



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

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| Project Title | The Central Florida Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony |
| Name of School | University of Central Florida |
| Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number | #505 |
| Total Amount Awarded | \$500.00 |
| Project Leader | Kevin Fernando |

Summary of Award Activity

The University of Central Florida's Sigma Pi Sigma Induction ceremony brought together both the Mathematics and Physics departments to induct young scholars into both Sigma Pi Sigma and Pi Mu Epsilon. We hosted the Physics department chair, Dr. Eduardo Mucciolo, as main speaker and got to hear some incredible anecdotes about his journey through academia as well as his renewed perspective on how to guide undergraduates since becoming chair. The ceremony featured a much beloved book giveaway which included popular science books, math textbooks, and physics textbooks from many different subfields and for all different levels. Ceremony inductees were also greeted with a buffet style lunch, and were told about the histories of both honor societies before being inducted.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

The project manifested itself as an induction ceremony which included both the Mathematics and the Physics departments. It was held April 8th and featured a free lunch for attendees at the school cafeteria, after which the ceremony formally began. The ceremony itself began with an overview of the history of both Sigma Pi Sigma and Pi Mu Epsilon from the advisors of each respective organization. We then inducted new members, heard a talk from our main speaker and then held a textbook giveaway. These were well received by attendees and most of them were able to leave with 2 or 3 free texts.

The original project goals were to have a book giveaway, honor a local physicist, have an induction ceremony for both math and physics, as well as the Rollins college SPS chapter, and host a alumni of the year award. Out of these we were able to implement an expanded book giveaway, honor a local physicist, and bring both Mathematics and Physics honor societies together in one event. We attempted the other goals; however, we were unsuccessful. We reached out to the Rollins college chapter, but communication quickly died off. We also attempted to get an Alumni of the year award but didn't have enough alumni feedback or administrative backing to execute the award correctly.

Regarding what we did implement, we had an attendance of approximately 30 people ranging from undergraduates to faculty in both Mathematics and Physics. Those who contributed to erecting the ceremony include the Sigma Pi Sigma and SPS advisors, the SPS officer board, the Pi Mu Epsilon advisor, and a handful of SPS chapter members. Despite having this help, implementing all our goals was difficult. Firstly, getting a speaker was much more difficult than I had anticipated. I worked for months to get different physicists from around Florida, but we were simply unlucky. Then, the administrative difficulties of securing a venue large enough to host the ceremony, as well as finding the right times in which helpers could meet to discuss the project was difficult. Lastly, the communication in between departments was poor at times, which caused us to reevaluate certain plans, and delayed progress. We also had to shift the date of the venue one time due to the APS April meeting.

Once the ceremony did come to fruition it was a very fun and refreshing experience. The speaker, Dr. Mucciolo, was very well received and had some very interesting stories. He mentioned that he worked with someone who now is a famous name in Condensed Matter Physics right as he was getting to MIT but decided to leave for a famous Russian physicist. The audience was also very surprised when they found out Dr. Mucciolo began his career interested in solar powered cars and engineering, but slowly transitioned through multiple subfields and disciplines to eventually land upon quantum information.

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

Although there were significant difficulties in executing the project, in the end I believe it was successful not only for our chapter but for Sigma Pi Sigma as a whole. Firstly, holding a larger scale event like this naturally attracted a lot of eyes, and we were able to get students excused from class to go to it, so even those not involved in SPS heard about it. Secondly, we had 3 alumni attend and interact with the newly inducted members, which strengthened their connections and helped bridge the gap between the two groups. Lastly, the event proved to be a success in its ability to draw younger students who are freshmen and sophomores to come and watch academic excellence be promoted for upperclassmen.

I believe the project also will increase inter-chapter communication, fundraisers for our local chapter, and add greater distinction to induction ceremonies. By hosting one as nice as we did will elevate the level at which the chapter will operate in the future, as well as increase confidence in the organization from faculty, and outsiders. I know this project has sparked a conversation between our chapter and that of Rollins so even though we weren't able to conduct the ceremony jointly this year, I'm sure that the door has been opened for future work together.

