



**Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society
University of Maryland Chapter**

April 2008

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UM Chapter Officers

President Robert J. Dooling
Vice Pres. Mary Ann Ottinger
Treasurer Timothy J Ng

Membership time

Sigma Xi provides us with the opportunity to recognize and honor talented upcoming and established scientists and engineers. If you know of someone who might qualify but is not a member, please consider nominating them for membership. Nomination forms for our chapter are at: http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/sigmaxi/nom_form.htm.

The nominations deadline for individuals to be recognized at our annual Initiation & Awards Dinner is 8 May 2008. Also, if you know of someone who used to be a member and wishes to renew their membership, please have them contact Tim Ng of the UM Chapter about the re-activation procedure.

2008 Initiation & Awards Dinner

The 2008 Initiation & Awards Dinner for the University of Maryland Chapter of Sigma Xi will be held on Thursday, 15 May 2008, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the "Critique Hall" (Rm. 0104) of the Plant Sciences Building on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Thomas W. Castonguay, Professor of Nutrition & Food Science, whose talk "Undergraduates and Research – What a Long Strange Trip It's Been!!" will cover many of the high points and challenges of doing research with undergraduate researchers in his laboratory.



Thom's research is in the area of mechanisms that control food intake and body composition, in particular how glucoregulation is achieved and how dietary obesity can be explained in part as a failure of glucoregulation. Besides his work at the university, Thom has been featured on NPR discussing the caloric content of the much-maligned holiday fruitcake (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6700905>), and has begun a Discovery Channel News Video series on food at Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYGYc0j5B4Y>).

At the dinner, we will also honor our new initiates and present the Phi Delta Gamma Scholarship Award and Michael J. Pelczar Award for excellence in graduate study. A reservation form has been included with this mailing, and there is free parking after 4:00 p.m. in the Parking Garage next to the building. Come join us!

2008 – The Year of Water



The 2008 Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference will be held 20-23 November 2008 in the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. The theme for this year will be "H₂O₀₈, Year of Water."

Water availability and water quality are becoming of increasing importance in the global environment.

At the January 2008 World Economic Forum, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the international community to make it a priority this year to address water shortages around the globe, because of their potential to spark armed conflict. "Too often, where we need water, we find guns instead," Ban said, noting that population growth and climate change will only make the problem worse. This is just one of the critical issues surrounding water, a precious and dwindling natural resource.

Sigma Xi will call upon its members to contribute their talents as it focuses its efforts in 2008 on water, one of the most pressing issues in science today. The scientific, policy and ethical implications of water are monumental. Sigma Xi's Year of Water will culminate in the themed Annual Meeting in November in Washington, D.C. The highlight will be a panel discussion with experts in the field along with breakout sessions where all can share their collective wisdom on how the many policy issues that are the undercurrents in water might be translated into well-reasoned actions. More information can be found at <http://www.sigmaxi.org/meetings/annual/index.shtml>.

New Sigma Xi Merchandise

Sigma Xi has joined forces with CafePress.com, an online marketplace with complete e-commerce services, to sell a wide variety of Sigma Xi and American Scientist branded products. The assortment includes items such as: golf shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, tote bags, coffee mugs, note cards, magnets and bumper stickers. You can find the Sigma Xi online marketplace at <http://www.cafepress.com/sigmaxi>. Please let Sigma Xi know about any special items you would like them to add to by contacting merchandise@sigmaxi.org.

