

## Award Winners

### 2013 Student Research Conference

#### High School Division

##### Environmental & Geo Sciences

**Maggie Pan**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

##### Physiology & Immunology

**Vivek Pisharody** and **Kanan Shah**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

**Remenna Xu**, Newark Academy

##### Chemistry

**Christopher Zhen**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

##### Engineering

**Kavirath Jain**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

##### Math & Computer Science

**Zachary Polizzi**, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

#### Undergraduate Division

##### Behavioral & Social Sciences

**Briana Nash** and **Marcin Mazurek**, Quinnipiac University

##### Cell Biology & Biochemistry

**Victor Wang**, Georgetown University

**Joseph Polli**, East Carolina University

**Matthew Powers**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

##### Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**Iva Sinamati**, Oakland University

##### Geo Sciences

**Christine Gartner** and **Erica Lassen**, Lamar University

##### Engineering

**Steven Chavez**, University of California, Berkeley

##### Math & Computer Science

**Erin Twohy**, Concordia College

##### Physiology & Immunology

**Brittany Conroy**, University of Nebraska at Omaha

##### Chemistry

**John Yang**, Northwestern University

#### Graduate Division

##### Behavioral & Social Sciences

**Faten Taki**, East Carolina University

##### Cell Biology & Biochemistry

**Dorothy Dobbins** and **Erin Connolly**, East Carolina University

##### Geo Sciences

**Xiao Yang**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

##### Engineering

**Woochul Jung**, North Carolina State University

##### Physics & Astronomy

**Matthew Rickerf**, Northwestern University •

## From the President



### Science Communication in the 21st Century

What are you? No, not the shocking question asked of Dr. Danielle Lee, postdoc and science blogger (*The Urban Scientist*). If that piques your interest, look for the story on the Internet.

My question invites you to consider your role in science communication. Dr. Lee was one of the panelists at our Annual Meeting, the topic of which was science communication in the 21st century. She and her fellow panelists reminded us that no longer are science stories held captive by the traditional media and prescribed channels that filtered what, when, and how those stories were reported. The dismantling of barriers by social media has revolutionized how science is done and disseminated.

One of the panelists, Ros Reid, executive director of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, pointed out that 21st century technology puts a premium on telegraphic messages, informal communication, humor, flair, hipness and irony, pictures, and bonding through popular culture. Does that make you a bit uncomfortable?

Fear not, Reid assures us, for as you encourage your students to develop their science personalities and informal science expression, you will find your own sense of identity as a science communicator. Dr. Jamie Vernon, one of the panelists and the ORISE Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy, illustrated the frequent disconnect between how well we think we've explained our science and how little understood it and its effect really are. Dennis Meredith, another panelist and chair of the Sigma Xi Publications Committee, explains that so often we rely on jargon and "complexificational obfuscation." So Reid nudges us to reboot and retweet—tap into good science and learn how to propagate it.

Controversy. The hallowed space of science has been challenged by a new generation that demands cultural changes. Sexism and racism in science have been called out in the blogosphere. Pseudo-science has found a platform. That which is unscientific claims authority. The nonscientist masquerades as scientist. Panelist and editor of *American Scientist*, Corey Powell, spoke to when science becomes a story, when it is over-reported, under-reported, and how the media selects, distorts, and spins. Dr. Bethany Brookshire gave arresting examples of both good and ineffective social media communication of science. She also made a case for honesty in reporting science so that young people understand that the process includes mistakes and failures.

Dr. Brookshire also offered us a startling challenge when language and a visual in one of her slides, unremarkable for young audiences, gave us pause nonetheless. She graciously allowed some editing and gave us the opportunity to discuss censorship, different ways of speaking about science, pushing the boundaries, and the provocative collision of the lingua franca and the vernacular in science communication.

Rich material for the upcoming Sigma Xi white paper on science communication in the 21st century!

Linda Meadows

## Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference Recap

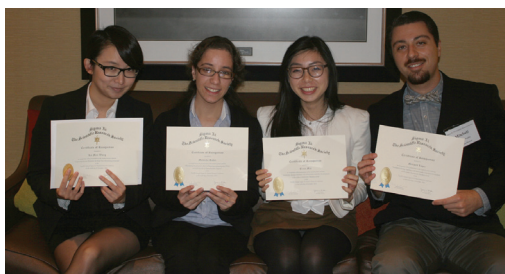
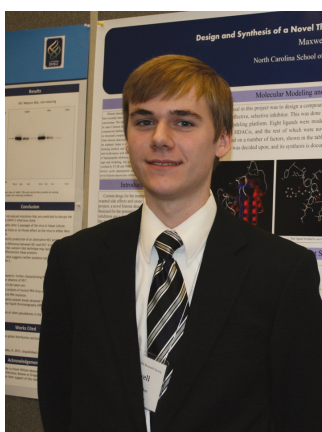


The 114th Annual Assembly of Delegates on November 9 brought together approximately 200 board members, chapter delegates, and members. They met by webcast to conduct Society business, network, and learn. This is the second year the Assembly was held online to make it accessible to more members by cutting travel time and expense.