Key Metrics and Reflection

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| <p>Who was the target audience of your project?</p> | <p>Undergraduate students studying either Physics or Mathematics, as well as faculty who are interested in celebrating academic success in undergraduates.</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>5 faculty in Physics, 2 in Math, 6 Math majors, 21 physics majors.</p> |
| <p>How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?</p> | <p>5 Sigma Pi Sigma members were involved in the planning and execution of the project.</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 funding worked out to be just the right amount. If given more, we could have bought more modern books, and decorated the room better.</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>Yes, I believe the officers next year will be interested in expanding on this project to serve more members of the physics and mathematics community.</p> |
| <p>What new relationships did you build through this project?</p> | <p>Leading the development of this project required me to interact with faculty in the physics and mathematics departments, as well as administrative services to get the venue</p> |
| <p>If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?</p> | <p>If I had to do it again, I would have it be more student led. I felt that oftentimes I was being slowed down by relying on faculty members who are busy on their own. I think if I were to handle most of these issues internally, with the officer board we could have accomplished a lot more.</p> |

Expenditures

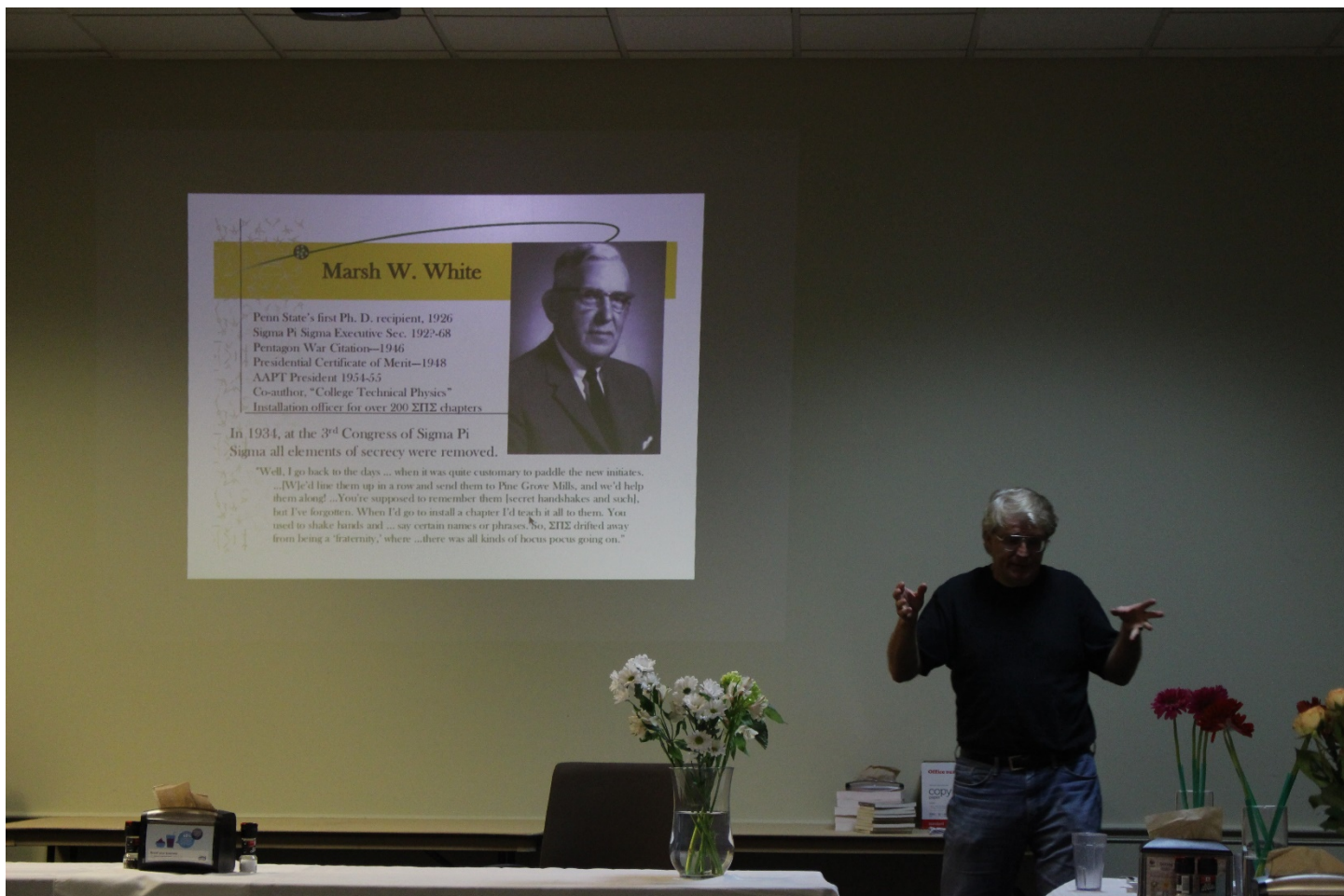
Our expenses outlined below are all the essentials for our ceremony to run smoothly. We had to pay for the lunch for each student which costed about \$169 total, and we had to buy flowers for the tables, books for the giveaway, and we had to pay a \$20 expediting fee to the national Sigma Pi Sigma to allow for as many students to apply to be inducted. Lastly since the fee to become a member is fairly high, we decided to give back a portion of the money to inductees, so we gave them each \$16.51. These expenses were paid for by the Sigma Pi Sigma funding.

