

# 2023 Annual Meeting, New Member Induction and Awards Ceremonies

## *Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society*



The University of Michigan Chapter  
Virtual (Zoom) and In-Person Meetings

April 24 and 26, 2023



## PROGRAMS

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*April 24, 2023 (Virtual @ 5:00 PM)*

*Science & Math Co-Teachers of the Year Awards - 2023* Peter Woo, Ph.D.

**Layla Gunden, B.A.**  
**Angela Hood, B.S., M.A.T.**

*Sigma Xi 2023 Science Fair Winners* Jack Cederquist, Ph.D.

### Junior Division

**Kyree Hinkle** (St. Patrick Elementary-Carlton; Teacher Maureen Wickenheiser) *Soften Up.*

**Abigail Jones** (St. Patrick Elementary-Carlton; Teacher Maureen Wickenheiser) *Organic Polymers.*

**Cale Jones** (St. Patrick Elementary-Carlton; Teacher Maureen Wickenheiser) *In Quarry.*

### Senior Division

**Anita Gaenko** (Huron High School; Teacher: Andrew Collins) *Gold Hedgehog Nanoparticles: Synthesis and Graph Theoretical Analysis.*

**Abigail Rohde** (Saline High School; Teacher: Theresa Stager) *Snailtrap: Investigating Eco-Friendly Methods for Freshwater Snail Capture.*

**Anirudh Venkat** (Huron High School; Teacher: Andrew Collins) *Applications of Quantum Randomness in Healthcare Informatics.*

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*April 26, 2023 (In-Person – The Michigan League @ 5:30 PM)*

*Welcoming Comments* Henry (Gus) Buchtel, Ph.D.

*Introduction to Program and  
Recognition of Teachers of the year and Science Fair Winners* Jack Cederquist, Ph.D.

*Induction of New Sigma Xi Members  
and Sigma Xi Pledge for New (and Current) Members* Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D.

*Approval of 2022-2023 Slate of Officers* E. Margaret Evans, Ph.D.

*Recognition of 50-year Sigma Xi Members* Anson Kairys, Ph.D.

*Introduction of 2023 Sigma Xi Lecturer* Jack Cederquist, Ph.D.

*Sigma Xi Annual Lecture* Kayhan Gültekin, Ph.D.

*Adjournment* Henry (Gus) Buchtel, Ph.D.

**April 24, 2023 Teachers-of-the-Year  
Layla Gunden & Angela Hood**



**April 26, 2023, ANNUAL LECTURE  
Kayhan Gültekin, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Astronomy  
University of Michigan**

**"Seeing and Hearing Black Holes"**



**2023 Science/Math Co-Teacher of the Year Awards  
Virtual Awards Ceremony, April 24, 2023**

*Dr. Peter Woo is an organic chemist retired from pharmaceutical research and development at Pfizer Inc. Dr. Woo organizes and coordinates the choice of the Teacher(s) of the Year Awards. This year he will be presenting awards to the following co-winners of the award.*

**Brief Biographies**

**Layla Gunden (WSC Academy, Ypsilanti MI).** Ms. Gunden was nominated by the Principal of her school, Ms. Candice Spencer. She received her education at the University of Michigan (B.A.) and has teaching endorsements in Biology, Integrated Sciences, and History. Ms. Spencer highlighted her excellence in science teaching and going above and beyond, including visiting students' homes to drop off supplies and purchasing special equipment to assist with virtual learning during the pandemic. "She exhibits an exceptional knowledge of science and has helped WSC Academy maintain a high level of class completion. She utilizes her passion as well as her effective interpersonal communication skills to help students increase their success in school."

**Angela Hood (Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor MI).** Ms. Hood was nominated by the Head of the Science Department at her school, Mr. Steve Armstrong (Sigma Xi Teacher of the Year in 2018). She received her education at the University of Michigan (B.S.) and Eastern Michigan University (M.A.T. Secondary Education). She is a Math and Science Tutor at Mally A.C.T. (West Bloomfield Twp. MI) and was the Teacher Learning Network Facilitator during the Covid Pandemic. Since 2018 she has taught Earth Science, Chemistry, and AP Environmental Science at Pioneer High School. Mr. Armstrong highlighted her phenomenal classroom teaching, describing her as "creative, inspiring, lab-centric, kid-centric, warm, inviting."

