

Report of the Committee on Lectureships for the Year ending June 30, 2018

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, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

I. THE SIGMA XI DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Committee presented a selection of 20 speakers to serve as the 2018-2019 Distinguished Lecturers. These speakers addressed subjects and issues including chemistry, history, engineering, anthropology, sociology, 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 2018, a total of \$18,435 was awarded to the following 19 chapters:

Case Western Reserve University, Charleston, Columbia-Willamette, East Stroudsburg University, Fairfield University, Greenbrier Valley, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Lamar University, Louisiana Tech University, Northern Michigan University, Northwest Pennsylvania, Quinnipiac, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rockford University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, SUNY at Purchase, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, and University of New Mexico.

III. THE COMMITTEE

The Committee on Lectureships met by teleconference on April 16, 2018 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 six new speakers and one returning speaker to serve from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

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, 2018 were:

Virginia Butler	Portland State University
Marc Lee Imhoff (chair)	University of Maryland
Diandra Leslie-Pelecky	West Virginia 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,
Marc Lee Imhoff, Ph.D.
Chair, Committee on Lectureships