Expenditure Table

| Item | Cost |
|--|-----------------|
| Books | \$200.43 |
| Lunch and Venue | \$169.00 |
| Flowers | \$48.00 |
| Sigma Pi Sigma member registration subsidy | \$82.57 |
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| Total of Expenses | \$500.00 |

Activity Photos

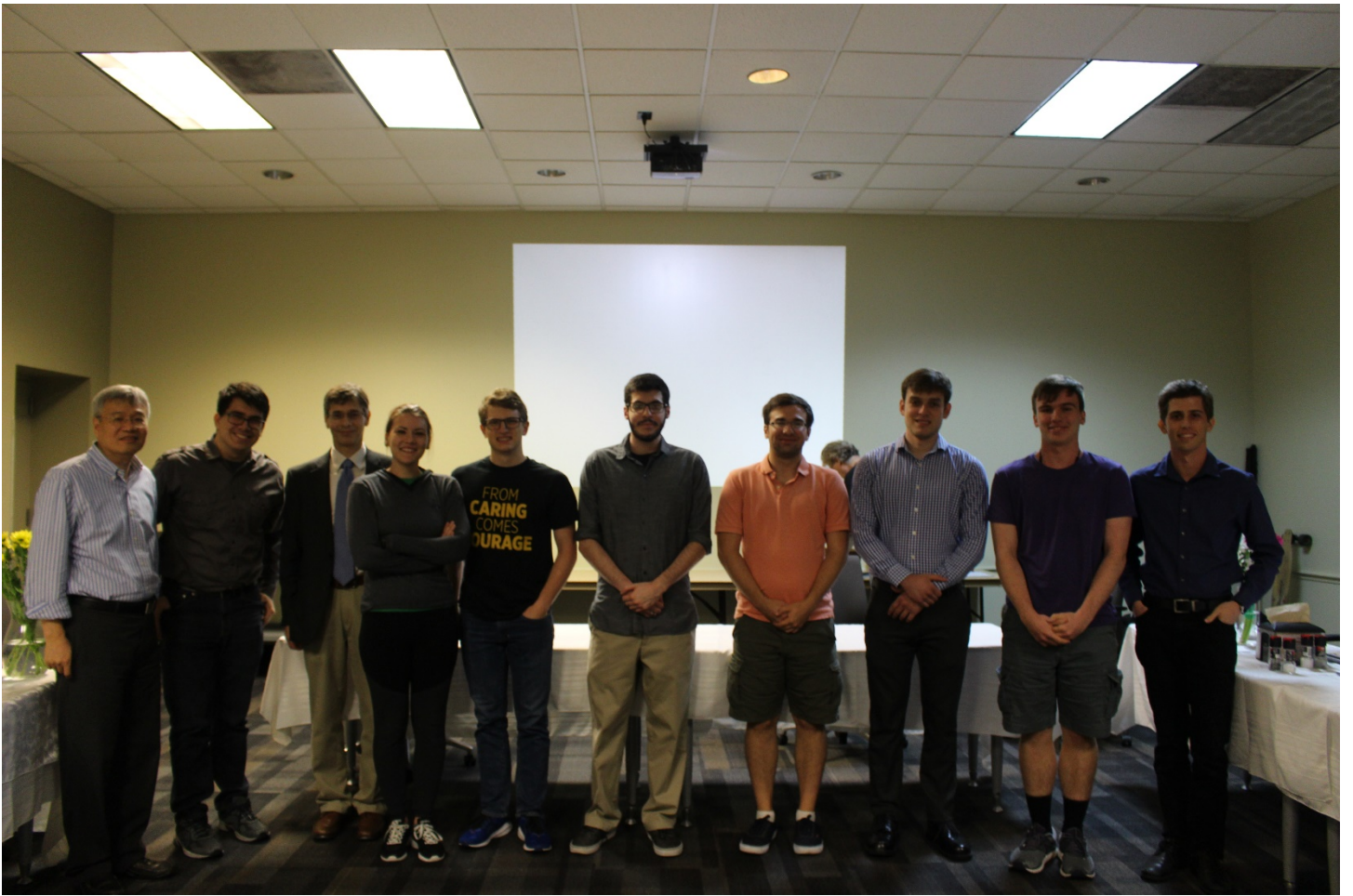
All photography credits go to the SPS chapter Historian Sonali Joshi.



