

Sigma Xi Today

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Montreal Annual Meeting to Showcase Student Research

The Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference in Montreal on November 11-14 will celebrate the accomplishments of leading scientists and engineers and feature a major undergraduate research poster competition involving hundreds of students.

"The annual Sigma Xi Student Research Conference on November 12-13 provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduates to present their research," according to Executive Director Patrick D. Sculley.

"But many also tell us," he continues, "that networking with Sigma Xi members, graduate school recruiters and potential employers is an equally important facet of this event."

The student research conference includes career development workshops, mentoring and networking activities, panel discussions and more.

"Our members seem to enjoy the interaction as much as the students," Sculley adds. "The goal is to make this the premier conference of its kind."

September 30 is the deadline for poster abstract submissions and presenter registration. Visit www.sigmaxi.org for guidelines on submitting abstracts and creating poster presentations, plus an interactive conference registration form.

Delegates to Sigma Xi's annual meeting will be among those serving as

judges for the student poster competition, with certificates of recognition and monetary awards going to outstanding presentations.

The meeting also provides opportunities for participation by graduate students and doctoral candidates, who may present research posters in a separate area and serve as judges for the undergraduate competition.

In addition, conference exhibits offer students and Sigma Xi members a chance to interact with representatives from academia, industry, government and other research-based organizations.

For a special networking lunch at the Student Research Conference, each table will be devoted to a specific topic, such as cutting edge research, graduate school recruitment, career options and a variety of issues impacting science and society.

At the annual meeting, Sigma Xi chapter delegates will have a chance to attend workshops on leadership, major issues facing the research enterprise and chapter management.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is providing major support for the Sigma Xi Student Research Conference.

This is the third time, in recent years, that Sigma Xi's annual meeting has been held outside the United States. The 1983 meeting was in Toronto, and the 1998 meeting was in Vancouver, British Columbia.

SIGMA XI



ANNUAL MEETING & STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC, CANADA  NOVEMBER 11-14, 2004

Scientific posters created by Sigma Xi delegates will also be on display throughout the meeting. All of these presentations will provide an excellent opportunity for discourse and networking.

Sigma Xi prize lectures, open to all participants, will be presented by Nobel laureate Murray Gell-Mann, scientist/broadcaster David Suzuki (see article on page 486) and Jason Nieh, director of Columbia University's Network Computing Laboratory.

Gell-Mann will receive Sigma Xi's William Procter Prize; Suzuki, the McGovern Award; and Nieh, the Young Investigator Award.

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Canadian David Suzuki to Receive 2004 McGovern Award

Scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster David T. Suzuki will receive the 2004 John P. McGovern Science and Society Medal at Sigma Xi's Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference in Montreal on November 11-14.

Presented annually by Sigma Xi since 1984, the McGovern Award recognizes a researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to science and society. The award consists of a medal and a \$4,000 honorarium. Recent recipients have included Nobel laureates Norman Borlaug, Mario Molina and Roald Hoffmann.

Suzuki is known to millions as the host of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's popular science television series, *The Nature of Things*. His eight-part series, *A Planet for the Taking*, won an award from the United Nations, while his most recent CBC/PBS series, *The Sacred Balance*, won top prize at France's Science Film Festival.

His other series include *The Secret of Life* for PBS/BBC and *The Brain* for the Discovery Channel. For CBC Radio he founded the long running radio series *Quirks and Quarks* and has presented two influential documentary series on the environment,



David T. Suzuki

From Naked Ape to Superspecies and It's a Matter of Survival.

An internationally respected geneticist, Suzuki was a full professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver from 1969-2001. He is professor emeritus with UBC's Sustainable Development Research Institute.

From 1969-1972 he was the recipient of the prestigious E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship Award for the "Outstanding Canadian Research Scientist Under the Age of 35." His many honors include a UNESCO Kalinga prize for science, a United Nations Environment Programme medal and the Order of Canada.

He has 15 honorary doctorates from universities in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. For his work in support of Canada's First Nations people, Suzuki has received many tributes and has been honored with seven names and formal adoption by two tribes.

Suzuki was born in Vancouver in 1936. During World War II, at the age of six, he was interned with his family in a camp there. After the war, he went to high school in London, Ontario.

