 am; 51 speakers later.

This year at the [APS March Meeting](#) in Denver, CO, APS celebrated the 20th Anniversary of High-Temperature Superconductivity with presentations in the "Woodstock" session by Marvin L. Cohen, J. Georg Bednorz, C. W. Chu, Douglass Scalapino, Shoji Tanaka, Robert Cava, Laura Greene, Aharon Kapitulnik, Douglas Finnemore and Paul Grant.

Along with the Woodstock session there were 43 parallel sessions with 6 – 10 talks per session, and four of these groups each day (that's approximately 1,400 talks each day). Topics ranged from Hydrogen Storage to Spin-Orbit Coupling, Quantum Magnetism to the History of Physics, Graphene to Physicists as Entrepreneurs, and Quantum Information to Friction. Besides the thousands of specialized talks, both an Industry Exposition and a Job fair were available to all registered participants. APS also set up special sessions for students attending the March Conference: a session for SPS, a student reception with a (Sponsored by the Forum of Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA)), and a "Lunch with the Experts."

Speakers in the SPS session included two of the 2006 SPS Outstanding Student Award for Undergraduate Research winners: Cary Pint of Rice University and Anthony Davidson III of Towson University. The winners also presented their work at the 2006 International Conference of Physics Students in Bucharest, Romania, hosted by the International Association of Physics Students. Applications for this year's Award are due April 15th. Winners will present their work at the 2007 International Conference of Physics Students in London, England; receive a \$500 Honorarium, \$500 for their SPS chapter, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the conference.



SPS members that presented at the APS March Meeting.

A problem often faced by undergraduates at professional talks is the advanced level of the subject matter. The vast majority of presentations are about graduate-level research, and they frequently use field-specific jargon with which those who are focused in other areas may not be familiar. While such specificity is necessary to fit all of the presenters into the schedule, it nevertheless can leave those with less experience (undergraduates) lost and confused. At this APS March meeting, however, there were a number of sessions that were far more accessible to visiting undergraduates. The sessions did not lack depth or complexity, in spite of their approachability. Of special note were the Monday morning focus session "Quantum Foundations 1," and the Tuesday afternoon session "Basic Research Needs for Superconductivity."

Continued at http://www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports/2007/aps_march.htm

Read reports from other national meetings! <http://www.spsnational.org/meetings/reports>