

The week of April 15th was very busy on the campus of Lebanon Valley College. On Thursday, April 18th LVC held Inquiry 2013: A Symposium of Student Research and Original Work. During this event students, including several physics students, presented posters about original research they had conducted in collaboration with Lebanon Valley College faculty. This week also marked the inauguration of the college's new president, Dr. Lewis Thayne. As a final addition to the week's celebration, the new chapter of ΣΠΣ at Lebanon Valley College held their inaugural induction ceremony.

On Saturday, April 20th, nearly 40 students, faculty and alumni gathered at Neidig-Garber Science Center to celebrate the occasion. Alumni in attendance included Dr. Elizabeth Bains class of 1964, who spent many years working for NASA performing simulations of the shuttle and space station robotics, and Dr. Jacob Rhodes class of 1943, the former chair of the physics department, who informed us that 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of physics at Lebanon Valley College. The LVC community was also joined by Toni Sauncy, Director of the Society of Physics Students, who made the trip from Washington D. C. to act as master of ceremony for the induction.

Dr. Sauncy began the evening with a review of the history and symbolism of ΣΠΣ, giving everyone perspective on the great achievement of the students about to be inducted. Six students comprised the inaugural group of inductees at Lebanon Valley College: Nicholas C. Durofchalk, Anthony R. Hoover, Shane J. Jacobeen, Hana H. Krechel, Andrew D. Suprock, and Christy E. Wilson. Each was presented with a pin, pen, and membership into the honor society. An official plaque marking the occasion was also bestowed for display in the physics department.

Afterwards, guests had a chance to socialize during dinner. This provided a chance for alumni to reminisce and catch up. Students were able to congratulate their friends on their accomplishment and talk to alumni about the possibilities that await a young physicist. Faculty and students enjoyed a rare opportunity to relax outside of the classroom and converse about topics beyond the scope of course work.

Dessert and coffee followed dinner, during which several students and alumni presented talks about a variety of subjects. Dr. Elizabeth Bains gave a talk entitled "Reflections on an Unexpected Adventure" during which she recounted the unanticipated twists and turns of her career, which included working for the Navy and performing computer simulations at NASA. She encouraged students to be optimistic when life does not go as planned to be open to the new opportunities that present themselves.

Current student and new inductee to ΣΠΣ, Anthony Hoover gave a talk entitled "Verifying Quantum Computer Simulations" about the research he has conducted in collaboration with Dr. Scott Walck. He has been investigating the simulation of quantum computers, which has involved some interesting challenges, new questions, and promising

results. He gave a fundamental insight into the research process, describing the changes in direction the project experienced as it evolved over the course of the summer.

During his talk “Nerds, Power Tools and Cantaloupes” Andrew Burkholder chronicled the process of building a four foot sling shot for entry into the Annual “Cantalobber” Contest held at Kutztown University. Challenges abounded, including devising a release mechanism, dealing with subpar building materials and transporting of the finished product on the day of the competition, but the determined team was not daunted. This was Lebanon Valley College’s first time entering the contest, and they brought home third place in the mechanical division.

Finally, Joshua Jones, class of 2009 and current graduate student at Lehigh University, presented “Graduate School: Tales of a 21st Grade Nothing.” His presentation gave current students valuable insight “he wish he had known” about the process of applying to and choosing a graduate school. The talk also gave an excellent overview of what students can expect during their time in graduate school. As the evening wrapped up, people stayed for nearly an hour after the last talk to chat with friends new and old and make plans about the future of physics at Lebanon Valley College.



Newly inducted members of the Lebanon Valley College Sigma Pi Sigma proudly display the Charter:

Dr. Ruth Malenda; Andrew Suprock; Hana Krechel; Nicholas Durofchalk; Anthony Hoover; Dr. Toni Sauncy and Christy E. Wilson.



After the talks physics major, Dan Brown speaks with Dr. Elizabeth Baines about her career as a physicist.



Club Advisor, Dr. Ruth Malenda speaks with former chair of the Lebanon Valley College Physics department, Dr. Jacob Rhodes, and other alumni about the recent activities of the Society of Physics Students.