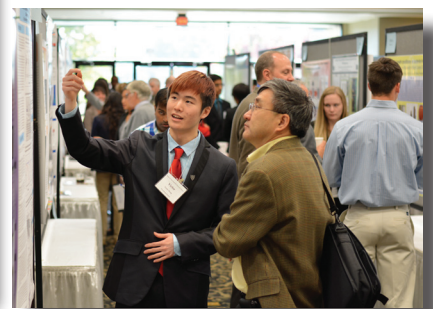
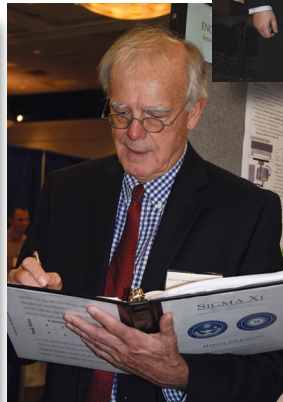
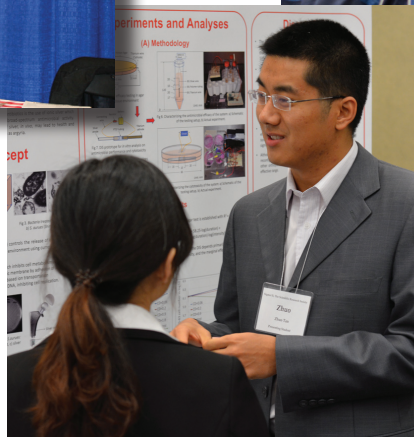
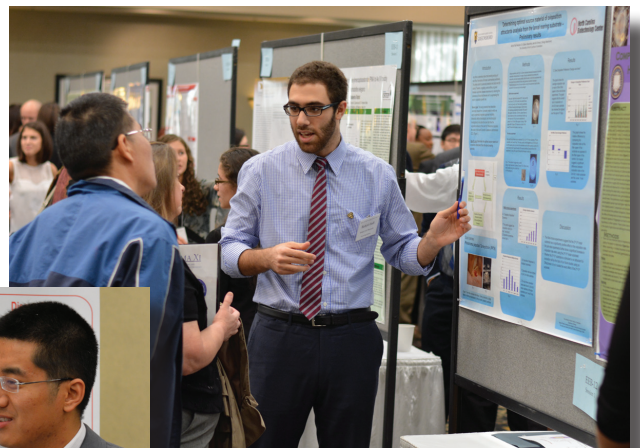
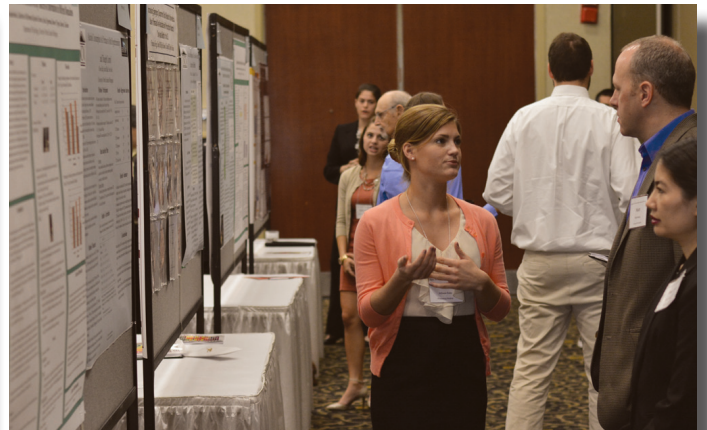
The key topic was “Communicating Science in the 21st Century.” We are going through a dramatic change in the way scientists communicate with lay audiences such as policy makers, teachers, and students. Coverage of science news by traditional media sources has declined while social media and the Internet give scientists a direct link to the public. A panel of leading authorities discussed the challenges of this change, including how scientists may have to adapt their communication styles to capture their audience and how the scientific community can improve this communication.

A listening session gave chapters and members a chance to share their thoughts and suggestions about the Society. Participants also heard from the Board of Directors, President Linda Meadows, President-Elect George Atkinson, Executive Director Jerry Baker, and others. Visit [www.sigmaxi.org](http://www.sigmaxi.org) for videos of the meeting.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, more than 200 students from across North America came to Research Triangle Park, NC, for Sigma Xi's 2013 Student Research Conference. Participants went on tours of local research facilities and the offices of *American Scientist*. They also gave poster presentations for awards in high school, undergraduate, and graduate divisions. •







# recognition and awards

## Chapter Award Winners

We would like to recognize our outstanding chapters for 2013!

Chapter Program Awards were given to the following chapters for organizing and/or hosting a single outstanding program, especially one that other chapters can emulate. Nominees were chosen by the regional directors based on chapter annual reports. Winners were selected by the Committee on Qualifications and Membership and recognized during the Annual Meeting on November 9.

