

Welcome to the
Western Kentucky University
Society of Physics Students / Sigma Pi Sigma
61st Anniversary Award Ceremony
Ogden College Hall Auditorium, Room 1006
April 16, 2021
3:00 p.m.

Program

Welcome Steven Gibson, Chapter Advisor
Quantum Leap Achievement Awards Michael Carini
Presentation of Departmental Awards Douglas Harper
Charge to New Sigma Pi Sigma Members Richard Gelderman
Reception of New Sigma Pi Sigma Members Steven Gibson
Recognition of Graduates Michael Carini
Special Recognition: Richard Gelderman Douglas Harper
Introduction of New SPS Officers Alexandra Drieaus
Closing Remarks Steven Gibson

Quantum Leap Achievement Awards

2020

Alexandra Lane Drieaus
Lars Hebenstiel
Jordyn Elizabeth Hurley
Colin Michael Loxley
Jared Scott Parker

2021

Isaiah Lucas Beauchamp
Wesley Ruston Fisher
Austin Tyler Lobe
Sebastian Robert Miracle
Ethan Cooper Poore
Philip David Weymeyer

2020 Departmental Awards

George Page Award for Outstanding Scholarship Taylor Norwood Robinson
George Page Award for Outstanding Scholarship Will Andrew Marsh
Randall Harper Award for Outstanding Research Alex Edmond Henson
Doug Humphrey Award for Outstanding Service William Lawrence Poteet

2021 Departmental Awards

George Page Award for Outstanding Scholarship Jared Scott Parker
Randall Harper Award for Outstanding Research Alexandra Lane Drieaus
Randall Harper Award for Outstanding Research Lars Hebenstiel
Doug Humphrey Award for Outstanding Service Alexandra Lane Drieaus
Doug Humphrey Award for Outstanding Service Colin Michael Loxley

2021 Sigma Pi Sigma Members Elect

Jared Scott Parker
Alexandra Lane Drieaus
Wesley Ruston Fisher

Lars Hebenstiel
Jordyn Elizabeth Hurley
Colin Michael Loxley

Graduating Physics Majors

2020

Jacob Dobler
Brendan Evans
Alex Henson
Will Marsh
Taylor Robinson

2021

Alexander Banaszak
Wesley Fisher
Jacob Lee
Colin Loxley
Jared Parker

Society of Physics Students Officers

2020-2021

President Alexandra Drieaus
Vice President William Poteet
Treasurer Colin Loxley
Secretary Jared Parker

2021-2022

Alexandra Drieaus
William Poteet
Sebastian Miracle
Isaiah Beauchamp

History

Sigma Pi Sigma was founded as a local honor organization at Davidson College, North Carolina, on December 11, 1921 by five undergraduates and four faculty members to honor outstanding scholarship in physics, to encourage interest in physics among students at all levels, to promote an attitude of service in its members toward their fellow students, colleagues, and the public, and to provide fellowship for persons who have excelled in physics.

Sigma Pi Sigma had grown to 170 chapters when it joined with the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Student Sections to form the Society of Physics Students (SPS) on April 22, 1968. The society is national in scope with over 700 chapters located at colleges and universities across the country. Under the direction of SPS, Sigma Pi Sigma has grown to over 75,000 members, which represents the experience and wisdom of three generations. About 2,000 new Sigma Pi Sigma members are inducted each year.

Western's own Sigma Pi Sigma chapter was conceived on May 25, 1960. The minimum requirements for membership are the completion of all core curriculum physics courses, a GPA of 3.3 in all physics courses, and an overall GPA of 3.0. After today, the total membership of Western's chapter will number 315, continuing Sigma Pi Sigma's proud tradition.

Symbolism

The motto of Sigma Pi Sigma is "Skepsis Prostates Suneseos" (Skep-sis Praw-stah-tays Soon-ess-eh-oce) This motto, translated from the Greek, is "Investigation, the Forerunner of Knowledge." From the first letters in the words of this motto is derived the name of the society, Sigma Pi Sigma.



The Davidson chapter spent much effort creating the lasting insignia for the organization. They devised the pin and crest with the dynamo, electric light bulb, lightning bolt, and the standard voltmeter. The symbolism on the pin portrays the three essential attributes of a true scientist: accuracy, knowledge, and creative energy. The standard voltmeter is symbolic of accuracy, the light bulb typifies knowledge, and the dynamo creative energy, or the ability to do research. The lightning flash on the seal is symbolic of an agent of nature—electricity—which has been made of inestimable value to mankind by physics. The Greek words are φυσικά (Phy-see-kah), signifying "physics" and Σοφία (So-fee-ah) signifying "knowledge."

Sigma Pi Sigma
The Physics Honor Society



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