### Season’s Best to You and Yours

#### National Meeting Synopsis

Sigma Xi held their annual meeting during November 6-9th in Glendale, Arizona. Chapter President George Edw. Seymour served as the Chapter Delegate. The meeting was both productive and enlightening. A PDF synopsis can be viewed here:


#### New Publication(s)

As noted in the Meeting Synopsis, Sigma Xi has a renewed focus on students which is exemplified in the new publication titled, *Chronical of the New Researcher*:


The first issue was published this year and serves as a “professionally refereed journal for pre-collegiate research in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The journal is published by Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.”  Mentoring students is a rewarding experience.

“In addition, counting digits as publication vehicles, the Society produces both the Sigma Xi SmartBrief and the Sigma Xi Communities.

Members can sign up to have them delivered by email.  The focus and themes are to exchange and share information, ideas, and questions about any topic in science or engineering:

Sign up for the SmartBrief……<here>, and the Communities website is …….<here>.

Both are valuable contributions to scientific communication among our membership.
New National President Elect:  Tee Guidotti, was recently elected as Sigma Xi President-elect and will serve a one-year term, starting July 1, 2015, and then will serve as Sigma Xi President from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017. He is affiliated with the George Washington University Chapter. More details and his platform can be viewed <here>.

The National election results, including Directors and Associate Directors can be viewed at <here>.

Chapter Membership Update: As noted in the Meeting Synopsis, membership in Sigma Xi has been declining over the years. It is a serious Society issue that was addressed in several ways during the meeting. Likewise, membership in our Chapter has been declining precipitously over the past decade. Although we have managed to enlist new members practically every year, many of them do not renew their memberships, and those who stay are not sufficient to counter those who let their membership lapse. The graph below shows the number of members who have let their memberships lapse each year since 1993. Five hundred and twenty-three memberships have lapsed during the most recent two decades. The serious decline in our budget, derived as it is from National and local dues, has impacted our ability to provide financial rewards to the students we select each year at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. Here are links at our Chapter website to the most recent San Diego Science Fairs and our subsequent Annual Banquets:

http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/sigmaxi/photos.html
Our San Diego students could compete with the best in the Nation, and yet no San Diego student was represented at the National Meeting. The San Diego Sigma Xi Chapter should be providing better mentoring and financial support to our students. They are our future and we should invest in them.

As noted in the footnote on Page 3 of the Synopsis, “Sixty institutions were represented by student presentations, none from San Diego.” Arizona State supported three student attendees, as did the University of California at Irvine. Clemson and the University of Arizona each supported two students. I visited those student posters, and spoke with many of the students. They are exceptionally bright and energetic. So are many of the students at UCSD, SDSU, USD, and CSUSM. My back-of-the-envelope calculation indicates that there are approximately 84,000 students at those four universities; surely a few of the brightest are worthy of our time and recognition.

**What can be done?** Two of our members are interested in finding a forum to support female students interested in STEM. That is a start. We need a better way to communicate, and I believe that will be by an enhanced web presence. Thus, we could use a student intern who is excited about science and engineering, and who also understands the modern web presence, an IT expert. Send any such information to me at: George.Seymour@Gmail.com. And most importantly, this Chapter will benefit by your renewed membership, and locating new members. Anyone can nominate a student, Associate, or Full member. Contact Robert Metzger for questions: rmetzger@mail.sdsu.edu and details can be found here: https://www.sigmaxi.org/members/join-nominate

**Hobby Poster & Report:** My poster was titled, “Hobbies Among Early Sigma Xi Members” and provided an analysis of the 379 hobbies mentioned in the 1936 Ward and Ellery book titled, “Sigma Xi Half Century Record and History, 1886 – 1936.” A draft manuscript can be found here: http://www-linking.to/SD-Sigma-Xi/Early-Hobbies.pdf The poster was well received and I am interested in performing a conceptual replication of those data with current Sigma Xi members. One of the National Meeting themes was that people, the public, do not know or understand scientists, and this would be an ideal way for our Society to identify with the public. As you can imagine, that will be no simple task. Any advice or suggestions are welcome. Contact: George.Seymour@Gmail.com

**Call for Information & Volunteers:**

The University of California at Berkeley was the first California Sigma Xi Chapter having been formed in 1902. Then, however, our San Diego Chapter, along with UC Davis, were next forming in the late 1940s. We have a long and honored tradition here in San Diego, and today are among the eleven California Chapters identified by National: https://www.sigmaxi.org/chapters#locatechapter

But our history will not carry us into the future. Granted, everyone is exceptionally busy these days but how can we identify faculty or students or industry leaders with backgrounds in science and engineering who would like to become either Chapter members or more involved with revitalizing this Chapter? There is opportunity here. Thank you for your time and consideration of the requests.

Sincerely,

George Edw. Seymour, President