

Report of the Committee on Lectureships for the Year ending June 30, 2016

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, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

I. THE SIGMA XI DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Committee presented a selection of 22 speakers to serve as the 2016-2018 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 (AMS) sponsored a speaker for the series. AMS 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 2016 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.

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 2016, a total of \$20,085 was awarded to the following 21 chapters:

Columbia-Willamette, Eastern Illinois University, Fairfield University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Kansas State University, Kirksville, Lamar University, Louisiana Tech University, Louisville, Northern Illinois University, Northern Michigan University, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Quinnipiac, Ramapo College of New Jersey, SUNY at Purchase, Tidewater-Virginia, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, , University of Texas at Dallas, Vermont, and Villanova University.

III. GUIDE FOR LECTURERS AND HOSTS

Sigma Xi staff has been working with Chapters to promote the distinguished lectureships by conducting online interviews with the lecturers. Chapter sponsors for these digital events have exclusive access to the speaker in an online format. This program gives other chapters the opportunity to learn about the speakers and identify those speakers who would be of interest to their members.

IV. THE COMMITTEE

The Lectureship Committee met by teleconference on April 27, 2016 to review subsidy applications and to identify new Distinguished Lecturers. The Committee selected eleven new speakers to serve from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

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 2016 were:

Virginia Butler	Portland State University
Jonathan Eisen	University of California, Davis
Jane Gilman	Rutgers University
Judith Herzfeld (chair)	Brandeis University
Marc Lee Imhoff	University of Maryland
Jacqueline Krim	North Carolina State University
Willie Pearson Jr.	Georgia Institute of Technology

The Committee is interested in comments and suggestions. Please forward your comments to Janelle Simmons, Manager of Programs.

Sincerely,
Judith Herzfeld
Chair, Committee on Lectureships