



Happy 100th Birthday!!

SIGMA PI SIGMA

from the Marshall University Chapter of



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics



SIGMA PI SIGMA
The physics honor society

1-27-2022



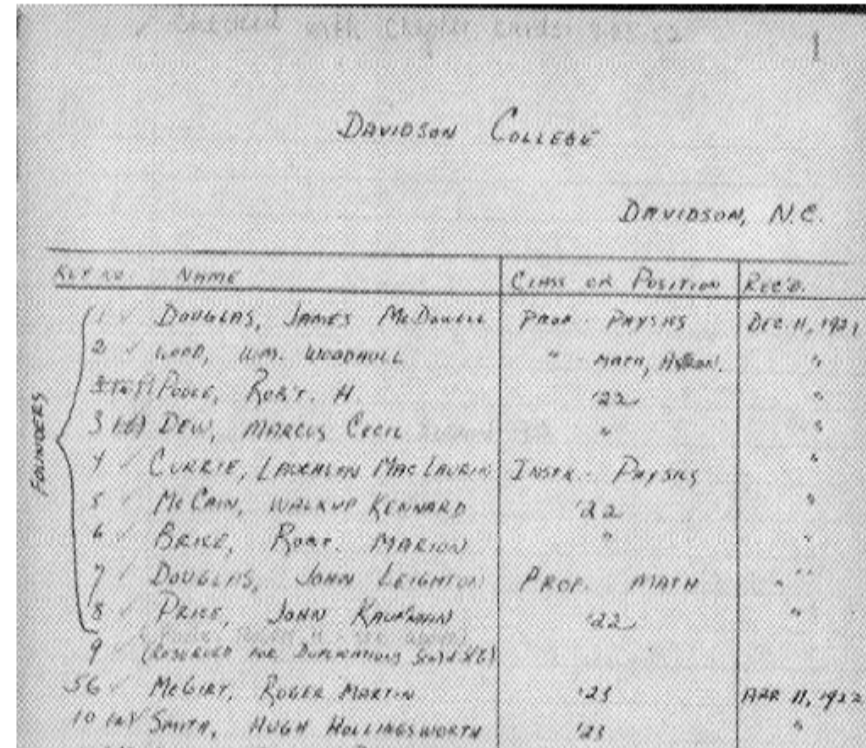
A Brief History of ΣΠΣ

A Physics and Astronomy Honor Society

**ΣΠΣ was established at
Davidson College, NC on
December 11, 1921**

“I became acquainted with some students at Davidson College, NC... a very high class liberal arts college... [They] came up with ΣΠΣ... I said, ‘Oh boy, that’s what we ought to have here at Penn State.’”

Marsh White, ‘father’ of Sigma Pi Sigma,



No.	Name	Class or Position	Rec'd.
1	DOWDERS, JAMES McDONELL	PROF. PHYSICS	DEC. 11, 1921
2	WOOD, WM. WOODHULL	" MATH. ASSIST.	"
3	POOLE, ROBT. H.	"	"
3 (alt)	DEW, MARCUS CECIL	"	"
4	CURKIE, LAWRENCE MAC LAURIN	INSTR. PHYSICS	"
5	McCAIN, WALKUP KENNARD	"	"
6	BRICE, ROBT. MARION	"	"
7	DOUGLIS, JOHN LEIGHTON	PROF. MATH	"
8	PRICE, JOHN KRAUTHAM	"	"
9	(DOWDERS OR DUNHAM'S SIBLING)	"	"
56	McGUIR, ROGER MARTIN	"	MAR 11, 1922
10 (alt)	SMITH, HUGH HOLLINGSWORTH	"	"

<https://www.sigmapi sigma.org/sigmapi sigma/about/history>

Symbolism

Once inducted, you will get a pin similar to this.



Bottom Image: a 1900's voltmeter

Top Image: Similar shape of logo

The founders of the Society used the standard voltmeter to symbolize the high accuracy which is the hallmark of careful experiments; the lamp is the symbol of knowledge and the dynamo represents the creative energy that is so necessary to productive research.



The Motto

ΣΚΕΨΙΣ ΠΡΟΪΣΤΑΤΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΣΕΩΣ

Pronunciation: **S**kép-sis **P**raw-stah-tays **S**oon-ess-eh-occe

Translation: Investigation the Forerunner of Knowledge

Mission of Sigma Pi Sigma

Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$) exists to:

- Honor scholarship
- Encourage interest in physics
- Promote service
- Provide fellowship

How to become a member:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- Physics GPA of 3.0 or better
- Maintain these values and you will be inducted near the completion of your degree



Service

Sigma Pi Sigma members serve the physics community in many ways, for example:

- Supporting local and national SPS programs
- Representing Physics/Science to the public
- Providing alumni networks
- Working for sound national science policies
- Offering science outreach opportunities