Suzuki graduated with honors from Amherst College and went on to earn his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Chicago. The author of more than 40 books, he is recognized as a world leader in sustainable ecology.

As chair of the David Suzuki Foundation, established in 1990, he has worked to find ways for society to live in balance with the natural world that sustains us.

Focusing on four program areas—oceans and sustainable fishing, forests and wild lands, climate change and clean energy, and the web of life (what people can do to protect nature)—the foundation uses science and education to promote solutions that help conserve nature. The foundation has about 40,000 members.

2004 International Science and Engineering Fair Sigma Xi Winners



Sigma Xi award winners at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Portland, Oregon, are shown here with Sigma Xi Treasurer Richard L. Meyer (front row, far left). They are (left to right, front row) first place winners Jarupon Sathirapongsasuti, Naidanai Punnaniithi and Poomyos Wimonkittiwat. Second row, left to right, are second place winners Chen Lin, Yajia Lu and Yi Zhang, along with third place winners Breandan Mac Chnoic and Roisin McCloskey. Linda Mantel, a Sigma Xi member who serves on the Society's Committee on Diversity, was judging and scholarship chair of the host committee for this year's fair.

International Partner Installed in Moscow

In May, the Society heightened its international presence with the installation of the Sigma Xi Moscow International Partner in a ceremony in Moscow, Russia. This was the second such group to be formed in the former Soviet Union, the first being Sigma Xi Georgia in Tbilisi.

"Sigma Xi members live and work in more than 100 countries around the world," according to the Society's International Program Manager Christine Piggee.

She explained that the International Partner designation enables a group to set and collect annual dues in their local currency, an important option in countries where the cost of membership dues in U.S. dollars would be prohibitive.

James F. Baur of San Diego, chair of the Sigma Xi International Committee from 1997-2004, presided over the installation ceremonies in Moscow in the auditorium of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A framed certificate and congratulatory letters were presented to the assembled group.

"This more formal relationship grew out of the three-year Sigma Xi-Packard International Networking Initiative," Baur says, "which helped to sponsor a Rally of Scientific Schools held at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Moscow last year."

John Kelley from the Alaska Chapter, the Moscow group's companion chapter, was among the presenters at the 2003 conference and has been involved in cooperative research activities there.

IAP Director George S. Golitsyn, Vice Director Alexander S. Ginzburg and researchers Georgii A. Alexandrov and Alexei Stepanov worked together with Vladimir Krapivin, a collaborator of John Kelley's, and Alexander Semenov, a Sigma Xi member in Moscow, to recruit members for a Partner group.



Sigma Xi International Committee Chair James F. Baur (right) presents an official certificate to IAP Director George S. Golitsyn during the Moscow International Partner installation ceremony in May. Photograph by Dmitry Logofet.

At the ceremony, Ginzburg expressed the group's appreciation to the Alaska Chapter for a check that covered the initiation fee for the Moscow International Partner.

Baur closed the formal installation by reminding the audience that the Moscow International Partner was now part of a larger framework that is Sigma Xi and could initiate and participate in projects that would truly benefit the international science and engineering research community.

Sigma Xi Grant Deadline Oct. 15

October 15 is the next deadline for Sigma Xi's popular Grants-in-Aid of Research program.

Undergraduate or graduate students in a degree program in the U.S. or abroad are eligible to apply for research support in any field of science or engineering.

Visit www.sigmaxi.org for grant guidelines, an interactive application form and tips on preparing an application.

Sigma Xi Center Hosts Pilot Grant Writing Course

Bench training of early career researchers is a vital component of the scientific experience. However, doing science or engineering is only one part of a researcher's recipe for success.

Obtaining funding, communicating about one's research and successful networking are important skills that can propel young researchers into rewarding careers. But these skills must be learned.

As part of Sigma Xi's early career services, the Society contracted the Los Angeles-based Grantsmanship Center to design and administer an intensive, weeklong course specifically for research scientists and engineers.

Postdoctoral fellows from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and other research organizations participated in a pilot course at the Sigma Xi Center in April.

