

Sigma Xi at Indiana University Bloomington

founded in 1904 with W. L. Bryan as first President

Please visit our new website: http://www.iub.edu/~sigmaxi/iub_sx.html. It is evolving into a portal for science-related activities, mainly on the IUB campus. It has information about the local chapter, links to IUB Science Departments and colloquium series, links to pages of special interest on Sigma Xi's Home Office website, and other links of interest.

The IUB Chapter of Sigma Xi has four regularly scheduled annual events.

The Luncheon for new science faculty. Early each fall, Sigma Xi invite new faculty members in the sciences to be guests at a luncheon to welcome them to this community, to meet each other and to members of the IUB chapter of Sigma Xi, most of whom are faculty at IUB. We usually invite a senior member of the administration who has a major role in the sciences to give a more official welcome.

Membership drive. At the end of the first semester and the beginning of the second semester, the membership committee seeks nominations (including self-nomination) for new members at either the associate or full level. Associate membership is designed for people early in their research careers, typically graduate students or exceptional advanced undergraduates. The usual criterion is some form of publication or public presentation of research. Full membership is intended for people who have established a record of research, usually assessed by the usual measures of scholarly activity. Membership nominations are accepted at any time, but the membership drive is our concerted effort to inform potential members about Sigma Xi and what it does locally as well as nationally and internationally. Some of the latter are summarized in the accompanying brochure prepared by Sigma Xi's Home Office.

STARS awards. IU undergraduate STARS (Science, Technology, and Research Scholars) program has a symposium at which STARS students present their research. Members of Sigma Xi attend the symposium and select one or two outstanding presentations for awards, which include a modest honorarium and associate membership in the organization.

Annual banquet. Near the end of the second semester, Sigma Xi has its annual awards banquet at which new members are initiated and several awards are presented, including one for Indiana High School Science Teacher of the Year, one or two Outstanding Undergraduate Research Awards, the STARS awards, and the Margaret Russell Edmondson Undergraduate Research Award in Genetics sponsored by Prof. Frank Edmondson, a longtime faculty member in Astronomy and strong supporter of Sigma Xi.

Chapter website The website is intended to serve as a place to find science-related activities on campus and beyond. It carries announcements of science-related activities that may interest people other than specialists in a field (please send information about such events to the [chapter secretary](#) as soon as plans are finalized). The website also has links to [departmental colloquium series](#), information [relevant to students](#), links to science-related [programs](#) and [departments](#)

Cosponsoring Science Café. [From the Science Café website <<http://www.sciencecafebloomington.org/whatisit.php>>] Science Café is a public science forum, held monthly, where anyone can come explore the latest issues in science and technology. An expert informally and briefly introduces an interesting scientific topic, and after a break for refreshments -- and to meet new people and chat, -- we return for questions and answers and to discuss the topic with the guidance of our expert. All levels welcome.

Other projects in various stages of development include:

- * collecting journals and recent texts and professional books for shipment overseas to developing countries, especially in Africa. A pilot is underway in the Psychology Bldg.
- * collaborating and supporting the local science café program
- * a "science chat" each week over lunch at some central location, like the Kiva in the IMU
- * offer to provide to our national and state legislators sources of valid scientific information
- * revive a program of visiting high school science classes and/or helping guide student research. Here are some possibilities for collaboration in such an effort:
 - o COAS has a Science Speakers Bureau for high school science classes
 - o Harlem Children Society is an outstanding program that originated as an outreach sponsored by the Rockefeller University Chapter of Sigma Xi

All of these need extra minds and hands.

Ideas for more activities? Please get in touch with one of the [officers](#)

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