

Report of the Committee on Lectureships for the Year ending June 30, 2014

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, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

I. THE SIGMA XI DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Committee presented a selection of 16 speakers to serve as the 2015-2017 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 and 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 2014 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 2014, a total of \$24,985 was awarded to the following 32 chapters:

Alfred University, Appalachian State University, Army Research Laboratory, Case Western Reserve University, Charleston (SC) Chapter, Charlotte, Columbia-Willamette, Cornell University, East Carolina University, Eastern Illinois University, Fairfield University, Indiana University-Purdue Univ. at Ft. Wayne, Iowa State University, Kirksville, Lamar University, Louisville, Loyola Marymount University, Mercer University, Northern Illinois University, Northern Michigan University, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio State, Quinnipiac, Rockford College, SUNY at Purchase, Tennessee Technological University, University of Dayton, University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, University of South Dakota, and Vermont.

III. GUIDE FOR LECTURERS AND HOSTS

A guide for hosting a successful visit by a Distinguished Lecturer was updated and made available to chapter officers on the new Sigma Xi Web site.

IV. THE COMMITTEE

The Lectureship Committee met by teleconference on April 30, 2014 to review subsidy applications and to identify new Distinguished Lecturers. The Committee selected ten new speakers to serve from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

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 2014 were:

Bruce Bejcek	Western Michigan University
Virginia Butler	Portland State University
Jane Gilman	Rutgers University
Judith Herzfeld (chair)	Brandeis University
Jacqueline Krim	North Carolina State University
Willie Pearson Jr.	Georgia Institute of Technology
Isiah M. Warner	Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge

In 2013-2014, the Committee undertook a study of lecturer usage by chapters. The Lectureship Committee also considered the speaker selection process used by sponsoring organizations in an effort better coordinate with the committee's own selection process.

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