They worked independently and in small groups, and practiced by reviewing completed proposals, preparing proposal components and finally developing a complete grant proposal.

Designed for both novice and experienced grant-seekers, the five-day course provided instruction with practical step-by-step exercises that covered all the stages of planning programs, locating funding sources and writing grant proposals.

Participants' current needs and programs were the basis of all class research and proposal writing exercises.

Based on the success of this workshop, Sigma Xi will offer a series of similar courses through chapters around the U.S. beginning in the fall of 2004. For more information about upcoming course opportunities, contact earlycareer@sigmaxi.org or visit the Sigma Xi Web site.

Marcus Hobbs: A Leader in Chemistry and RTP Pioneer

This is part of a series on people that donors to the Sigma Xi Center building fund have honored with their gifts. Visit www.sigmaxi.org for more information.

William F. Little dates his friendship with Duke University chemist Marcus E. Hobbs to the late 1950s, during the formative days of North Carolina's renowned Research Triangle Park.

Little was among those who helped bring Sigma Xi to North Carolina in 1990, but he credits Hobbs, a Sigma Xi member since 1934, with the idea.

"It was Marcus who urged his colleagues to propose that Sigma Xi consider the Research Triangle Park when the Society made the decision to relocate their headquarters," he says. "It is only fitting that he be permanently honored at the new Sigma Xi Center."

To that end, Little chose to honor his friend and mentor with an inscribed paving stone, bearing both of their names, in the plaza of the new building.

"Dr. Hobbs played a key role on the faculty Working Committee that laid the basis for Research Triangle Park," Little says.

"In 1958, he became a charter member of the Board of Governors of the Research Triangle Institute, a consortium of three local universities and the park's first tenant. He chaired its executive committee for most of his 45 years of service."

While Hobbs was serving as one of the park's visionary architects, Little was a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and became a "traveling salesman" for the new venture, working with Hobbs and others to persuade companies to locate their research facilities in the new park. Today, some 120 companies in RTP employ about 44,000 people.



From left to right, William F. Little, Marcus E. Hobbs and Patrick D. Sculley on the plaza of the new Sigma Xi Center. Photograph by Jay Mangum.

"Marcus was honored by the RTI Board in 1998 for 40 years of service," Little says, "and again upon this retirement from the board in 2003 as Distinguished Governor Emeritus."

The Hobbs Building on the RTI campus was named in his honor. "Everyone trusts Marcus for his integrity, impeccable judgment and his progressive thinking over 75 years."

Little continues, "In my view, Marcus Hobbs is one of the greatest citizens and leaders of chemistry in the 20th century and beyond. His career at Duke has been inspiring. He was a mentor to many graduate students in physical chemistry and, on another level, a mentor to his colleagues in science, regionally and nationally."

In addition to chairing Duke's chemistry department, Hobbs also served as dean of the graduate school, dean of the university, vice provost and provost, before his retirement in 1979 as Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus.

In 1951, he played a major role in the organization at Duke of the Office of Ordnance Research (OOR), which later became the U.S. Army

Research Office in Durham. For his service as acting OOR chief scientist, he was awarded the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

The recipient in 1989 of the Medal of Duke University, he was also the first recipient, in 1988, of the Marcus Hobbs Award bestowed by the North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society.

Bill Little went on to make his mark at UNC, retiring in 1996 as University Distinguished Professor, having also served as senior vice president and vice president for academic affairs of the 16-campus university system.

Following in the footsteps of his mentor, Little has chaired the executive committee of the Research Triangle Institute, and also of the Research Triangle Foundation.

He has been a Sigma Xi member since 1952, with service on the Society's Development and Long-Range Planning committees.

"Bill was instrumental in securing major support for the Sigma Xi Center from the Research Triangle Foundation and the Triangle Universities Center for Advanced Studies, Inc. (TUCASI)," notes Sigma Xi Executive Director Patrick D. Sculley.

The auditorium in the new building was named for these two closely allied organizations, in recognition of their support.

"We are indebted to Marcus Hobbs and Bill Little for their vision as well as their efforts on behalf of the Society," Sculley says.

"It is very gratifying and highly appropriate that their names should be permanently linked in the plaza of the new Sigma Xi Center in Research Triangle Park."