



SIGMA XI NEWSLETTER

Iowa State University
March 2012

INITIATION BANQUET Thursday, April 26, 2012 Scheman Continuing Education Building

5:30PM: Social Hour
6:30PM: Dinner
7:15PM: Initiation and Awards
8:00PM: Retiring President's Address

Diet, genes and microbes: complexities of colon cancer prevention

Professor Diane Birt
Distinguished Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition

Abstract: *Colon cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer related deaths in the United States, and unfortunately, as countries climb the economic ladder, their rates of colon cancer increase. It has long been suspected that colon cancer risks are modifiable by diet, including by the consumption of diets rich in vegetables and by diets that are adequate but not excessive in energy. Further, colon cancer was an early disease where key genetic mutations were identified as important in disease progression. More recently a central role for the microbes in the gastrointestinal tract in colon cancer development is being identified and the microbes may integrate diet and genes in the etiology of colon cancer. This talk will provide some background on diet, gene and microbe impacts on colon cancer and show how ongoing research on digestion resistant starch might integrate these factors and help further colon cancer prevention.*

Science Café: On Thursday, March 29 at 7:00PM the Spring 2012 Science Café will take place at Lucullan's Italian Grill in the downstairs banquet room, with social gathering from 6:30 to 7:00. The presentation will be given by recently-retired ISU Adjunct Physics Professor Tom Meyer, on the topic 'Particles Collide and Wreckage Flies'. Dr. Meyer will offer updates on new experiments at the CERN Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. He'll share what scientists are learning in their search for the 'Higgs Boson' and how these findings might impact modern Physics.

Upcoming election of Sigma Xi Committee Members: A ballot will be distributed to all currently active chapter members during the week of April 2. Diane Birt will step down as President and Chris Minion will assume the office of President. Lee Burras has agreed to become President Elect and thus will also serve as Program Chairperson for 2012-13. Diane Birt, and David White will be retiring from the Executive Committee, although Diane Birt will continue to participate as immediate Past President. In this election we will therefore elect two new members to the Executive Committee. In addition, we will be electing two new members to the Membership Committee to replace retiring members Amy Bix and Nick Christians, and a new three-member Nominating Committee is elected each year. The ballot strives to retain a balance among disciplines on the various committees. Newly elected committee members will be introduced at the Banquet.

Banquet Details: The banquet cost is \$30 per person for those who are not guests of the chapter. There is a choice of dinner entrées, see the banquet reservation form on page 4 below. The deadline for receipt of reservations is Friday, April 20 (please return reservations sooner, if at all possible). Last minute reservations or changes can be made by phone to Paul Sacks (294-8143). Checks, made out to **Sigma Xi**, should be sent to Paul Sacks, Department of Mathematics, ISU, before the banquet.

Golden Anniversary Members: Each year we recognize and invite as our guests to the Banquet, members of the ISU chapter who have been active members of Sigma Xi for 50 years. This year, we have seven Golden Anniversary Members: William Cook, Douglas Finemore, Bernard Gerstein, Alexander Henkin, Edwin Jones, Patrick Kavanagh and Peter Reilly. We will also be pleased to welcome other previously recognized Golden Anniversary Members to the Banquet.

Dues Structure: Sigma Xi members will be receiving their renewal notices over the next few weeks. For the 2012-13 membership year, national dues for new and continuing Full and Associate Members (non full-time students) are \$90; full-time student dues are \$25; initiation fee is \$20; promotion fee is \$10. A \$63 rate is also available for transitional and emeritus members – see the Sigma Xi web page or check with the secretary-treasurer for more details. In addition to national dues, the ISU Chapter has local dues of \$11. As is customary, local dues are waived for initiates and those being promoted for the first year.

Amendments to the chapter constitution: Certain amendments to the constitution of the ISU Sigma Xi chapter will be proposed by the Executive Committee later this semester. The most significant of these will formalize the move already under way to handle voting by electronic ballots. The voting rules which are currently specified in the constitution for amending the constitution will be followed, which means that the changes must be approved by a two thirds vote of active chapter members present at the April banquet. Details of the changes will be sent by e-mail to all active chapter members at least two weeks before the banquet, to allow for discussion and feedback.

American Scientist Magazine: The \$90 membership dues rate is a decrease from last year, and one reason for that is that *American Scientist* magazine, a subscription to which is included with your membership, is moving to a digital format starting with the July-August 2012 issue. It will be possible to continue to receive a print version of the magazine at an additional cost of \$20 annually.

Headquarters Address: For inquiries to the National Office, use the following address

Sigma Xi
3106 East N.C. Highway 54
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

or go to the web site www.sigmaxi.org.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS? Contact Paul Sacks, Secretary/Treasurer, 396 Carver Hall,
294-8143, psacks@iastate.edu

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER

President	Diane Birt
President Elect	F. Chris Minion
Immediate Past President	Steve Martin
Secretary-Treasurer	Paul Sacks

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Amy Bix	2009-12
Nick Christians	2009-12
Thomas Sauer	2010-13
Curtis Struck	2010-13
L Keith Woo	2011-14
Susan Lamont	2011-14

Executive Committee

Diane Birt	2009-12
David White	2010-12
W. Sue Fairbanks	2010-13
F. Chris Minion	2010-13
Paul Sacks	2010-13
Lee Burras	2011-14
Maynard Hogberg	2011-14

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (one-year terms)

Philip Dixon John Lajoie
Judy Vance

Please print out and use this page to make reservations for the Sigma Xi Initiation Banquet. The deadline for receipt of reservations is Friday, April 20. Tickets can be picked up at the Banquet or mailed upon request. Reservations which might not make it in the mail and late cancellations can be made by phone, 294-8143 (leave a message, if necessary). A check, made out to **Sigma Xi**, should be enclosed with this reservation form, and both sent to

**Paul Sacks, Sigma Xi
Department of Mathematics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011**

SIGMA XI BANQUET, Thursday. April 26, 2012, 5:30PM, rooms 260-262 Scheman Building

Name _____ No. of tickets _____

Address _____

Cost: Initiates are guests of the Chapter. The cost to others is **\$30.00 per ticket**. Initiates who made guest reservations with their acceptance need not return this form. Please indicate entrée choice, and numbers if applicable, below.

Raspberry Chicken _____ Roast Beef in Mushroom Sauce _____ Ratatouille (vegetarian) _____

(A vegan alternative is also available upon request)