

## **Report of the Committee on Lectureships for the Year ending June 30, 2013**

It is my pleasure to report that the Sigma Xi Lectureship Program continues to be one of our Society's most successful endeavors. It provides outstanding lecturers to chapters and their host institutions, while offering an opportunity for outreach to the broader community interested in science. This is a report of the activities of the Committee on Lectureships from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

### **I. THE SIGMA XI DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS**

The Committee selected 22 speakers to serve as the 2012-2013 Distinguished Lecturers. These speakers addressed subjects and issues including science, mathematics, engineering, medicine, science philosophy and education. The Committee is pleased to announce that, in addition to the lecturers selected by the committee, the American Meteorological Society, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Cancer Institute, sponsored speakers for the series. These organizations provided funding to subsidize Sigma Xi chapters as they engage lecturers at local events.

The list of Distinguished Lecturers, along with their brief biographies and information about lectures on offer, was included in the January-February 2012 issue of *American Scientist*. The Lectureship Committee is keenly aware of the need to achieve a balanced class of lecturers in terms of discipline, geography, gender and ethnic plurality. These criteria inform our primary responsibility to offer, as lecturers, outstanding research scientists and engineers who deliver stimulating and effective lectures to a broad audience representing a wide range of disciplines.

In 2013, the honorarium offered to Distinguished Lecturers was increased to \$300. Chapters pay this modest honorarium, in addition to travel and subsistence, when hosting a Lecturer.

### **II. LECTURESHIP SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Sigma Xi continues to provide modest subsidies for chapters to participate in the Distinguished Lectureship Program. Since the allocation of subsidy funds available is not adequate to meet demand, the Lectureship Committee gives priority to those chapters that demonstrate the greatest need for, and potential to benefit from, Sigma Xi support. For fiscal year 2013, a total of \$22,770.00 was awarded to the following 29 chapters:

Appalachian State University, Army Research Laboratory, Black Hills Regional, Case Western Reserve University, Charleston, Columbia-Willamette, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Eastern Illinois University, Fairfield University, Gustavus Adolphus College, Iowa State University, Kirksville, Lamar University, Louisville, Loyola Marymount University, Mercer University, Northern Michigan University, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio State University, Quinnipiac, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rockford College, Southern Oregon, SUNY at Purchase, Tennessee Technological University, University of Hawaii, University of Hawaii-Hilo, University of New Mexico, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Washington College

### **III. GUIDE FOR LECTURERS AND HOSTS**

Information is available for chapter officers with guidelines for hosting a Distinguished Lecturer. The guide is available on the Sigma Xi Web site and will be updated in fiscal year 2014.

### **IV. THE COMMITTEE**

The Lectureship Committee meets each April to review subsidy applications and to identify new Distinguished Lecturers. My sincere appreciation is expressed to the members who serve, so ably, on this Committee. The members of the Committee for the year ending 30 June 2013 were:

Elizabeth Ambos (California State University-Long Beach), Virginia Butler (Columbia-Willamette Chapter), Liza Cariaga-Lo (Harvard University), Willie Pearson (Georgia Institute of Technology), Isiah Warner (Louisiana State University), John Watson (University of California-San Francisco) and Judith Herzfeld, chair (Brandeis University).

In the coming year the Committee will undertake a study of lecturer usage by chapters. In addition, the Lectureship Committee will consider the speaker selection process used by sponsoring organizations to

better coordinate with the committee's own selection process. The committee will welcome the following new members to provide fresh input on the program:

Bruce Bejcek (Western Michigan University), Jane Gilman (Rutgers University) and Jacqueline Krim (North Carolina State University)

who will serve alongside continuing members:

Virginia Butler (Columbia-Willamette Chapter), Willie Pearson (Georgia Institute of Technology), Isiah Warner (Louisiana State University), and Judith Herzfeld, chair (Brandeis University).

The Committee is interested in comments and suggestions. Please forward your comments to [Kevin Bowen](#), Program Manager for Distinguished Lectureships.

Sincerely,  
Judith Herzfeld  
Chair, Committee on Lectureships

**Comment [JH1]:** Less negative than saying who is going off