

Report of the Committee on Lectureships for the Year ending June 30, 2017

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, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

I. THE SIGMA XI DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Committee presented a selection of 22 speakers to serve as the 2016-2017 Distinguished Lecturers. These speakers addressed subjects and issues including science, sociology, engineering, anthropology, evolution, and physics. 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 engaged 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 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 2017, 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. Q&A WITH DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

Sigma Xi and *American Scientist* hosted online question-and-answer sessions with Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturers. These sessions offered the opportunity to hear a researcher talk about his or her work. The sessions were held online and broadcasted live. They were also recorded for later viewing. Sigma Xi chapters are invited to host chapter events to watch the sessions together.

IV. THE COMMITTEE

The Committee on Lectureships met by teleconference on April 17, 2017 to review subsidy applications and to identify new Distinguished Lecturers. Committee members have found it increasingly challenging to find individuals willing to accept lectureships due to competing demands on their time. The committee selected nine new speakers to serve from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

My sincere appreciation is expressed to the members, who serve, so ably, on this Committee. The members of the Committee for the year ending June 30, 2017 were:

Virginia Butler	Portland State University
Jane Gilman	Rutgers University
Judith Herzfeld (chair)	Brandeis University
Marc Lee Imhoff	University of Maryland
Diandra Leslie-Pelecky	West Virginia University
Willie Pearson Jr.	Georgia Institute of Technology
Michael Spencer	Morgan State University

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

Sincerely,
Judith Herzfeld, Ph.D.
Chair, Committee on Lectureships