



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

Project Title	Alumni Dinner
Name of School	Adelphi Univesity
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	0020
Total Amount Awarded	\$500.00
Project Leader	Brian Kaufman briankaufman@mail.adelphi.edu

### Summary of Award Activity

The Adelphi University Physics Alumni Dinner was held for undergraduates to have the opportunity to network and gain advice from the alumni of Adelphi's Physics department. Many of the alumni have gone into diverse careers after leaving Adelphi. The event began with the alumni giving a brief introduction about what they have done at Adelphi and after graduation, followed by a Q&A session. As the dinner began, the students had the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with an physics alumni of their choice.

### Statement of Activity

#### Overview of Award Activity

The goals of the dinner are to have Physics undergraduates participate in a networking event, for undergraduates to hear stories from the alumni who were once in their shoes, and for undergraduates to hear different paths that a Physics degree can lead to. We hosted a good selection of alumni of various career paths, including Physics PhD students, lawyer, high school physics teachers, and engineering undergraduates studying in Coulmni and alumni pursuing a path in different fields of Physics. All of these could not be done without the help of our chapter advisor Professor Matthew Wright, as well as Professor Sean Bentley. Being that there are many different career choices for physicists, these options can become overwhelming. For an example, an alumnus who used to be a Physics tutor at Adelphi discovered his passion for teaching and now has a career teaching. Another alumnus for example described how she decided to become a lawyer after earning her Physics bachelor's degree, she told the undergraduates that knowing Physics was a great asset in her profession.

This year, the Alumni Dinner was held in the Adelphi University Center, the room was large enough for approximately 100 people. The room held seven round tables to seat 10 people each and four rectangular tables for the 13 alumni during the introduction and Q&A. (The rectangular tables faced to everyone). We also requested a projector for the alumni who joined remotely. Besides we have put in great effort in making sure that the food is of quality and accommodate vegetarian attendees. After the Q&A session, everyone had the chance to grab something to eat and alumni could sit at the round tables with the undergraduates and Professors. The alumni and undergraduates could then communicate further at the tables and the undergraduates could then learn more from the alumni.

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

The dinner allowed the current Physics undergraduate students to learn about different opportunities and advantages/disadvantages of each alumni's personal path. Early Physics undergraduate students have a very difficult time becoming involved at Adelphi and where to go, and as time passes, each student needs to think of their future career as well. For an example, one of the alumni told the undergraduates during his introduction that instructing recitation and tutoring at Adelphi led him to understand his passion for teaching. A very popular program in the Physics department is the Combined Columbia Engineering program, where students attend Adelphi earn their Physics degree then head to Columbia University for an Engineering degree. There were alumni who graduated from Columbia and who are completing their studies there. These students gave advice to the undergraduates who are interested in the program as well; advice pertaining what classes to take, what skills are expected from Columbia.

We are able to assess the impact of this Alumni dinner through the dinner session when the undergraduates have an opportunity to sit with and converse with our alumni. All of the undergraduates stayed for the dinner session, and many of them took the initiative to sit with the alumni who had experiences in the paths they were interested in. It was in such a spirit that the event eventually ended at 9.30pm, half an hour after scheduled. During the Q&A session, many quality questions were posted, such as 'How did you know you wanted to pursue this field in Physics?' or 'What experience allowed you to solely choose this career path?' also showed that the attendees were attentive and wanting to make the most out of the dinner.

From the Q&A session alone, we were able to tell that the stories from the alumni had a great impact on these undergraduates. Many undergraduates who asked about how the alumni chose their paths were given great advice, such as being active at Adelphi, participating at research either at Adelphi or even pursuing REUs over the summer, and so on. Even one of the alumni exemplified the undergraduates to be active students in the classroom in order to narrow down their interests accordingly and for preparation after completing their undergraduate degree. Also we saw many of the alumni speaking with at least two or three undergraduates individually after the Q&A session at different round tables, also undergraduates and alumni joined together to speak with different professors about their time at Adelphi.