Dr. Ruth Malenda; Dr. Russel Hertzog; Dr. Jacob Rhodes; Mr. William Rhodes



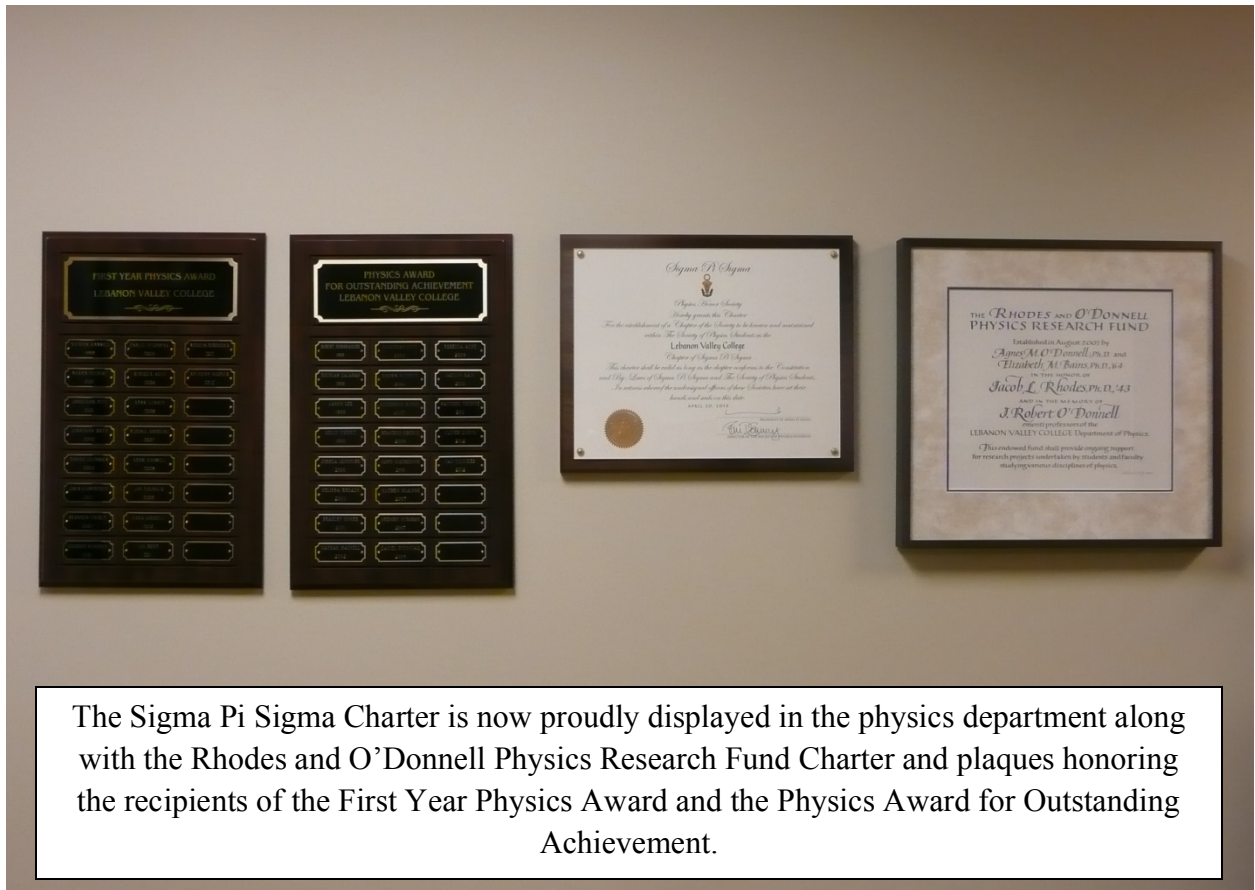
Anthony Hoover explains some of the finer points of his research to freshman physics majors Hannah Pell and Daniel Upchurch.

Hannah Pell; Daniel Upchurch; Anthony Hoover



Alumnus Joseph Mancinelli catches up with SPS treasurer Gregory Renner and physics major Adam Rosier.

Joseph Mancinelli; Gregory Renner; Adam Rosier.



The Sigma Pi Sigma Charter is now proudly displayed in the physics department along with the Rhodes and O'Donnell Physics Research Fund Charter and plaques honoring the recipients of the First Year Physics Award and the Physics Award for Outstanding Achievement.



Photo of the Lebanon Valley College Society of Physics Students with the “The Flying Dutchman,” the slingshot that took 3rd place at the Cantalobber Contest at Kutztown University.

Back Row: Hannah Pell (Freshman), Dr. Ruth Malenda (Club Advisor), Greg Renner (Treasurer, Sophomore), Ryan West (Secretary, Sophomore), Alex Simms (Senior), Bryn Faust (Senior), Doug Olinger (Junior)

2nd Row: Dan Upchurch (Freshman), Nick Durofchalk (President, Sophomore)

3rd Row: Cedrick McDonald (Sophomore), Andrew Wuerz (Freshman)