### Chapter Program Award Winners

**Duke University** for their First Annual Women in Science and Engineering Symposium in collaboration with Duke WiSE.

**Murray State University** for their annual Student Poster Competition.

**Greenbrier Valley** for their Middle School Science Fair.

**Texas A&M University** for their Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo.

**George Mason University** for hosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of Sigma Xi.

### Chapter Program Award Honorable Mentions

**New Mexico Highlands University**

**Northwestern Pennsylvania**

**Wichita State University**

**State University of New York at Oswego**

Certificates of Excellence were awarded to the following chapters for exceptional activity, innovative programming, and true community leadership during the past year. Nominees were chosen by the constituency directors based on annual reports. Winners were selected by the Committee on Qualifications and Membership.

### Certificates of Excellence Winners

**Columbia-Willamette**

**Charleston College**

**National Institute of Standards and Technology**

**Pace University**

### Certificates of Excellence Honorable Mentions

**New Mexico Highlands University**

**Cornell University**

**Mercer University**

**Northwest Pennsylvania**

**Tifton**

Do you have questions about these chapter programs and how to implement new initiatives in your area? If so, please contact us today at [chapters@sigmaxi.org](mailto:chapters@sigmaxi.org).

## Top 25 Nominators

Each of these individuals has shown both personal dedication to Sigma Xi and belief in the honor of membership, through the gift of nomination of new initiate members from 2012-2013. We thank you for your service to your Society!

|                               |   |              |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| • <b>Barrett Hazelfine</b>    | Brown University . . . . .                      | 232 nominees |
| • <b>Eunsuk Kim</b>           | Brown University . . . . .                      | 225 nominees |
| • <b>Daniela Kohen</b>        | Carleton College . . . . .                      | 163 nominees |
| • <b>Jennifer Wolff</b>       | Carleton College . . . . .                      | 163 nominees |
| • <b>Donna Heald</b>          | Fordham University . . . . .                    | 99 nominees  |
| • <b>Linn Hobbs</b>           | Massachusetts Institute of Technology . . . . . | 84 nominees  |
| • <b>Igor Paul</b>            | Massachusetts Institute of Technology . . . . . | 84 nominees  |
| • <b>Martin Sanzari</b>       | Fordham University . . . . .                    | 75 nominees  |
| • <b>Mark Marshall</b>        | Amherst College . . . . .                       | 70 nominees  |
| • <b>Helen Leung</b>          | Amherst College . . . . .                       | 68 nominees  |
| • <b>Rayna Bell</b>           | Cornell University . . . . .                    | 65 nominees  |
| • <b>Nancy Koven</b>          | Southern Maine . . . . .                        | 64 nominees  |
| • <b>Craig Byron</b>          | Mercer University . . . . .                     | 63 nominees  |
| • <b>Joanne Kehlbeck</b>      | Union College . . . . .                         | 62 nominees  |
| • <b>Michael Hagerman</b>     | Union College . . . . .                         | 62 nominees  |
| • <b>Andrew Zwicker</b>       | Princeton . . . . .                             | 62 nominees  |
| • <b>Philip McCreanor</b>     | Mercer University . . . . .                     | 61 nominees  |
| • <b>Sue Ann Miller</b>       | Membership At Large . . . . .                   | 60 nominees  |
| • <b>Jay Pasachoff</b>        | Williams College . . . . .                      | 59 nominees  |
| • <b>Lois Banta</b>           | Williams College . . . . .                      | 59 nominees  |
| • <b>Bonnie Shulman</b>       | Southern Maine . . . . .                        | 58 nominees  |
| • <b>Robert Kaita</b>         | Princeton . . . . .                             | 56 nominees  |
| • <b>David L. Browman</b>     | Washington University . . . . .                 | 52 nominees  |
| • <b>Jennifer Smith</b>       | Washington University . . . . .                 | 52 nominees  |
| • <b>Frida Johannesdottir</b> | Cornell University . . . . .                    | 51 nominees  |

## Top 15 Nominating Chapters

We recognize the following chapters for their excellent work in nominating new members in 2012-2013 to the honor of Sigma Xi.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • <b>Brown University</b> . . . . .                      | 306 nominees |
| • <b>Carleton College</b> . . . . .                      | 212 nominees |
| • <b>Cornell University</b> . . . . .                    | 144 nominees |
| • <b>Smith College</b> . . . . .                         | 133 nominees |
| • <b>Ohio State University</b> . . . . .                 | 127 nominees |
| • <b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> . . . . . | 119 nominees |
| • <b>Fordham University</b> . . . . .                    | 113 nominees |
| • <b>Swarthmore College</b> . . . . .                    | 106 nominees |
| • <b>Mercer University</b> . . . . .                     | 86 nominees  |
| • <b>Princeton University</b> . . . . .                  | 84 nominees  |
| • <b>Southern Maine</b> . . . . .                        | 80 nominees  |
| • <b>Amherst College</b> . . . . .                       | 77 nominees  |
| • <b>Union College</b> . . . . .                         | 73 nominees  |
| • <b>Oberlin College</b> . . . . .                       | 71 nominees  |
| • <b>Williams College</b> . . . . .                      | 67 nominees  |