



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	First Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony - Building the Sigma Pi Sigma Community
Name of School	United States Air Force Academy
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	7502
Total Amount Requested	\$500.0

Abstract

The United States Air Force Academy is looking forward to holding its first Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony. In recognition of outstanding students in USAFA's Department of Physics our SPS Chapter is looking forward to hosting a Sigma Pi Sigma alumnus as a guest speaker for the Induction Ceremony /dinner to be held in the spring of 2014.



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Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

The United States Air Force Academy is once again an active member of the SPS, having won a Distinguished Chapter Award for 2012-2013. We have also recently submitted a proposal for a Marsh W. White Outreach Award involving telescope building during our popular USAFA Observatory Tours. The US Air Force Academy will be holding its first Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony this coming spring, and we would like to host an alumnus as a guest speaker for the Induction Ceremony dinner. A number of faculty members are members of Sigma Pi Sigma and are looking forward to continuing the tradition. The Department of Physics faculty will soon choose student inductees for this coming spring, and we would like to make our first induction ceremony memorable. We are requesting funding to cover food, certificates, and a facility to host the event. We expect about 30 people to attend.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

We believe this induction ceremony meets the purpose of the award, especially given that it will be USAFA's first induction ceremony. With our recently reactivated SPS chapter we are looking to build interest in physics, SPS, and Sigma Pi Sigma. There are a number of Sigma Pi Sigma members in the USAFA faculty who will be involved in this event. The event will also be advertised to SPS members and faculty members at neighboring schools. In order to raise awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma and build community we contacted Colorado College and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in an attempt to host a joint ceremony. Unfortunately it turns out that there are currently no active Sigma Pi Sigma chapters within a one hour drive of the Air Force Academy, which makes the logistics of doing a joint event very difficult.

Our main purpose will be to add greater distinction to our first induction ceremony by making it a nice and memorable event. We would like to provide good food at a nice location and invite/honor a noted physicist like Dr. Shane Burns from Colorado College as a keynote speaker. Though our efforts to hold a joint ceremony have been unsuccessful thus far, we will attempt to reach out to more distant chapters in Denver and Boulder and invite them to our event.



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Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

- Personnel - Sigma Pi Sigma faculty members along with the SPS Chapter Advisor will be responsible for organizing and coordinating the event with the assistance of the student SPS chapter leadership.
- Marketing - The ceremony will be marketed at SPS meetings, via email to all relevant people, and in physics classes.
- Sigma Pi Sigma member participation – A handful of the faculty are Sigma Pi Sigma members who will be participating in planning and carrying out the project. Students will also participate in planning and carrying out the project. Since this is our first induction ceremony the majority of the planners will be Society of Physics Students members.

Project Timeline

By the end of January - Early planning stages, find location for the event and food provider. Invite more distant chapters to do a joint ceremony if they are willing to drive to the Air Force Academy. Due to military restraints Air Force Academy students are often not allowed to travel far from the base.

By the end of January - Department faculty select Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

By the end of February – keynote speaker selected and invitations are sent out

By early March - travel/lodging logistics worked out, RSVPs collected, food and location have been fully organized

April - Our first induction ceremony is held, paving the way for USAFA to be increasingly active in SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma in the future

Project Evaluation Plan

In order to evaluate the success of our induction ceremony we will collect attendance of Sigma Pi Sigma members and overall individuals. This information will tell us whether we were successful at building community among local alumni and new Sigma Pi Sigma members. We will take pictures of the event and collect feedback from the SPS Chapter Advisor, our keynote speaker, and at least two Sigma Pi Sigma alumni.



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Budget Justification

The budget will cover some of the costs of holding our first Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony. Money will be used primarily for the purpose of building community among Sigma Pi Sigma alumni and new members as well as adding greater distinction to our induction ceremony. The main costs will be reserving a location, providing food and non-alcoholic beverages, decorations, invitations, certificates, and providing travel and lodging expenses for our honored keynote speaker. If the keynote speaker lives more than an hour away we would like to provide lodging given that the event will be a dinner and will not end until relatively late in the evening. Small gifts, such as physics related ties or scarves, may also be presented to the keynote speaker and the Sigma Pi Sigma inductees. If we are unable to organize a joint event we expect about 30 individuals to attend. The Air Force Academy base offers great facilities such as the Falcon Club for hosting distinguished events such as this. While our budget plan is not entirely finalized it is important to note that budgeting will be overseen by LtCol Christian Wohlwend (USFA SPS Advisor), and Dr. Alina Gearba (former University of Southern Mississippi SPS Advisor) who have both overseen budgets for induction ceremonies in the past.