



ΣΠΣ President Candidates 2018-19 National Council

Ballots Due: May 2, 2018

For more details, visit:

<https://www.spsnational.org/about/governance/national-council/nominations-elections>

Zone: Zone-3

Name: James Borgardt

Chapter: Juniata College

Biography: Dr. Jim Borgardt is a Professor of Physics at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. He received his Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of Arizona, and undergraduate degrees in Physics, and Mathematics, from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He was the 2003-2004 Robert Jay Lifton Fellow at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice Center on Terrorism, and collaborated as a visiting research scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratories working on research on radiation portal monitors. He served in the International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau in the Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism (ISN/WMDT) at the U.S. State Department as the 2012-2013 AIP State Department Fellow, supporting the international nuclear forensics work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), and Nuclear Forensics International Technical Working Group (ITWG). While at Juniata, he continues to support the State Department as the lead organizer for a series of international virtual table-top exercises maturing the concept of national nuclear forensics libraries.

Candidate Statement: If elected, I would interface closely with the National Office to advance issues that I've come across in my time as a SPS advisor including looking to strengthen resources for BS students directly entering the job market, and promoting student leadership, research, and outreach opportunities for SPS members. I'd also like to work to explore the idea of promoting projects, rooted in physics, which tackle particular community challenges. Developing a framework by which physics students work with community members and other students to envision interdisciplinary-driven solutions could realize benefits for the community, and valuable formative experiences for physics students which could also advance their "soft skills".

Local/Regional Involvement: I have served as the SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma advisor of the Juniata College chapter for 19 years. It's been a great pleasure to work with students, and see them advance from an undergraduate setting to successful graduate students and budding professionals. I've enjoying interacting with our Women in Physics chapter, which, along with our SPS chapter, maintains a strong outreach program and provides concrete role models while conveying an infectious sense of wonder in physics for the next generation of science students.

National Involvement: In the past I have served as the Zone 3 Councilor and represented the zone at the annual national meetings, and run for SPS national office. My work in support of government agencies has also afforded opportunities to meet with representatives of various policy groups to explore where their needs and interests converge with the critical thinking and problem-solving strengths physics students bring to the table. I'm also looking forward to the ramp-up for the 2019 PhysCon, and would look to actively and creatively contribute to that effort as well.

Presidential Experience: At our College I have served as a member, and Chair, of many elected faculty committees overseeing areas such as student academic development, curricular development and review, and other topics. I have been a CUR Councilor in the Physics and Astronomy division. I've also been fortunate to be a member, and Chair, of the board which selects the AIP State Department Fellow, as well as being a member of several SPS award committees.

Zone: Zone-1

Name: Prashant Sharma

Chapter: Suffolk University

Biography: Prashant Sharma received his doctoral degree in Physics from Boston University in 2003; his dissertation research involved applying quantum field theoretic techniques to problems in spintronics. Sharma did postdoctoral research at the Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics at Cornell University and later at the Argonne National Laboratory in the area of mesoscopic physics. Sharma is currently an Associate Professor in the Physics department at Suffolk University, Boston, where he engages undergraduate students in physics through experimental and theoretical research projects at the interface of physics and biology.

Candidate Statement: If elected, I will work closely with the National Office to strengthen service opportunities for Sigma Pi Sigma members. I also feel that the role of Sigma Pi Sigma can be made more relevant for members across their careers, and I will work with SPS National towards that goal.

Local/Regional Involvement: I started the SPS chapter at Suffolk University in 2008 and have served as the chapter advisor for the past nine years. In that time the chapter has won several awards, including most recently the SPS Undergraduate Research Award in 2017 for the third time in its short history. The chapter has also attended regional zone meetings.

National Involvement: I have served on the National Council as a Zone Councilor for two terms during 2010-2016. I experienced my first Quadrennial Congress in 2012 along with one student SPS member from my school. Following the response of the student I was able to get a larger contingent of 7 students to attend the 2016 PhysCon. The congress got them excited enough to apply for SPS awards the following year.

Presidential Experience: Apart from my governance experience through SPS as a ZC, I am currently serving on the Executive Committee of the New England Section (NES) of the American Physical Society for the 2018-19 term. I am also organizing the 2018 spring meeting of the NES-APS at Suffolk University during March 16-17. At Suffolk University, I was on the strategic planning committee in 2014 and was also the Chair of the Physics department during 2013-16.