

President's Report for Sigma Xi Annual Meeting
May 26, 2016

Welcome to the Sigma Xi Columbia-Willamette Annual Meeting, which we are calling this year our End of Year event—Initiation, Recognition, Celebration. We thank you for taking the time to come and meet our new chapter members, socialize with your colleagues, and receive alimentary and mental sustenance. We will recognize 11 new members, including undergraduate and graduate students, early career scientists, members from industry, and established scientists, and two members whose work has progressed to the stage where they are now qualified for full membership. We will also congratulate a teacher and a supporter of research for their efforts in furthering our goals, and two members who have received Grants-in-Aid of Research from Sigma Xi. Rather than have a single speaker, we will ask each of our new members and awardees to introduce themselves and their science to us.

This is the year we changed our spots, trying to do some things differently. Board member Erik Tucker hosted a fall mixer at his start-up Aronora Biotech, where we recruited a new member and had a chance to meet with scientists who were actively pursuing research and development in small companies.

We held our Student Research Symposium in November, instead of April, hoping that this would make for a clearer calendar for student participants and less competition with spring events. We had fifty posters from six schools, including PSU, UP, Warner Pacific, OHSU, Reed, and Western Oregon. We are on target for another November event this fall. So far, one winner from last year, Joseph Thiebes, participated in the Sigma Xi Annual Meeting Kansas City in November. One of this year's winners, Amie Romney will attend the AAASPD-SX meeting in San Diego in June, and two, Anh Ngo and Sam Underwood, will present at the SX Annual meeting this coming fall in Atlanta. Once our students get to a meeting, they have an excellent track record of winning awards—we are always very proud of them.

Because of our lineup of fall events, our lecture series was reduced this year. However, we were very fortunate to have past, present, and future SX Distinguished Lecturers visit and talk to us. Bryant York, from our Computer Science department, spoke in January about Computational Thinking, Visualization, and the Advancement of Science in the 21st century. This event was co-sponsored by our LSAMP program, and Bryant had a special meeting with the students before the lecture. The Distinguished Lecturer of the current year, Andrea Bertozzi, came from UCLA's Department of Applied Mathematics to talk to Sigma Xi members, students, and many other interested colleagues about the Mathematics of Crime. She also gave a talk to the Mathematics department. Our final speaker was one of our new members, Jim O'Connor, from the US Geological Survey, to talk about demolition of dams, 1000 Dams Down and Counting, again attracting a large and interested audience.

Another important chapter function is to provide additional support for students who are awarded Grants-in-Aid of Research by Sigma Xi. These students are among the 20% of applicants whose awards are successful in this rigorous review process, and they represent highest potential for continuing progress in research. We supplement their

awards with \$100 from the chapter. This year Jess Millar and Caitlin Maraist were our winners, and you will get to hear from them in a little while.

We continued our tradition of participating in outreach activities to support the community. We regularly show up at the Oregon Academy of Sciences meeting, and particular thanks go to Dick Pugh, who travels throughout the state demonstrating meteorites. Many of our members served as judges for the Intel Northwest Science expos and for our own SRS. A major chapter goal is to support and encourage students in science and engineering at all levels.

We had a very successful wine tour in the Willamette Valley in August, led by our favorite terroirist Scott Burns, where we had the chance to taste and purchase some outstanding wines. We are hoping for one or two special events this summer, so watch your email!

The Sigma Xi Board (ask members to stand and introduce themselves) has been outstanding this year. Special thanks go to Tom Hard, our Treasurer, newsletter editor, and webmaster, who has worked above and beyond the call. We lost Chris Olson from OHSU to Phoenix, but welcomed his colleague Tamara Phillips to the board. We would still welcome one or two additional members, particularly those with connections to industry, agencies, or other academic institutions. Our diversity helps to provide our strength, and I would like to continue to build upon it.

And finally, we were fortunate to meet Karen Thiebes, a new member, who is working with a small committee to update our “look” and help our communications get to those with whom we want to connect.

Those of us who are here because we believe in Sigma Xi's mission: “to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science, and promote the public’s understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition.” In addition, our chapter is committed to supporting the next generation of researchers with our outreach and student activities. We look forward to more activities promoting these goals next year.

Thank you and enjoy the evening!