## Key Metrics and Reflection

<p>Who was the target audience of your project?</p>	<p>The target audience of this project was the undergraduate physics students.</p>
<p>How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).</p>	<p>33 undergraduates, 14 alumni, 5 faculty members, and 3 accepted high school students and family.</p>
<p>How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?</p>	<p>Twenty students from <math>\Sigma\Pi\Sigma</math> were involved in the activity. The students advertised the event to the undergraduates, reserved a space for the dinner, and cleared all the paperwork needed to have Adelphi University recognize it as an event.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>The requested funds were instrumental to us holding the event. The total event cost about \$1100. We used the entire \$500 for this event and made up the difference with funding from SGA.</p>
<p>Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.</p>	<p>We anticipate holding this event in the future. Every two years is ideal for the students to meet different alumni.</p>
<p>What new relationships did you build through this project?</p>	<p>For many of the officers of Physics Club, this was their first Alumni Night at Adelphi. Just like the undergraduates who attended, we were all able to network and speak with the different alumni who attended. For any Physics Club member who attended a previous year, they met with alumni they know and were also able to meet new alumnion a similar path educationally.</p>
<p>If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?</p>	<p>Hopefully get more undergraduates and alumni involved each year.</p>

## Expenditures

The amount of money, \$500, was sufficient for the alumni dinner, the remaining amount was acquired from SGA.

### Expenditure Table

Item	Please explain how each expense relates to your project as outlined in your proposal.	Cost
Meatballs (40 portions)	Dinner item	\$238.50
Eggplant Parmigiana (40)	Dinner item	\$238.50
Roasted Vegetables (40)	Dinner item	\$238.50
Penne Ala Vodka (40)	Dinner item	\$238.50
Tables Cloths (8)	Required for dinner	\$72.00
Assorted Cookies ( 30)	Dessert item	\$60.00
Sliced Fruit Platter (20)	Dessert item	\$80.00
	<b>Total of Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,166.57</b>

## Activity Photos



This is the front panel of the alumni who attended at the beginning of the event. Professor Bentley is setting up Google Hangout for the alumni who were willing to video call into the dinner.

Photo Credit: Tara Pena



This photo was during the introduction. The alumni introduced themselves while those who were on video chatted listened on as well. The food section is in the back of this photo as well.

Photo Credit: Tara Pena





This is a clearer picture of the alumni who attended and one alumni on Google Hangout.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



This is another photo of alumni during the Introduction portion of the alumni dinner.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



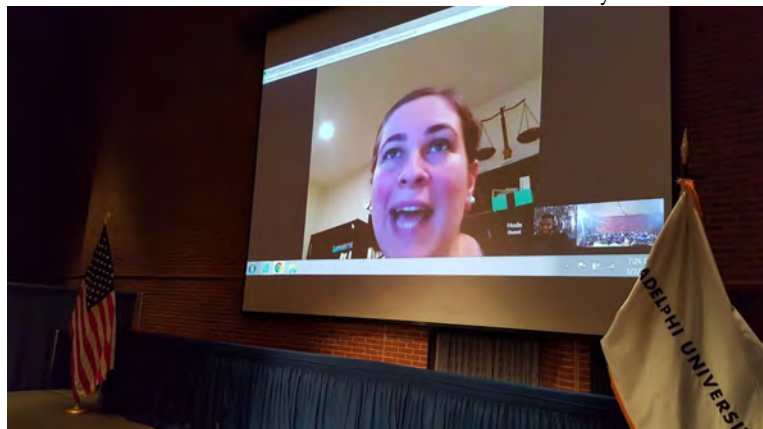
This is a picture of the undergraduates and professors who attended the dinner at the beginning of the event. The food section is also shown in this picture to the right.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



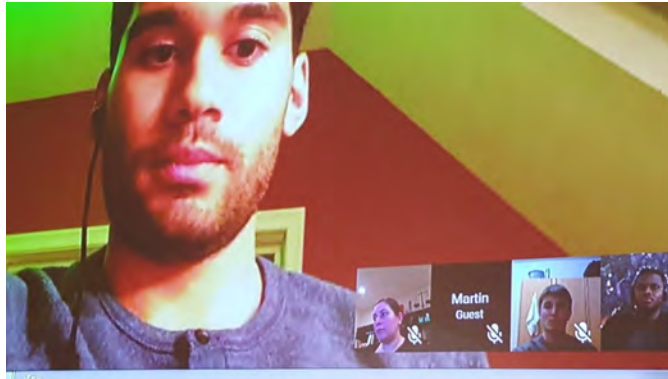
Here is more alumni on Google Hangout as the event progressed. This alumni described his time going to graduate school across the country for Physics.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



This is a better picture of the undergraduates who attended.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



This is a picture of one of the alumni on Google Hangout who decided to pursue Law School after earning his undergraduate Physics degree at Adelphi. She says her undergraduates allowed her to pursue his interest in studying patons.  
Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley



Here is another photo of an alumni who was able to join us on Google Hangout. This alumni described his journey on the Columbia Engineering program at Adelphi, and described his time at the University of Connecticut.

Photo Credit: Professor Sean Bentley