SPS & ΣΠΣ - Linked, but Distinct



The **Society of Physics Students (SPS)** is open to all who have an interest in physics and astronomy. SPS Chapters are chartered at two-year and four-year colleges and universities. **With almost 850 chapters, SPS is the professional society of undergrad students and their mentors. You are in the top 10-15% of these chapters. I am very proud of the MU SPS group!**



Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ) is the physics honor society and is housed within SPS. Sigma Pi Sigma chapters are restricted to colleges and universities of recognized standing that offer a strong physics or astronomy program. **With over 100,000 life long members, in ~600 chapters, ΣΠΣ fosters opportunities to connect and contribute to the broader physics community.**



SIGMA PI SIGMA
The physics honor society



Your History.....

Marshall University's Society of Physics Students has roots that extend back to a 1960 when the American Institute of Physics (AIP) first recognized an AIP student Section from, then, Marshall College under Physics Department Chair **Dr. Donald C. Martin** (1908 -1975).



MARSHALL COLLEGE
HUNTINGTON 1, WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

November 10, 1959

Mrs. Ethel E. Snider
National Secretary for Student Sections
American Institute of Physics
335 East 45th St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Snider:

I am glad to see that the AIP is encouraging the establishment of student sections, and we wish to apply for one.

Up until the past year or two, I never felt that we had a sufficient number of physics majors to attempt to form any student organization. However, we now have about 12 majors, and I have talked to some of them, and they seem to be interested in establishing a student section of the AIP.

Please send us the necessary application forms and any other material with suggestions for the organization and activities which may be carried on. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Donald C. Martin
Donald C. Martin, Chairman
Department of Physics

P.S. We do not offer any graduate work in physics at Marshall College at the present time.

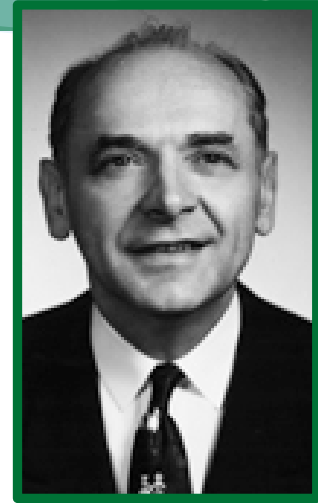
RECEIVED
NOV 12 1959
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS
BY _____

Your History.....

The Society of Physics Students was formed in **1968** with a constitution that combined its two “parent” organizations, The AIP Student Sections and the Sigma Pi Sigma honor society.

Marshall College was elevated to Marshall University in 1961 under the advisement of **Dr. Stewart H. Smith** (**1904-1982**), the seventh and longest serving Marshall University President in the history of the institution (from 1946-1968).

Our SPS external Donor is his son, **Dr. Frederick W. Smith**, who is happily enjoying retirement after 43 years of being an physics professor the City College of New York.



Dr. Stewart H. Smith (1904-1982)



Dr. Frederick W. Smith
(Enjoying retirement!)

Your History.....

Marshall University established its Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter in 2008 under the advisement **Dr. Ralph E. Oberly** (Marshall Physics Professor for 49 years from 1970-2019 and Chair of the Physics Department to follow after Dr. Martin who died in 1975. Ralph is happily enjoying retirement.



A great 30 minute video describing SPS and ΣΠΣ

This video (full link below) is designed to be shared at department celebrations and induction ceremonies. The video includes a brief introduction by SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma Director Brad Conrad and Sigma Pi Sigma President Jim Borgardt, Willie Rockward (Sigma Pi Sigma President 2014-2018) gives a passionate speech about the four pillars of Sigma Pi Sigma, and Toni Sauncy (SPS President 2009-2012 and Director 2012-2014) gives us a brief history of the organization. The video ends with SPS Associate Counselor Kirk Kleinsasser recognizing individuals that make the organization a reality by reading the names of 2021 recipients of the SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma Service Awards.

[Sigma Pi Sigma Centennial Celebration - YouTube](#)

A Reminder since you are all here....

Checkout our MU Physics Website (<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/>), there is a wealth of information on there for physics students.

- Available BS Physics Degree Paths
<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/degrees/bachelor-of-science/>
- Physics Department Scholarships for Physics Students
<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/scholarships/>
- Help with Job and Internship Searches and Future Careers
<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/careers/>
- Physics Student Resources (free online texts and software)
<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/physics-student-resources/>
- Help Focusing on Exams like the GRE and the Physics GRE
<https://www.marshall.edu/physics/exam-preparation-resources-mcat-oat-dat-lsat-gre/>



Don't wait to ask questions.



Happy 100th Birthday!!

SIGMA PI SIGMA

from the Marshall University Chapter of



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

1-27-2022



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society