



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

Project Title	Distinguished Alumni Inductions
Name of School	Utah State University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	7579
Total Amount Awarded	\$500.00
Project Leader	Kelby Peterson

Summary of Award Activity

Utah State University's $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter enhanced the connections its on-campus members have with local physics alumni by inviting a local physics alumna, Jessica Tams, to talk at USU's 2015 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Induction Ceremony. She highlighted her life post-USU, current work, opportunities her company has for current students, and how to make the most out of the undergraduate experience.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

For the 2015 ΣπΣ Inductions Ceremony the Utah State University ΣπΣ Chapter invited a local alumna, Jessica Tams, to present about her life, work, and experiences to the current and newly inducted ΣπΣ members. Jessica is the managing director of Casual Games Association, a company that produces and vends nonviolent-game software.

The induction ceremony consisted of a formal dinner, a presentation from the alumna, Jessica Tams, the traditional inductions presentation, and USU's ceremonial induction demo. Present was the invited alumna and her husband, the 14 2015 ΣπΣ Inductees, 11 of the ΣπΣ members remaining on campus, 21 guests of the various ΣπΣ members, and numbers department professors and staff, approximately 50 individuals in total.

USU's ΣπΣ Presidency feels that this project was extremely beneficial for the ΣπΣ members on campus to connect with our accomplished alumna, hear about her non-academic physics career, and have a physics role model outside of academia. USU has many undergraduates intending to pursue careers outside of academia but being on a university campus they have few role models to look up to in careers of their interest. This was a great opportunity for the alumna to meet the newly inducted ΣπΣ members who will soon be searching for connections to start their careers.

This project ended up being implemented fairly smoothly and will hopefully become a recurring tradition at Utah State University. It was planned and executed by the ΣπΣ presidency, Ryan Carlsen and Kelby Peterson, along with the SPS advisor, Dr. David Peak.

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

The primary goals of our project were to build community among local alumni and new Sigma Pi Sigma members and to add greater distinction to induction ceremonies and other chapter events. After our chapter was established in 1959, it remained active until 1988, at which time it became dormant until 2006, when it was revived. Thus, several local alumni of the department never had the opportunity to be inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma. We invited one of those alumni, Jessica Tams, who has had success in the gaming software industry, to attend the induction ceremony and speak at the ceremony, along with giving her the opportunity to be inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma.

Jessica attended the induction ceremony and had an opportunity to speak, along with giving the attendees the opportunity to ask questions. This was an opportunity to help build community between some of the former alumni of our local physics program and the current students. It was suggested that it might be a possibility for some of the current students to get internships or volunteer at some of the events Jessica's company organizes. This would be an excellent opportunity for current students, but the biggest sign of success in building the community is that following the induction ceremony, Jessica spoke with our departmental

advisor about some of the different opportunities she was aware of for our students that were specifically related to their research interests, which were mentioned during the induction ceremony. This clearly shows the success of our award in moving forward to build a community amongst local alumni and the current student inductees.

Key Metrics and Reflection

Who was the target audience of your project?	USU Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees/Members
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).	1 Alumna and spouse, 14 inductees and their 11 guests, 9 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members and their 9 guests, 15 physics department professors and staff members
How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	4 students were involved in the planning and execution of the inductions. The 2 Presidency members planned the event, another student was asked to play the piano during the beginning of the event, and the remaining student was asked to take pictures of the ceremony.
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?	The funding was extremely helpful. It was still necessary to supplement the cost of the event by pulling from our SPS Chapter’s funds to cover the remaining \$75 of dinner costs.
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	We intend to have this become a tradition for the USU $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter’s Induction Ceremony.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	The $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ chapter now has a solid connection with the invited Alumna, Jessica Tams, and have been offered opportunities for our students to work with her company due to it.
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	Improve the induction ceremony powerpoint and add more information about what National can do for the members.

Expenditures

Expenditure Table

Item	Please explain how each expense relates to your project as outlined in your proposal.	Cost
Dinner with catering and room reservation	The event was centered around a formal dinner to be held on campus through campus dining and thus dinner was bought to facilitate this.	\$575.00
	Total of Expenses	\$575.00

Activity Photos



Some of the 50 attendees. In the foreground is sophomore inductee Katie Sweet. On the left is freshman inductee Lucas Priskos. Both have already taken junior level physics courses and have 4.0 GPAs.



Distinguished alumna Jessica Tams describes how her physics education helped her rise to the leadership of her game software company. Sigma Pi Sigma president Ryan Carlsen enjoys Jessica's joke.



Inductee Andrea Halling signs the Red Book, while Vice President Kelby Peterson is about to present her membership certificate.



Inductee Jordan Burns signs our traditional can-to-be-crushed.



Adviser David Peak applauds another successful induction ceremony conclusion.