## NEW MEMBERS & PROMOTIONS - 2023

### *Full Members (including promotions)*

**James B. Grotberg**  
**David Kwabi**  
**Charles C.L. McCrory**  
**Sai Pranathi Meda Venkata**  
**David Menendez**  
**Brett S. Schneider**  
**Jeffrey Yackley**

### *Associate Members*

**Emmanuella Ejichukwu**  
**Dion Li**  
**Sarah Patrick**  
**Mallory Richert**  
**Jianxing Sun**



The Chapter is very grateful for a generous donation from **Ms. Cathleen Zepelin** to establish a fund in memory of **Dr. Harold Zepelin (photo above)**, a *Sigma Xi* member, who died in 2006. The fund helps maintain the honorary nature of election to membership by paying initiation and membership fees for new members. Donations in support of Chapter activities from **Apryl Brown, Henry Buchtel, Margaret Evans, Cynthia Marcelo**, and particularly **Peter Woo** (Science Co-Teachers of the Year funding) are also gratefully acknowledged.

## Fifty-Year Members (1973-2023)

**The following Chapter members are being honored for 50 years of active membership.**

Linas A. Bieliauskas (Elected by the Ohio University). Dr. Bieliauskas received his B.S. degree from Xavier University (Ohio) and M.S and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio University. He joined the faculty at UM in 1989 and was promoted to professor in 2013. He served as training director of the Neuropsychology Section of the Psychiatry Department for 30 years (1990-2020). He is the author of two books and numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles related to cognitive and affective changes due to normal and abnormal aging.

Kent B. Joscelyn (Elected by the Indiana University Chapter). Kent Joscelyn received his B.S. degree from Union College in 1957 and his Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School of Union University in 1960. He worked as an Associate Professor in the Department of Forensic Studies and School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University from 1967-1975. His research interests focus on traffic safety and he was adjunct Professor of Epidemiology in the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1996.

Friedrich K. Port (Elected by the Mayo Foundation Chapter). Dr. Port received his M.D. degree from the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg (West Germany) in 1964 and a M.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1975. He is currently Emeritus Professor in Epidemiology and Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan. His research focus is in Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS), which helps shape practice and policy for better health across the world.

Steven J. Wright (Elected by the Washington State Chapter). Dr. Wright received his B.S and M.S. degrees at Washington State University in 1971 and 1973, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree at California Institute of Technology in 1977. He is currently Emeritus Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Michigan. His research interests focus on the intersection of fluid dynamics and environmental engineering.

## OFFICERS

	2022-2023	2023-2024 Slate of Officers
<b>President</b>	Henry A. Buchtel	Henry A. Buchtel
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jack Cederquist	Jack Cederquist
<b>Secretary</b>	Cynthia Marcelo	Cynthia Marcelo
<b>Treasurer</b>	E. Margaret Evans	E. Margaret Evans
<b>Council Members</b>	Apryl Brown	Apryl Brown
	Francine Dolins	Anson Kairys
	Anson Kairys	John Mansfield
	John Mansfield	Bruce Maxim
	Peter Woo	Peter Woo

## *Sigma Xi*

### The Scientific Research Honor Society

*Sigma Xi* was founded in 1886 by a group of Cornell students and a faculty member who believed the time had come to establish an honor society for scientists and engineers. The purpose of the society was to reward excellence in scientific research as well as to encourage a sense of companionship and cooperation among scientists in all fields. The University of Michigan Chapter was established as the 16th Chapter of *Sigma Xi* in 1903 when thirty-five faculty and students were granted a charter to establish a Chapter at Michigan. The first President of the local Chapter was Professor J. Playfair McMurrich.

Since 1886, *Sigma Xi* has grown to include more than 800 Chapters throughout the world. The Society now has approximately 90,000 Members and Associate Members. Chapters are found wherever scientific research is undertaken in nations throughout the world, in universities, colleges, industrial research facilities and government laboratories.

*Sigma Xi* Pledge: "*I hereby pledge myself, in accordance with the purposes and objectives of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, to encourage original investigations in science, to foster companionship and cooperation among scientists, to maintain honor, integrity and honesty in all scientific activities, and to assume the other continuing responsibilities of membership.*"