Sigma Pi Sigma chapter advisor Dr. Costas Efthimiou giving a history lesson about the origins of the honor society.



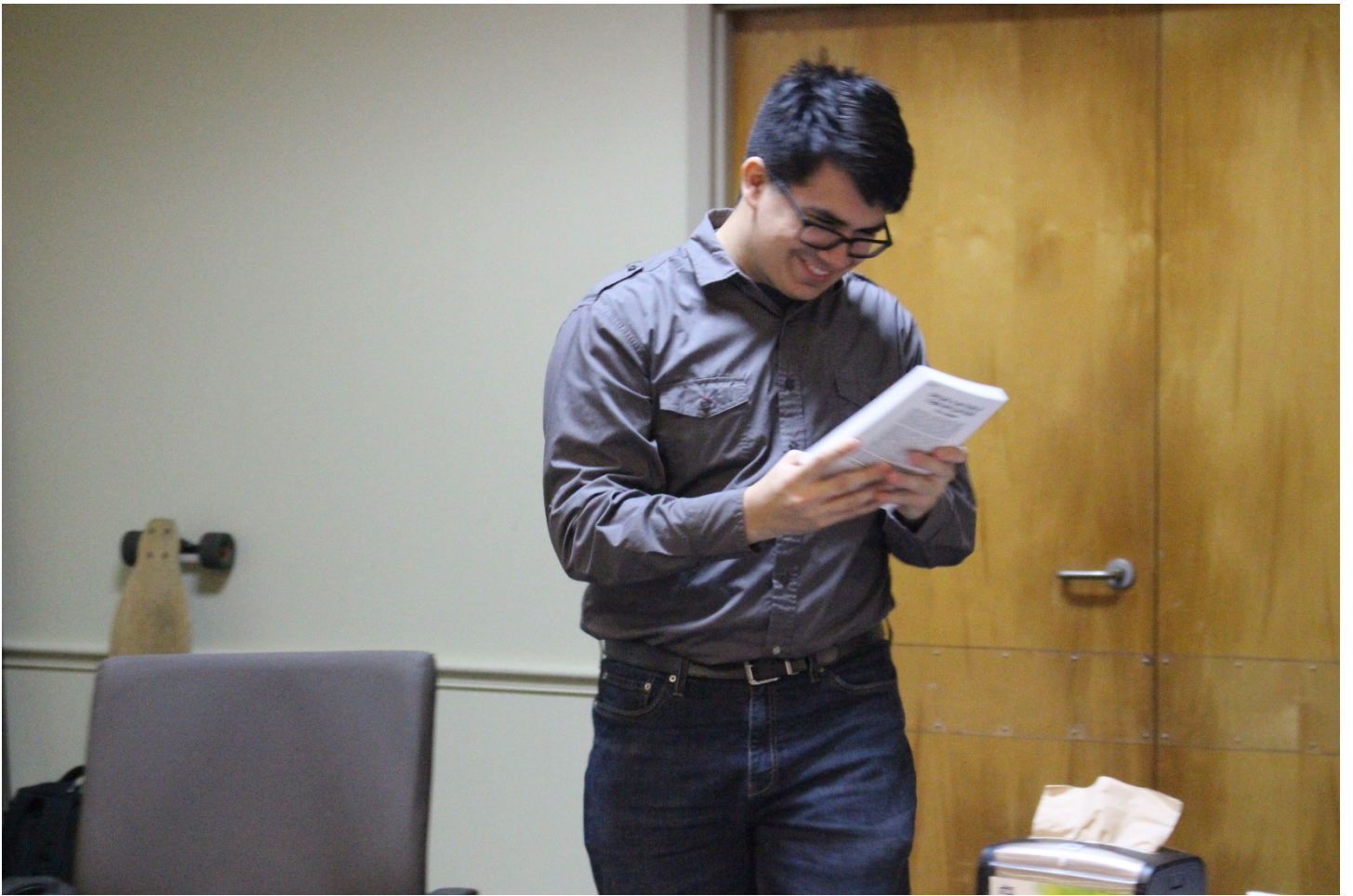
Awardees waiting to be called up to get their awards.



All awardees for Sigma Pi Sigma and [unreadable] posing together.



Sigma Pi Sigma member Kevin Fernando receiving a book on thermodynamics by chapter advisor Dr. Costas Efthimiou.



Sigma Pi Sigma Inductee Hunter Cannan content with his new book acquisition.